



# Briefing on the FY24 Annual Surveillance Report

July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

# 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.

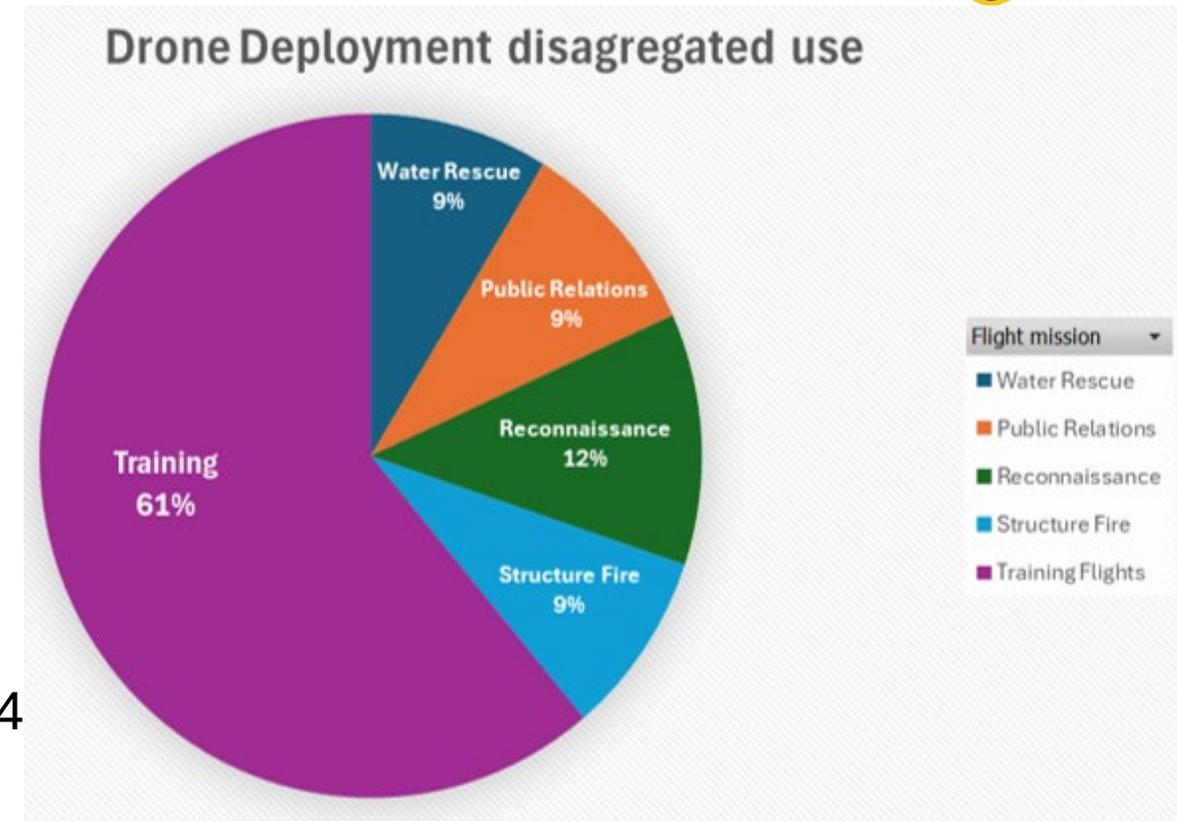


## Summary of Departmental Use

# Grand Rapids Fire Department



- **Technology used** → GRFD employed Autel Drone during this reporting period.
- **126** total drone flights
  - ↓51 flights (29%) decrease from FY24
  - 77 (61%) training flights, ↓ from 90% in FY 24
  - 15 (12%) Reconnaissance
  - 12 (9%) Public Relations - **new category**
  - 11 (9%) Water Rescue, ↑ 8% from FY24
  - 11 (9%) Structure fires flights, ↑7% from FY24

