

Order 72-19/20

Motion to postpone to January 6, 2020: 7-1 (Batson opposed, Cook absent) on 11/18/2019

ETHAN K. STRIMLING (MAYOR)
BELINDA S. RAY (1)
SPENCER R. THIBODEAU (2)
BRIAN E. BATSON (3)
JUSTIN COSTA (4)

CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

KIMBERLY COOK (5)
JILL C. DUSON (A/L)
PIOUS ALI (A/L)
NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES, JR (A/L)

AMENDMENT TO THE PORTLAND CITY CODE CHAPTER 17
RE: FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY PROHIBITION

WHEREAS, the residents of the City of Portland value privacy as an essential element of their individual freedom; and

WHEREAS, facial recognition technology and other biometric surveillance technology pose unique and significant threats to the civil rights and civil liberties of residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the use of facial recognition technology and other biometric surveillance is the functional equivalent of requiring every person to show a personal photo identification card at all times in violation of rights guaranteed by the First, Fourth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, this technology allows people to be tracked without consent, generating databases about law-abiding Portlanders that may chill the exercise of free speech in public places; and

WHEREAS, facial recognition and other biometric surveillance technology has been repeatedly demonstrated to misidentify women, young people, and people of color and to create an elevated risk of harmful "false positive" identifications; and

WHEREAS, facial recognition and other biometric surveillance would corrupt the core purpose of officer-worn body-worn cameras by transforming those devices from transparency and accountability tools into roving surveillance systems; and

WHEREAS, the use of facial recognition and other biometric surveillance would disproportionately impact the civil

rights and liberties of persons who live in highly policed neighborhoods, and its use would diminish effective policing and public safety by discouraging people in these communities, including victims of crime, undocumented persons, people with unpaid fines and fees, and those with prior criminal history from seeking police assistance or from assisting the police;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND, that the Portland City Code is hereby amended by adding an Article, to be numbered XI, which said Article reads as follows:

ARTICLE XI. FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY

Sec. 17-129. Purpose.

The purpose of this Article to protect the privacy and civil liberties of the residents of the City of Portland.

Sec. 17-130. Definitions.

For the purposes of this Article, the following terms have the following meanings:

Employee means a regular employee of the City of Portland acting in their official capacity.

Facial recognition technology means an automated or semi-automated process that assists in identifying or verifying the identity of an individual based on an individual's face.

Official means an elected or appointed official of the City of Portland acting in their official capacity.

Sec. 17-130. Facial Recognition Technology Prohibition.

No city official or employee shall obtain, retain, access, or use any facial recognition technology or information provided by any facial recognition technology.