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[remote or in-person] Joint Committee: Economic, Capital and Technology Development; Public Safety

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Agency: Chicago City Council

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Takeaways

- Many police surveillance tools are integrated in a software called Axon including Skydio, Starchase, Fusus and more.
- Suburban police departments seem to be informally collaborating around Oak Brook PD
- Emergent technologies may have unintended benefits as well as ill-effects
- Oak Brook PD offers more information about Starchase itself than hard data concerning their use of it.

Follow-Up Questions & Observations

- What is the exact number of Starchase deployments by Oak Brook PD, and what is their approximate annual expenditure on the technology?
- Sargent Buenrostro referred to transparency in drone usage, including logging flight paths. How could a civilian access this information? How much of it is actually saved?
- Is there any oversight and review of this data once it is logged? How do they deal with unauthorized/improper access?
- Where can we find data pertaining to the “50% reduction in use-of-force incidents”

and/or “50% reduction in use-of-force lawsuits” referred to?

Notes

[0:0:0] Livestream begins

[0:26:00] Rolecall

Public Safety Economic Development and Technology
Thanks those coming over from **a conflicting meeting.**

Present: Chairs: Hopkins, Villegas; Vicechair Yancy; Alders: Mosley, Lispata, Hall, Mitchell, Chico, Lee, Gutierrez, Lopez, Curtis, Tibares, S. Lopez, Fuentes, Tagliafarro, Cruz, Cardona, Waguespack, Mitts, Spisato, Vasquez, Napolitano, Reilly, Knudsen, Gardner, Martin, Hoppenworth, Haden, Silverstein, Bernett,

[0:31:33] We are in a delayed roll call, waiting for people to walk over:

Quorum Established with the arrival of Ald. Waguespack.

[] Public Commentary

1) Michael Youngbay

Not in favor of shotspotter, but feels it would be incompetent to remove it without a replacement. “We can’t rely on technology after the fact, we need to curb the violence” -

he states, going on to suggest private financial motives in the SoundThinking deal. He suggests that alderpersons work on improving their reputations in their community and work more directly with the community to decrease violence before it starts.

[0:35:53] Alder Mitchell is added to quorum role call

2) George Blakemore

Begins by pointing out that 2 committees are taking place simultaneous, calling it a “dog and pony show.” He attempts to make the alderpeople aware that there is a disconnect between them and community residents. “If the people knew what kind of sh’ you are really into, they would not vote for you.” 1 party system, broken

system.

<https://vimeo.com/1010315640> - 2024 Sept 30 - Committee on Transportation and Public Way

3) Zoe Leigh

Suggests that some members of the city council may be pushing a socialist agenda “You can’t push a socialist agenda in a capitalist society”

“Hispanic KKK”

The issue is “Defund the Police” not due to the black and brown issue with policing, but because “it’s a money game”

Suggests that rhetoric is being used to collude with drug and sex traffickers “Everything doesn’t have to depend on technology - hire more police”

Consider allowing people with felonies to apply to be police officers.

Rosana Rodriguez Sanchez and Carlos Ramirez Rosa, “cornered” Lori Lightfoot and the executive order prohibiting collusion between ICE and the police.

“American First - currently the only one is Trump...”

4) Jessica Jackson

Apparently was promised help regarding her probate case, and was “straight up sold out.” She is “pretty sure, Brandon Johnson let him know, if you want a seat on the school board, you gon mess up her case.”

“The whole country is paying attention to Chicago.”

Probate fraud?

[45:54] Alderman Moore added to role call

[46:28] Star Chase (Sgt Jason Wood, Oak Brook Police Department)

Mispronounced Villegas. Starchase is a “Pursuit Mitigation Tool.”

Use in continuing to locate and apprehend offenders even when they flee.

Sgt Wood Plays a clip from CBS news - "deploys darts w/ GPS tags" "entirely eliminating the need to chase criminals" "found... in action in Oak Brook" "can be deployed from a police cruiser, or a handheld launcher" "eliminates the need for a high speed pursuit" "different rules for chasing a wanted criminal" "make an apprehension without having to endanger the lives of those around" "since a few years back" "recover stolen vehicles" "once tag is affixed to a vehicle, it goes to our Dispatch Center" "used on a weekly basis here in Oak Brook"

[50:20]

Sergeant Wood:

Their program began with 2 units on squad cars, a few years ago.
Launches a GPS tag with epoxy and a magnet to adhere to the target

vehicle. [52:33]

Sgt Wood: a group (of towns) lacking the resources / manpower that Chicago has. They talked to Chicago Vehicular Highjacking Task Force. Tag can leave the town of Oak Brook (short term battery life).