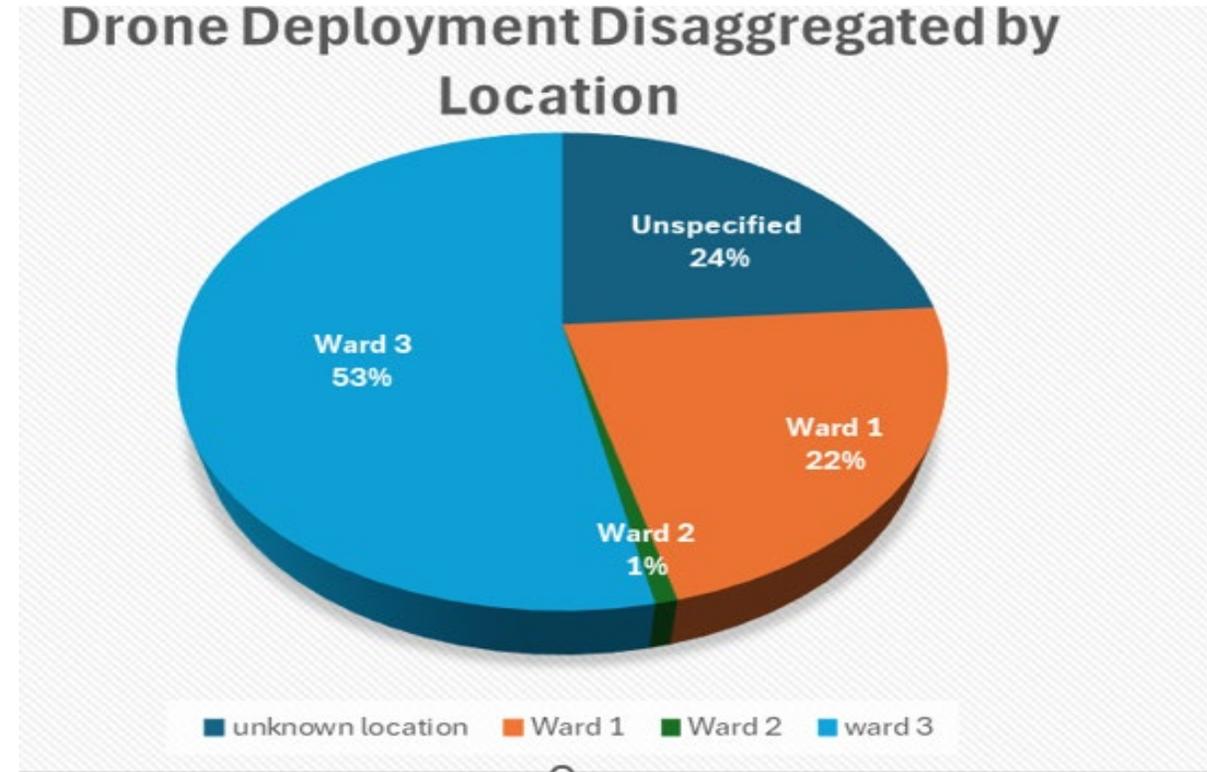


- **FY25 Geographic Distribution:** Ward 3: 67 flights; Ward 1: 28 flights; Ward 2: 1 flight; Unspecified locations: 30 flights



# GRFD -Autel Drone Use

- Training remains the majority use (61%), but it has decreased significantly since FY24.
- 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 \$7581.85 on operating, maintaining, and deploying the Autel Drone this reporting period.



# GRFD -Autel Drone Use



*While training remains the largest category, it declined by 29% from FY24*

**The non-training flights were as follows: 49**  
(39% of all 126 flights).

- **Ward 1**
  - 2 flights for public relations
- **Ward 2**
  - 1 flight for reconnaissance
- **Ward 3**
  - 7 flights for public relations
  - 11 Flights for reconnaissance
  - 11 Flights for structure fires
- **Unspecified location**
  - 11 for water rescue
  - 3 for public relations

- 3 for reconnaissance

*FY25 saw the rise in incident response flights*

- Ward 3 accounted for the majority of non-training deployments (59% of total).
- Structure fires flights increased from 4 to 11 flights, all in Ward 3.
- Water Rescue flights rose sharply from 1 to 11 flights, all in unspecified location near bodies of water.



