



# Briefing on the FY24 Annual Surveillance Report

July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024

# AGENDA

## Scope of Reporting – Administrative Policy 15-03

- Surveillance vs Non-Surveillance
- Reporting Period

## Summary of Departmental Surveillance Use

- GRFD
- GRPD

## Impact on Civil Rights and Liberties

## Looking Forward

## Questions



# Scope of Reporting: What is Surveillance

Surveillance includes equipment and services.

## Surveillance Equipment is:

- Operated by or at the direction of the City.
- Deliberately or inadvertently capable of capturing or recording data related to the activities of individuals on public or private property.
- Drones or unmanned aircraft and any attached equipment used to collect data.

## Surveillance Services are:

- Provided to the City by a third party.
- Resulting in the acquisition of data by the City.
- Used for the purpose of monitoring, observing or analyzing individuals or groups.
- Regardless of whether such data is obscured, de-identified or anonymized before or after acquisition.

# Non-Surveillance

- Non-Surveillance is anything that does not meet the criteria of a surveillance service or surveillance equipment.
- In addition, surveillance equipment expressly excludes:
  - Cameras intended to record activity inside City buildings or facilities or at the entrances of City buildings or facilities.
  - Cameras installed to monitor and protect the physical integrity of City infrastructure and City owned real property.
- Surveillance equipment acquired prior to March 24, 2015 or any subsequent replacement of that surveillance equipment that does not materially change the functions or capabilities of the equipment.
- Surveillance equipment incapable of collecting identifiable information due to designed limitations in resolution and/or quality.