54:15 - Ald Sposato - Clarifies that a patrol is a 1 man car in Oak Brook? Unless it is an "attack unit", a patrol is 1-man car in Oak Brook.

Sgt Wood notes that Starchase can be deployed from key fob.

[56:25] Napolitano: How is it weather-wise?

Sgt Wood: Oak Brook was the initial agency to adopt the technology in Illinois.
Now, S Barrington, Willowbrook, Hinsdale, Elmhurst, Countryside.

Ald Waguespack: Asks about the costs, remarking that the cost seems pretty

low... Sgt Wood:

Launchers can be swapped from car to car.
"Total Asset Program" from Starchase - includes tags, subscription service (yearly)

Waguespack: Does the App software mesh with any other software or device,

e.g. LPR cameras?

Sgt Wood:

[Oak Brook] has the highest density of LPR cameras in the state. **FUSUS run by AXON.** Online RTCC platform. All can be integrated and seen on one map.

https://www.fusus.com/?utm_term=&utm_campaign=General+Marketing+Traffic&utm_source=adwords&utm_medium=ppc&hsa_acc=6558067028&hsa_cam=6465287023&hsa_grp=135337966923&hsa_ad=593690006879&hsa_src=g&hsa_tgt=dsa-1650452505094&hsa_kw=&hsa_mt=&hsa_net=adwords&hsa_ver=3&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwu-63BhC9ARIsAMMTLXSD0_s65KrOMhxtwc6NcyOivWIY4ahy0vkkZaDWPct03Uc6cCVK6cKgaAkz_EALw_wcB

<https://investor.axon.com/2024-02-01-Axon-Accelerates-Real-Time-Operations-Solution-with-Strategic-Acquisition-of-Fusus>

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/axon-acquires-fusus-ai-surveillance-retail-healthcare/>

Waguespeck - we have SDSC rooms, do you have something like that?

<https://home.chicagopolice.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/25-June-20-CPD-Expands-Smart-Policing-Technology-to-Support-Strategic-Deployment-and-CTA-Safety.pdf>

[1:01:49]

Sgt Wood: "Not 24 hour, but the nice thing is anybody can come into it [such as] Addison, Elmhurst, Bensenville [presumably police departments]

.

"We kinda run it as a quasi-county, our RTCC room"

[//] ____ Racial Profiling with it?

"Always can be..."

Within our policy, Starchase can only be deployed when we have reason to believe a crime has been committed. The majority of the incident are stolen cars(OR RETAIL THEFTS)located via LPR technology or

We can pre-deploy Starchase before turning our lights on. Because of our success with our covert units, the success of our covert following in the suburbs. We're able to covert follow that thing, and stay pretty close to it without them realizing it"

Yancy: 1) How much does this cost?

Sgt Wood: vary on vehicle mount or handheld. Hardwired to car battery. Operated off an air compressor. Per subscription cost. "Unlimited subscription plan"

Yancy: When did you begin using this in OB?

Sgt Wood:

Right before COVID. Initial reason we went was no-pursuit policy. Thru COVID and OB Mall shooting(

<https://abc7chicago.com/oak-brook-mall-shooting-oakbrook-center-shooter/11401546/>;

(<https://abc7chicago.com/oak-brook-mall-shooting-oakbrook-center-tyran-williams/14549434/>;) - "we're not just gonna let people commit crimes in our community" "not just

starchase and spike strips and stuff, but our collaboration with other agencies"

Yancy: 2) How many times has this been deployed? Used on "Almost a weekly

basis" 4) What is 85% / 95% success rate.

Sgt Wood: Prosecution goes, I can't give you numbers on that.

Yancy: 5) Has this been challenged in court?

Sgt Wood:

No. Due to short duration hasn't really been challenged in court"

[1:07:20] Alder S. Lopez added to quorum

Ald Lee: What are your response times like?

Sgt Wood:

- For us, because about 90% criminal activity in that area, our 2 man attack unit - we are in the mall or near "the Shops" all day.

- 1:10:12 - Starchase launcher can be mounted in grill. They have them in unmarked minivans and they simulate a fake crash bumping the bumper.

Ald Taliafarro: How many deployments have there been?

Sgt Wood:

"I don't have the exact answer" pivots to saying that this is about once a week

deployment. Ald Vasquez: "How large is the fleet"

Sgt Wood: Our marked unit fleet - about 13 cars.

----- : "Scaling up for what a cost would look like. We have settlements where bystanders are being hit. What would the math look like if scaling up. Is there a bulk cost?"

- I'm not privy to all the numbers.

2) Does starchase find those and recover them?