# Grand Rapids Police Department



- **Source of Surveillance**

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

- **I. Body Cameras**

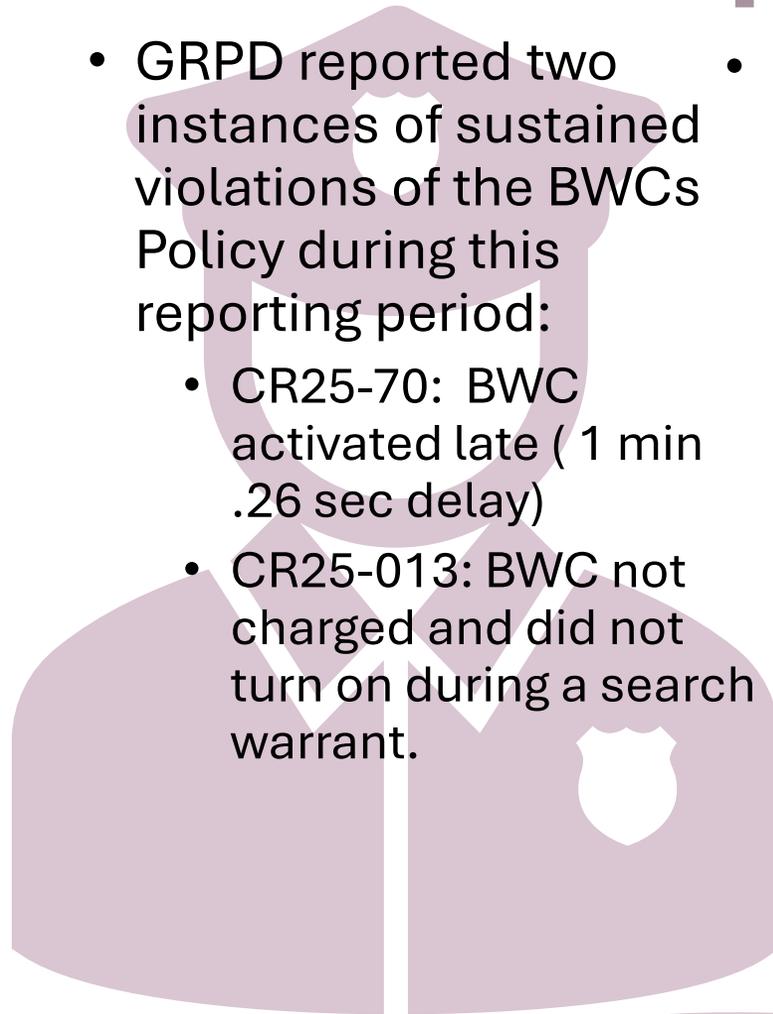
- GRPD uses Axon Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs) daily, as required by Policy 8-12.1 for all sworn officers.
- Under §6(e) of AP 15-03, GRPD only reports alleged or actual failures to use BWCs or in-car video.

- GRPD reported two instances of sustained violations of the BWCs Policy during this reporting period:

- CR25-70: BWC activated late ( 1 min .26 sec delay)
- CR25-013: BWC not charged and did not turn on during a search warrant.

- OPA received 1 complaint alleging misuse or overuse of license-plate recognition (LPR) system to search for deportation warrant in violation of GRPD Policy 7-12.

- An expedited review of this matter was conducted at the direction of the City Manager. City Attorney and Chief of Police concluded there was no policy violation by GRPD staff. IAU administratively closed the complaint without a Complaint Disposition Report.