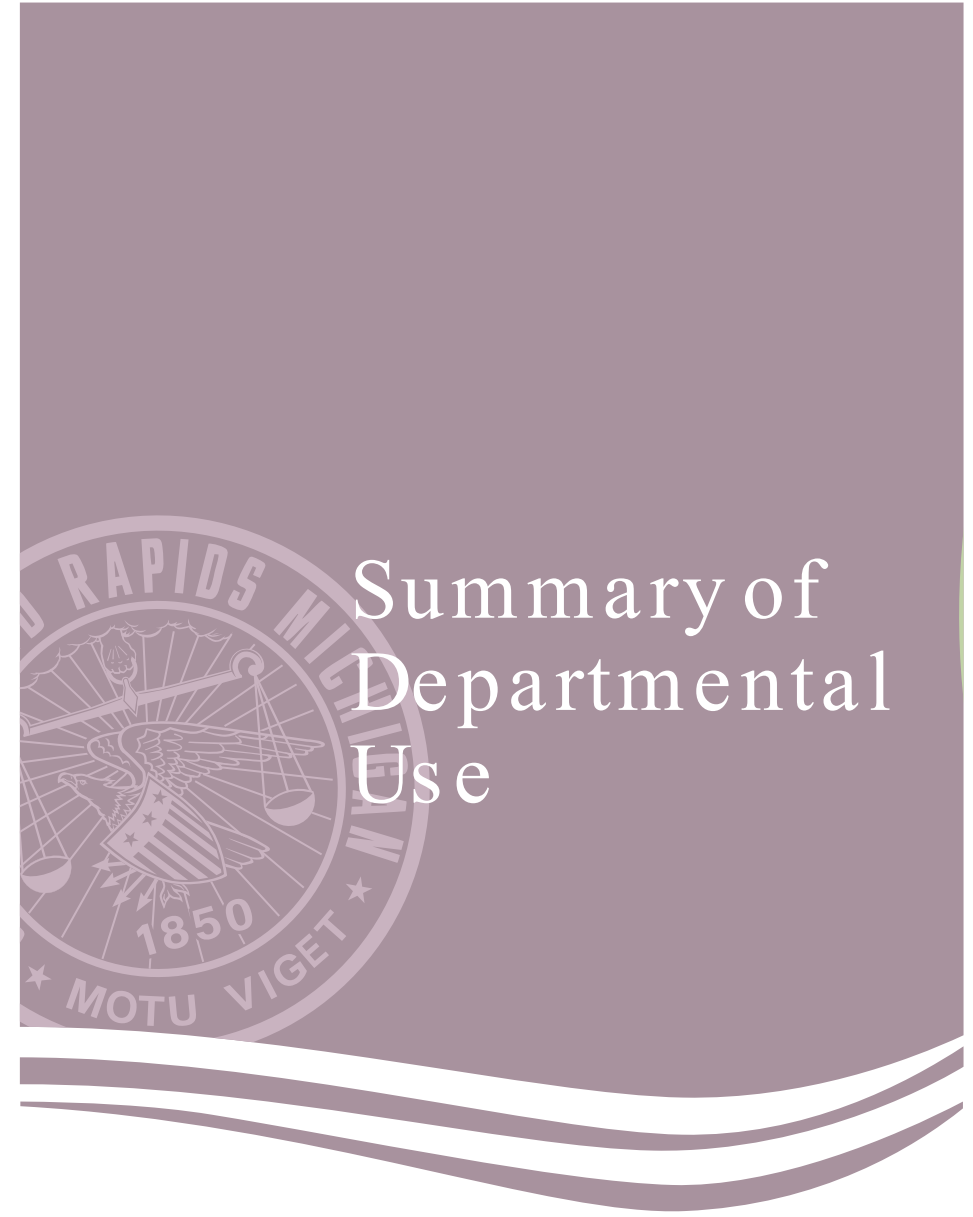




Mobile GR &  
Parking Services  
CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

The Grand Rapids Fire Department (GRFD), Grand Rapids Police Department (GRPD), and Mobile GR are the only departments that possess/operate reportable surveillance equipment under AP 15-03 (based on reported data).

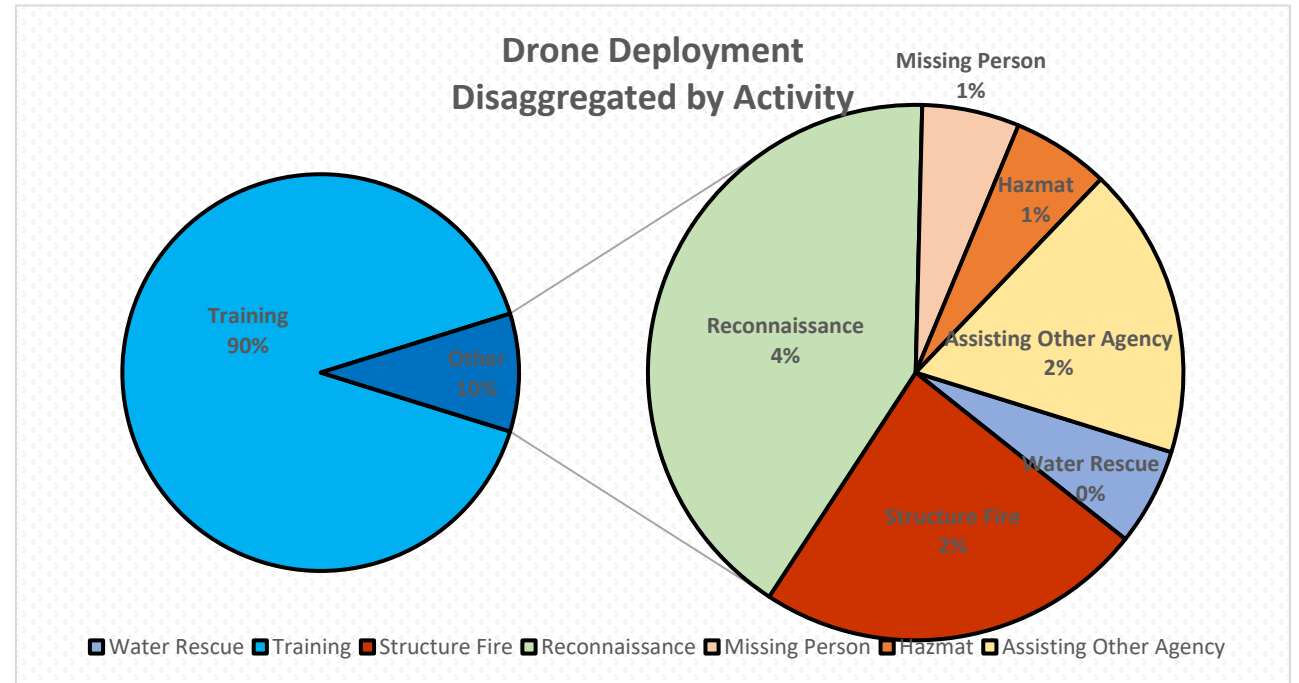
Mobile GR did not provide any data from their Automated License Plate Readers because they were not in use during this reporting period.