- IT will give a last known location. Not a 100% recovery rate. 290. Make attempt to get them all.

3) Are there any instances where it was used when it shouldn't have been?

"Fleeing and eluding incident" "1 time use tool" NY signed an agreement and increased it.

Asks to please share the data w/ Chicago.

Ald Chico (former police officer) We'd have to get away from that broad thinking and utilize in specialized units. How important to specialize units instead of broad use.

Sgt Wood talks about Bumpy roads, potholes in Chicago, how difficult it can be to fire a weapon on unsteady ground. The importance of yearly training for tactics in using Starchase.

2) What type of training?

Online training or they send someone out. Train-the-trainer. Description of driving while deploying the tool. Decrease in tunnel vision and auditory exclusion. Yearly training driving techniques. 5 or 10 minutes driving around.

3) Accidents and things like that - how often do they happen

0 incidents of a crash. There's a lot of times they don't even recognize there's a police officer next to them when we're deploying it. For example at a traffic light.

4) Because proximity to expressway, whats the policy in Oak Brook?

We went from a no-pursuit policy to a pursuit with approval policy. Pursuits tend to lead to deployments.

[1:23:51]

Ald Fuentes Association of device with property damage? Accounting for

human error. Sgt Wood:

Ald Fuentes: 2) We have suits all the time “and if this is just gonna do a lil

dent...” Yancy: is this only used during vehicle pursuits?

Sgt Wood:

“As long as we have reason to believe a crime has been committed, car parked in fire line” “We can pre-deploy it before we attempt to apprehend. Reduces the risk of a miss.”

2) Could there be an instance of mistaking a car?

“Exigency circumstance tool” Close to 80% subdivisions are LPR access. “If we have not had a case of - this is absolutely the wrong car we shouldn’t have used it”

[1:27:00] How could this interface w/ aerial surveillance? Drone technology.

Oak Brook has 2 GDI drones. Recently used drone for Agg Vehicular Hijacking and Robbery. Pursuits tend to lead to foot chases, so drone is good.

Personal testimony about the effectiveness of this tool.

[1:30:00] Drone Program (Chicago PD)

Presentation about the Chicago Police Department’s Drone Program

Captain Karl Hajdu, Special Operation, Counterterrorism

Sgt Marcus Buenrostro (Drone Unit)

Nicolas Orlando (legal department)

Capt. Haydu:

October 2023 - Skydio, grant-funded.

Presently have obtained 5 Skydio X10 drones.

Marcus Buenrostro (Sgt) and 3 other pilots for the unit

“We immersed ourself in the law” -

<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=072501670K15> (725 ILCS 167/15)

Drone As First Responder Act

[1:34:20]

Sgt Buenrostro:

Many uses for drones - the future of law enforcement.

Many reasons:

1) Cost effective

2) Fast and Better Service “that excites us to be able to do that”

- 3) Officers on the street a much safer work environment, knowledge of what they're walking into.
- 4) Nationwide 50% decrease in use-of-force incidents (CITATION?)

Commonly used for "overwatch" of situations.

About 10 uses of drones: 1) Threat of terrorism 2) search warrants 3) search and rescue 4) missing persons 5) PSAP (911) 6) Special Events (e.g. DNC)

Command staff finds it a valuable tool for decision-making
Increased efficiency as a police department
Integrated with current processes and programs (Axon)
[1:37:00] Integrated into Axon (Body cameras)
Integrating to Genetech (can be seen at SDSC rooms)
Gives Situational Awareness.

Licenses 107 pilots (FAA) Certificate of Authority to Fly (COA). Capabilities for special events - (see Highland Park - if they had a drone to search rooftops 0000 could have been avoided)

<https://www.faa.gov/>
https://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/ato/service_units/systemops/aaaim/or_ganizations/uas/coa

[1:39:00]

Success story: using at lollapalooza. Used drone to scan rooftop. SWAT team 35 floors etc. (CITATION)

[1:40:00- 50% decrease in use of force *lawsuits* (compare with previous

remark) Officers "Can even view from their phones a livestream of what they're walking into."

[1:42:45]

We're a little behind cities like LA, NY, SD in the use of drones.
The vision with Drone as First Responder - a hive on every police department hooked into our CAD system. The drone will automatically respond to certain calls in under 2 minutes. "It's gonna help in recruiting other officers to the job"

Marcus Monrostrom, Special Functions, Counterterrorism

[1:45:00] Some success stories before talking to Skydio rep.

- 1) NASCAR - incident of protest, individuals chained to large fencing around the track
- (2) Aftermath of Pride parade - in incident where the parade was stopped - deciding whether or not to “deploy assets”
- 3) Area 1 - robbery pattern 30 case, FB marketplace -setting up meetings luring people out-of-state trying to sell bikes 1:49:00?