# GRPD – sUAS



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



# GRPD – sUAS

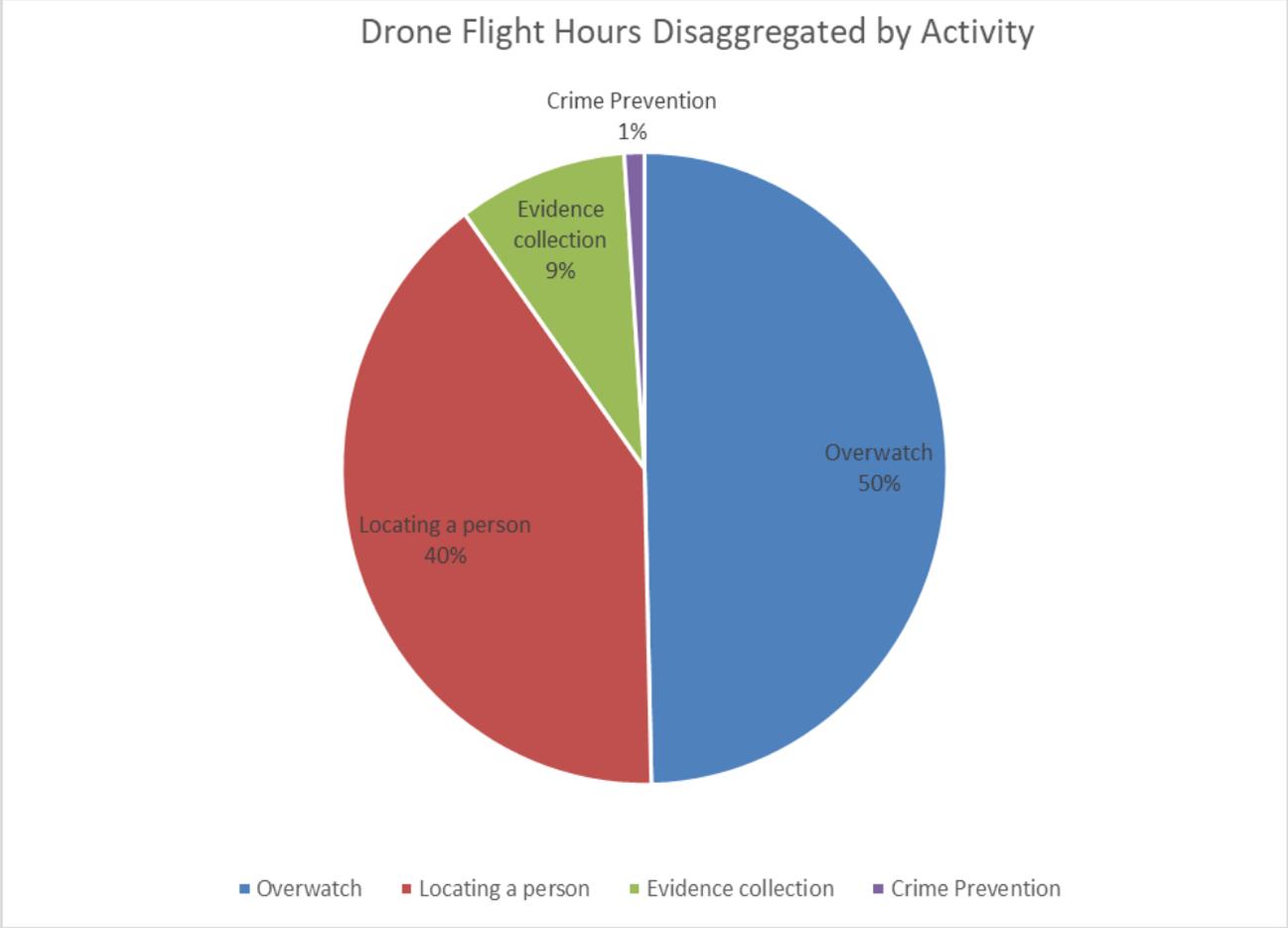


- **Purposes of Use**

- Aerial crime scene perspective
- Evidence collection
- Searches for fleeing suspects and endangered persons (with K9 support)
- Overwatch during search warrants