# Grand Rapids Fire Department



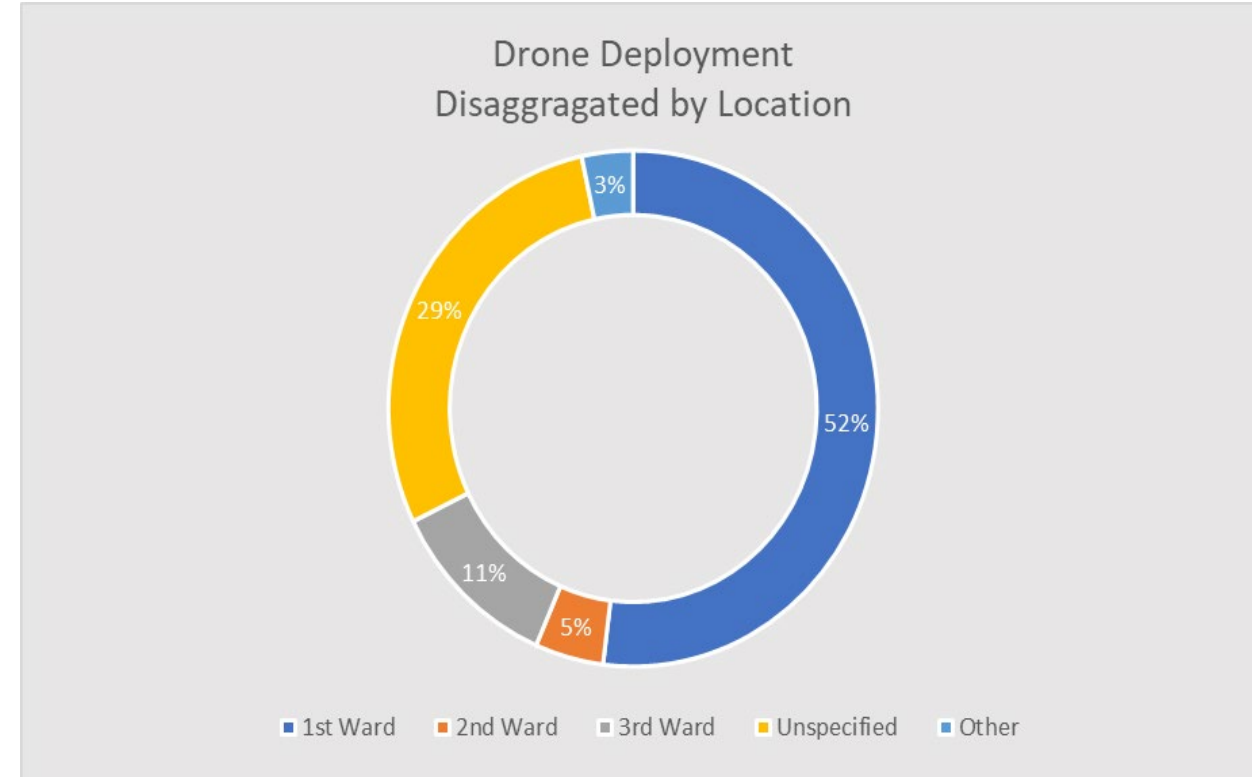
- Source of Surveillance → Autel Drone
- 177 total drone flights
  - ↓ 184 flights from previous report
  - 90% training flights
  - 4% Reconnaissance
  - 2% Structure fire incident flights
  - 2% Assisting other agencies
  - <1% Each: missing person, hazmat, water rescue
- Deployment Locations: 1st Ward: 92 flights; 2nd Ward: 8 flights; 3rd Ward: 20 flights; Outside City: 6; Unspecified locations: 51



# GRFD – Autel Drone Use



- These flights remain largely in line with the FY23 surveillance report.
- No complaints for misuse or overuse of GRFD’s surveillance.
- No drone deployments subject to a warrant or non-warrant form of court authorization.
- GRFD spent \$600 on operating, maintaining, and deploying the Autel Drone this reporting period.



# GRFD – Autel Drone Use



The majority of GRFD flights were for training purposes.

The non-training flights were as follows:

- Ward 1
  - 1 flight for a structure fire
- Ward 2
  - 3 flights for reconnaissance
  - 1 flight for hazmat
- Ward 3
  - No non-training flights
- Outside the City
  - 3 flights to assist other agencies

## Reconnaissance

While no reconnaissance flights were reported in the first surveillance report, they now account for GRFD's largest use of drones outside of training.

These reconnaissance flights were used to gather updates on GRFD's current fire station building projects.





