



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Eddie Garcia, Assistant City Manager

DATE: April 25, 2025

SUBJECT: Report on the Use of Facial Recognition Technology on April 24, 2025

The purpose of this memorandum is to report on the use of facial recognition technology by the Austin Police Department (APD) in accordance with Resolution [20200611-095](#), Section 6. The resolution states “if APD determines that the ... use of such technology is necessary due to imminent threat or danger, it must be approved by the City Manager and promptly reported to the Council and public with full details about the purpose of such use, how long information will be retained, who information is shared with, and protections for the public.”

On the morning of April 24, 2025, two robberies and one aggravated assault were committed by the same individual. The suspect in these crimes has shown a willingness to use violence against random members of the public. Accordingly, APD determined that the suspect presents an imminent danger, and that facial recognition technology could mitigate that threat by identifying the suspect more quickly than would otherwise be possible using other investigative tools. The City Manager authorized approval to use facial recognition technology to investigate the two robberies and aggravated assault.

The only images that will be used will be images obtained from already identified surveillance footage. No other persons from the same surveillance footage will be included in images used for facial recognition technology, eliminating the possibility that innocent witness and victim images are uploaded into the software. Information obtained from facial recognition technology will be retained for 10 years, consistent with the City’s established retention period for a 1st Degree Felony investigation. The information will be used by members of the APD Robbery Unit in the investigation of the cases approved by the City Manager, unless it is determined that the identified suspect has committed additional, currently unknown, violent criminal acts before or after the incidents being investigated. In this case, the identifying information would only be shared with the relevant Detectives assigned to investigate those cases.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Assistant City Manager Eddie Garcia at Edgardo.Garcia@austintexas.gov or 512-974-2200.

cc: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Erika Brady, City Clerk
Corrie Stokes, City Auditor

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Mary Jane Grubb, Municipal Court Clerk
Judge Sherry Statman, Municipal Court
CMO Executive Team
Department Directors