- **Flight Summary (483 total flights, ↑26% vs FY24)**

- 279 Overwatch flights
- 162 Locate a person
- 39 Evidence collection
- 3 Crime prevention



# GRPD - sUAS

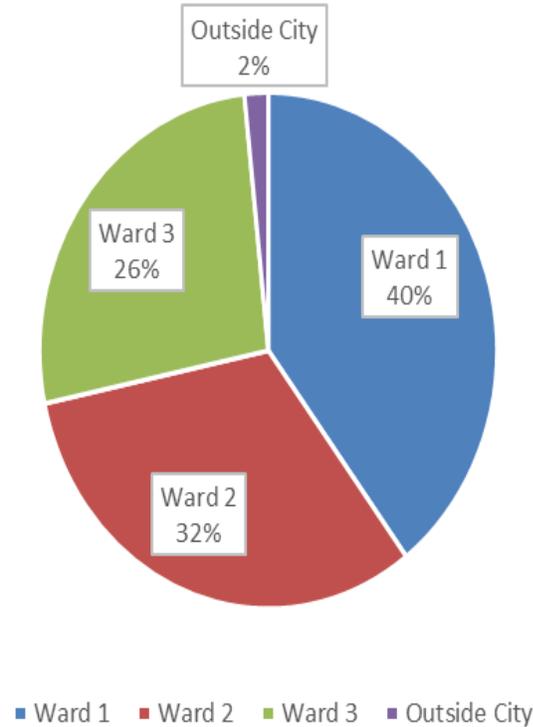


• During the reporting period, GRPD deployed drones a total of 483 times across all City Wards and locales.

## Deployment by ward:

- First Ward: had most flights (190, 52.89 flight hours)
- Second Ward: + 149 increase (157 Flights, 42.62 hours)
- Third Ward: Decrease in flights this year (127 flights, 35.44 hours).

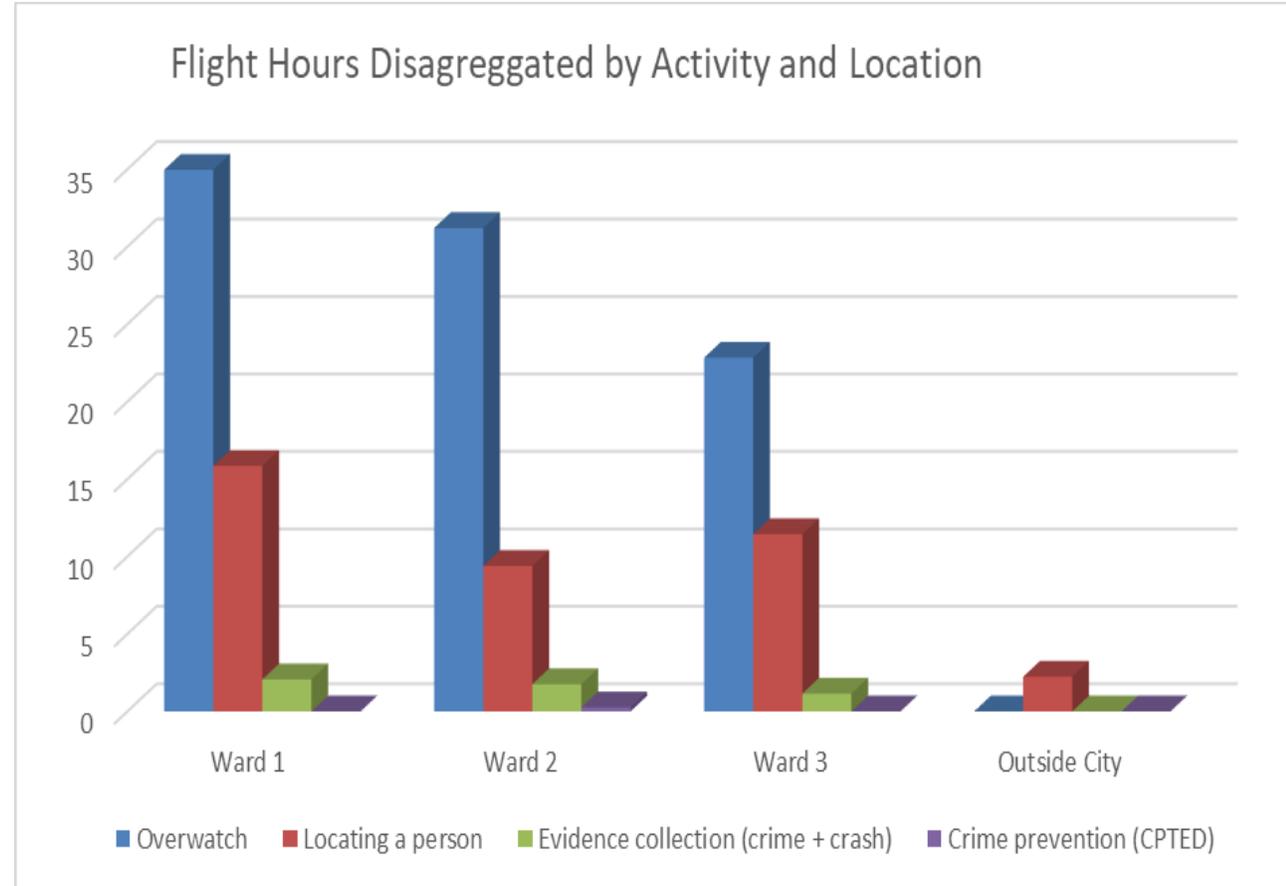
Location Disaggregated by Total sUAS Flight Time