# Grand Rapids Police Department



- Source of Surveillance

1. Body-Worn Cameras
2. Unmanned Aerial Surveillance/Drones

- Body Cameras

- GRPD uses Axon Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs) daily, as required by Policy 8-12.1 for all sworn officers.
- Under §6(e) of AP 15-03, GRPD only reports alleged or actual failures to use BWCs or in-car video.

- No BWC failures or complaints of misuse or overuse were reported in FY24.



# GRPD – sUAS



During the reporting period, GRPD acquired and employed Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (“sUAS”), commonly known as drones.



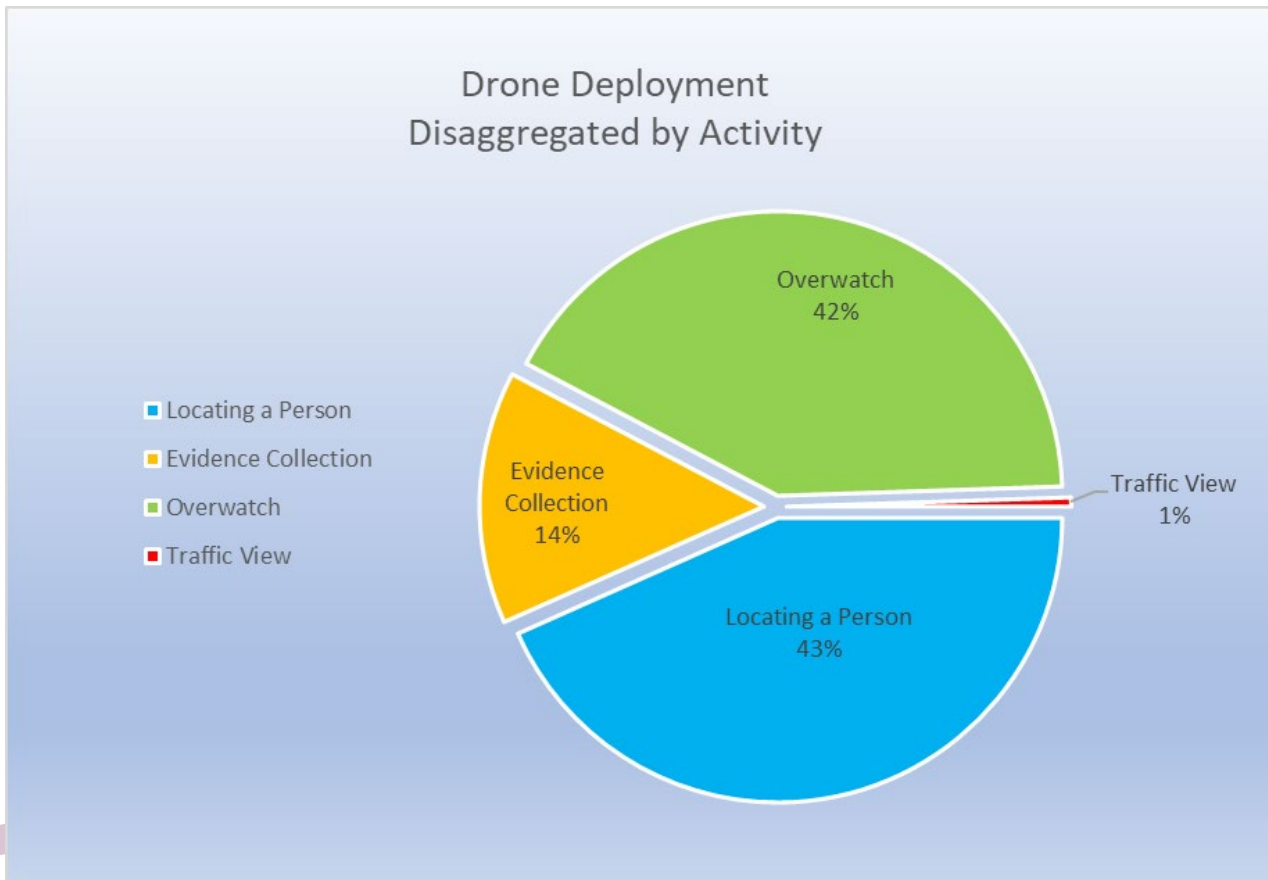


# GRPD - sUAS

- During the reporting period, GRPD acquired and employed Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (“sUAS”), commonly known as drones.
- Purposes of Use
  - Aerial crime scene perspective
  - Evidence collection
  - Searches for fleeing suspects and endangered persons (with K9 support)
  - Overwatch during search warrants
    - Overwatch: Providing officers with an aerial view while executing search warrants or in other dangerous situations.
- Flight Summary (383 total flights)
  - 166 flights (43%) to locate suspects or missing/endangered persons (38 flights

for missing/endangered)