[1:51:00]

Ald Napolitano - 1) How are they weather wise

Sgt Buenrostro: They are capable of handling what Chicago can throw at it

Napolitano: 2) Are pilots all Chicago Police officers or is there a civilian aspect to this? All police officer

Napolitano: 3) is it a single drone or multiple drones (hive)?

“An analysis would have to be done...”

Remote piloting options exist.

[1:57:00]

Napolitano: 4) cost per hive? Refer to Skydio Reps -

Skydio Ben Husch (via Zoom)

- [Speaker: Ben Husch] Wouldn't want to commit to a pricing conversation at this point. Not knowing the scope of the project, wouldn't be advised to make a pricing consideration right now.

Napolitano: “If we're not riding this wave, we're gonna be left behind. This could be an incredible opportunity for the open-air drug markets that plague our city, and chop-shops”

[1:59:00] Ald Spasato - hard to believe about the wind.

Sgt Buenrostro:

30-40mph no ill affect. Stabilized by AI.

Spasato: “But this is more about surveillance?”

Sgt Buenrostro: “[Surveillance] is one use.” I wouldn't say its for that [exclusively] - thats one use but the uses are many. Main is “overwatch view” - description of offenders for crime, finding missing people - e.g. 14 year old boy who was lost. The area they can cover is greater than any vehicle etc.

Ald Spisato Commends for “chippin away at crimes” “every little bit helps”

[2:01:02]

Ald Moore - Why did we choose Skydio?

- 1) American made company, 2) Documentation-purposes. Works with Axon (seamless transition, integrated w/ body-worn camera etc. all of our retention, all our video is on their cloud) They had a great Community Relations department.
(<https://www.axon.com/community-impact>)

[2:04:00] Who was Sgt Luan, may have gone to Boston?
What are Sgt Buenrostro's qualifications?

Sgt Buenrostro: Background is in Law enforcement. Always had an interest in technology, "drones, in particular." For example, New York currently has a drone for beach patrols, can identify and deploy a life preserver to a person.

Ald Moore: Do you think you could hire civilians as pilots?
Defers to SGT Orlando (legal) - it would be possible to use civilians. "I think it can be done, but we would have to look at other municipalities etc. It would be something to look at"

3) Re: 50% decrease in use of force.

[2:08:00] Alderman Moore - will be deployed where there's patterns of crime... what about constant drug activity? There has to be some type of predicate before we go up. We could not deploy for UC or ... [Moore: BECAUSE OF ILLINOIS LAW?] Correct. Ex a pre-planned event would need 24 hour notice. Drone 1st Responder Act.

Moore request a copy of the law - "drone 1st responder act"

<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=3520&ChapterID=54> "Freedom From Drone Surveillance Act" ← Actual Name

[2:12:16] - Asheville, NC

Unauthorized drones

[2:15:00] Skydio does not make a consumer drone -
<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext.asp?DocName=072501670K15>

[2:17:00] Oak Brook, Evanston as well - people dying in the lake and you guys looking for them. "We don't currently have a budget, we're kind of bootstrapped" "We're getting these gratis for temporary use"

We have a great working rapport with ISP.

[2:19:15] Vasquez: How are you tracking patterns movements, usage?? How is that reported out.

[2:20:50] Any time there's a reasonable expectation of privacy we do not utilize these drones, city streets open areas, that there is no expectation of privacy. Any time we would fly over somebody's property we would be required to get a search warrant. We have a video retention policy that is in place... every flight has to be approved prior to use....

2) Can you provide any documentation of the policy? That doesn't necessarily mean, whether it be somebody employed or not, are misusing their access to certain things - do you track the actual flight path, if it is retaining what is recorded where is that stored?

[2:22:00] Heavy documentation of all drones flights. There is metadata relating to all that. Evidence.com All these videos are archived there. People would be able to log on and see. (forward facing website) Full accountability and full exposure.

[2:26:00] Freedom From Gov't Surveillance Law provides ramifications if agencies not following that

[2:27:45] Success stories? - For example, DNC. Secret Service. Following the law, being transparent, building for the future. This is bigger than us, it's going to be around for a while.

Ald Waguespeck: What to do with \$8m back from ShotSpotter? Maybe we could use this to... save some lives.

Significant expense of software, etc. We would request that from government

grants. [2:30:00] Drones with Fire department, carrying fire hose.

There will be a continuing conversation about technology for public safety in the wake of the shotspotter controversy. We have work to do.

[2:32:0] Meeting Adjourned

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