



San Francisco Office of the City Administrator

Committee on Information Technology

Surveillance Technology Amendments

Updates to Administrative Code Chapter 19B

Rules Committee

November 18, 2024

Chapter 19B History

- Extension of the voter-initiated Sec 16.130 Privacy First Policy, provided guidance to establish "privacy-protective laws, regulations, policies, and practices for the City"
- Board of Supervisors initially approved in June 2019
- Amended twice
 - December 2019
 - March 2024

Chapter 19B Background

- Requires departments to create a Surveillance Technology Policy and Surveillance Impact Report for any surveillance technologies they buy or use
- Surveillance Technology Policy and Surveillance Impact Report require:
 - Authorized Use Cases
 - Data Lifecycle
 - Civil Liberties Concerns
 - Annual and One-Time Costs

Proposed Amendments Summary

Amendments Overview

- Clarification of Chapter 19B
- Efficiency of departments and COIT staff for compliance
- Operational improvements
- Streamlining processes to reduce time and labor costs

Clarification & Efficiency

- Clarify language of exemption 2 in the 19B.1 Definitions Section
 - Change to make it unambiguous that these databases must include information necessary to the department's core functions.
- For any amendments to Board approved policies: Allow departments to bypass COIT/PSAB Meetings

Operational Improvement & Streamlining

- Amend the 19B surveillance technology exemptions list in 19B.1 Definitions section to include:
 - Technology that requires Board of Supervisors approval under state law
 - Emergency communications technology for all public safety departments
- Omit repetitive parts of the Surveillance Impact Report (“SIR”) that are already required in the Surveillance Technology Policy

Thank you!

Questions?

Surveillance Technology Inventory Status

(as of November 12, 2024)

Status of Policy	Number
Board of Supervisor-Approved Policies and Technologies	55 policies, 90 technologies
Technologies ready for Board of Supervisors Review	6 policies, 8 technologies
Outstanding Technologies	45 technologies

Clarification

- Clarify COIT's role in the process as an advisor for departments on their policies (**19B.2.b(1-3), pg. 7**)
 - Department, not COIT, develops the policy
 - Only require one meeting at PSAB before BOS review
- Clarify language of exemption 2 (**19B.1 Definitions, pg. 5**)
 - Change to make it unambiguous that these databases must include information necessary to the department's core functions.

Efficiency

- Allow departments to submit a single condensed Annual Surveillance Report, changing:
 - Requirements as they are currently listed (**19B.1 Definitions, pg. 1-3**)
 - The requirement for one report per departmental policy (**19B.6(a), pg. 9**)
- Remove Section 19B.3(c) (regarding Department, City Attorney and Mayor's Office submission prior to BOS review) (**pg. 8**)

Efficiency, cont.

- Omit requirement for departments to request an extension every 180 days for each technology for which they have an unfinished policy (**19B.5(b-c), pg. 8**)
 - Replace with a report on current state of the Surveillance Technology Inventory every six months (**19B.5(b-c), pg. 9**)
- For any amendments to Board approved policies: Allow departments to bypass COIT/PSAB (**19B.2(m), pg. 7**)

Operational Improvement

- Amend the 19B surveillance technology exemptions list in 19B.1 Definitions section to include (and thus not require a policy for):
 - Technology that requires Board of Supervisors approval under state law (**19B.1 Definitions, pg. 6**)
 - Emergency communications technology for all public safety departments (**19B.1 Definitions, pg. 5**)

Streamlining

- Annual Surveillance Report Improvements
 - Allow departments to submit a single condensed report (changing requirements as they are currently listed in 19B.1 Definitions section and the requirement for one report per departmental policy (**19B.6(a), pg. 9**))
 - Remove the 2nd submittal requirement (**19B.6(a-d), pg. 9**).
 - Make the Annual Surveillance Report into a Biannual Surveillance Report (**19B.6(a), pg. 9**)

Streamlining, cont.

- Amend the 19B surveillance technology exemptions list to explicitly include certain low-risk opt-in technologies (**19B.1 Definitions, pg. 5-6**)
- Amend 19B.3(a) to only require that the Surveillance Technology Policy and Surveillance Impact report be posted by COIT, eliminating the requirement to post the COIT recommendation (**19B.3(a), pg. 7**)
- Omit repetitive parts of the Surveillance Impact Report (“SIR”) that are already required in the Surveillance Technology Policy (**19B.1 Definitions, pg. 3**)
- Omit product description from manufacturers requirement for product definition and information on the proposed purpose in SIR requirements (**19B.1 Definitions, pg. 3**)