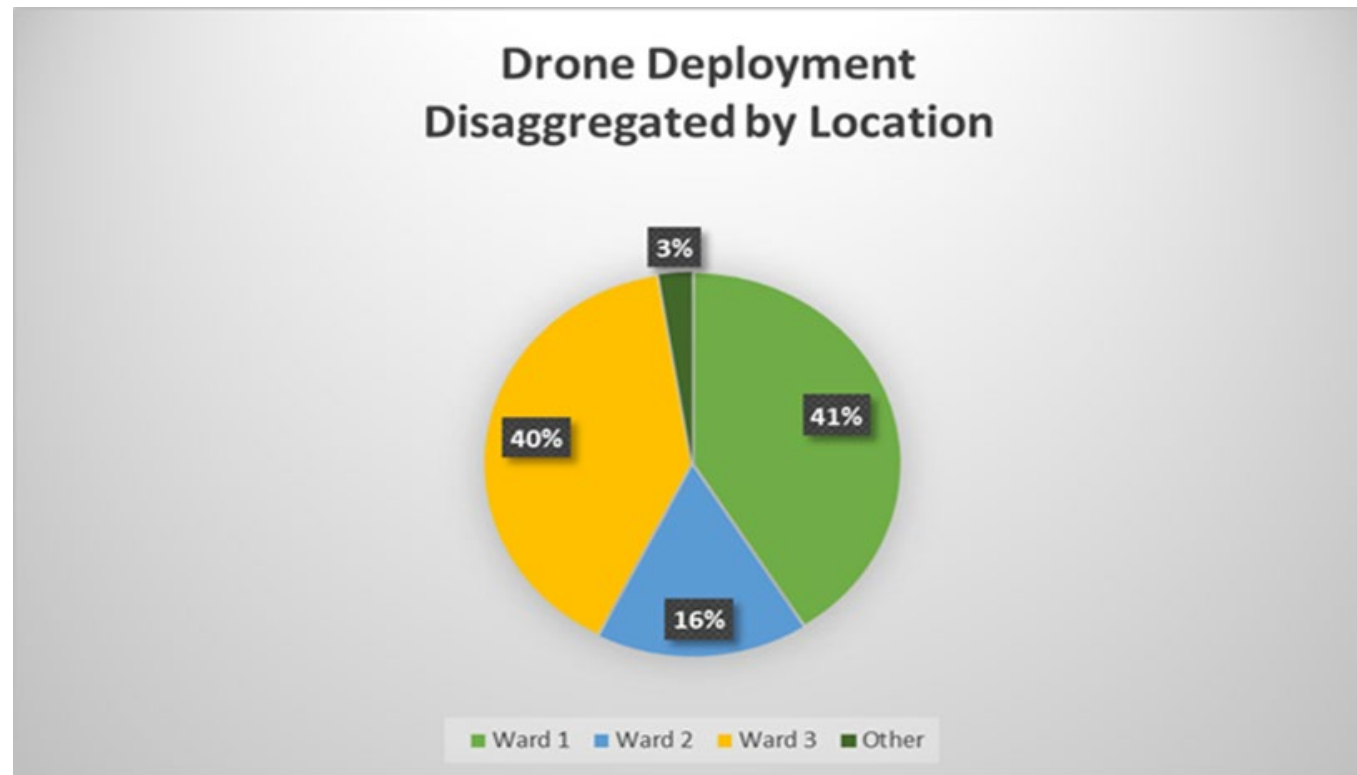
- 160 flights (42%) for overwatch
- 55 flights (14%) for evidence collection
- 2 flights (<1%) for traffic monitoring



# GRPD - sUAS



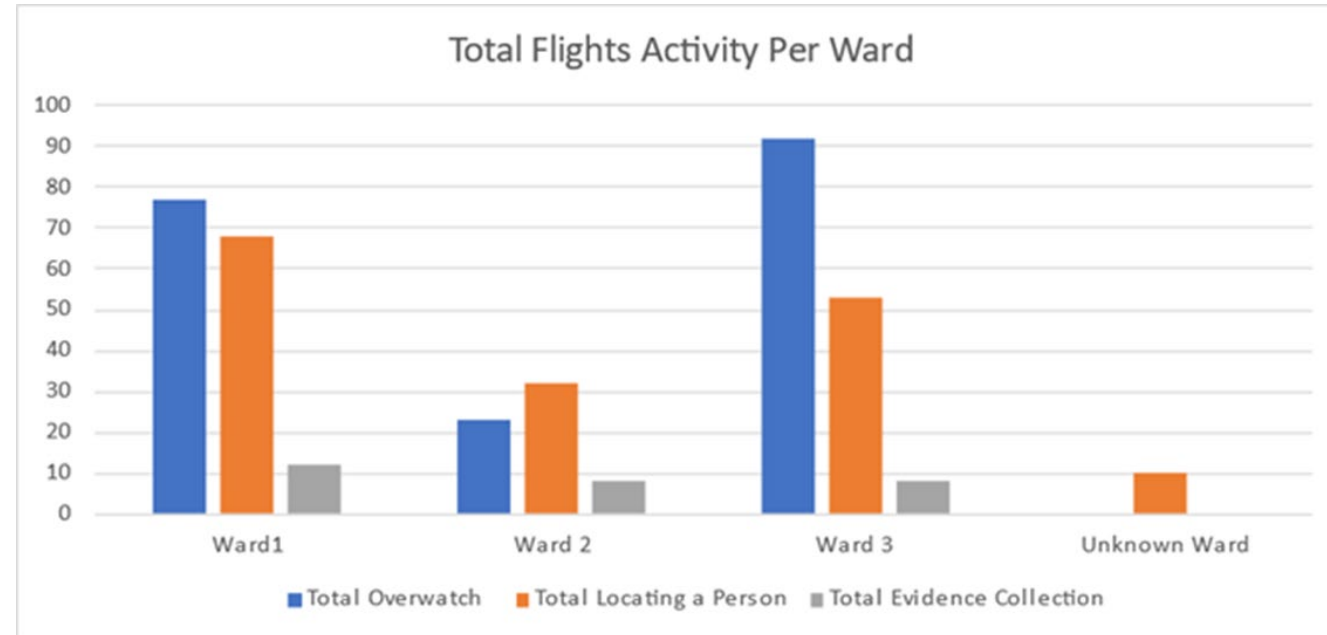
- During the reporting period, GRPD deployed sUAS a total of 383 times.
- Geographic Deployment
  - First Ward: 157 flights
  - Second Ward: 63 flights
  - Third Ward: 153 flights
  - Assisting Other Agencies: 10 flights



# GRPD - s UAS



- The First Ward experienced the highest activity with 157 flights, including 77 for overwatch, 68 for locating individuals, and 12 for evidence collection.
- The Third Ward closely followed with 153 flights: 92 for overwatch, 53 for locating individuals, and 8 for evidence collection.
- The Second Ward had 63 flights, comprising 23 overwatch, 32 for locating individuals, and 8 for evidence collection.
- 10 flights in other locales supported other agencies, all dedicated to locating individuals.



# GRPD - s UAS



- Authorization and Complaints

- Three deployments required warrants or other court authorization.
- Neither OPA nor GRPD received any complaints regarding drone misuse.

- Budget

- The cost of the Axon BWC was paid for by OPA.
- OPA paid \$777,588.22 to Axon for the GRPD body worn cameras in FY2024.
- GRPD spent \$111,073.00 of its departmental fiscal budget to operate, maintain, and deploy sUAS during this reporting period.





# Impact on Civil Rights and Liberties

## Scope

- Under AP 15-03 §6(d)(vii), OPA must analyze potential discriminatory or adverse impacts on First, Fourth, and Fourteenth Amendment rights.

## First Amendment

- No evidence of adverse impacts on freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly, or petition by GRFD or GRPD surveillance.

## Fourth Amendment

- OPA identified no adverse impacts as a result of searches or seizures governed by the Surveillance Policy by GRFD and GRPD.

## Fourteenth Amendment

- No adverse impacts were identified related to due process or equal protection from GRFD or GRPD surveillance.

# Looking Forward

- The Office of Oversight and Public Accountability will continue to collect and analyze data received from City departments to determine if surveillance equipment is being used in a fair and equitable manner.
- In the inaugural Surveillance Report, OPA referenced two internal complaints, CR-22-019 and CR 22-038. These matters are still being litigated, and, therefore, an analysis pursuant to AP 15-03 will be included in a future surveillance report.
- The advent of Artificial Intelligence, specifically facial recognition technology, is a horizon issue that is being considered for future policy considerations and reports. OPA recognizes both the benefits and disparities that can result from this technology.





# QUESTIONS