# GRPD - sUAS



- During this period, drones logged 130.95 hours across all wards: **Ward 1** led with 52.89 h, followed by **Ward 2** with 42.62 h and **Ward 3** with 35.44 h.
- By activity, **Overwatch** dominated at 89.02 h (68%), **Locate Person** totaled 36.68 h (28%), **Evidence** accounted for 4.98 h (3.8%), and Crime Prevention was 0.26 h (0.2%).
- Within each ward, time was similarly Overwatch-heavy: **Ward 1: 34.97** (Overwatch/Locate/Evidence); **Ward 2: 31.21** (incl. Crime Prevention); **Ward 3: 22.84** hours.



# GRPD - sUAS



## •Authorization and Complaints

- 158 deployments were subject to a warrant (up from 148 in FY 24).
- Neither OPA nor GRPD received any complaints regarding drone misuse.
- GRPD reported no data was shared with any external entities.

## •Budget

- The cost of the Axon BWC was paid for by the OPA.
- OPA paid **\$1,619,305.53** to Axon for the GRPD BWC in Fiscal Year 2025.
- GRPD spent **\$26,699.17** of its departmental fiscal budget to operate, maintain, and deploy sUAS during this reporting period which includes \$17,600 for DroneSense software.



# 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

- OPA identified no adverse impacts on freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly, or petition by GRFD or GRPD surveillance.

## Fourth Amendment

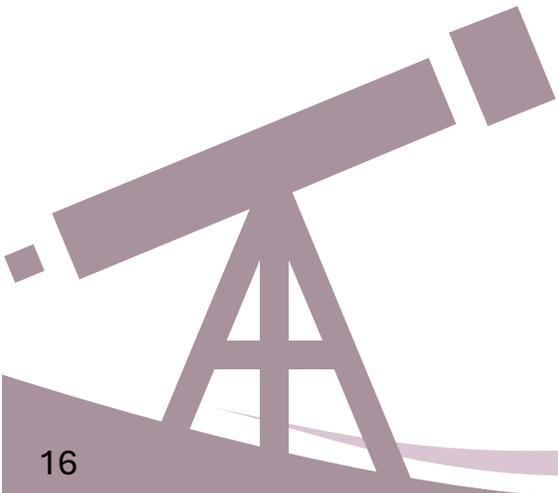
- OPA identified no adverse impacts as a result of searches or seizures governed by the Surveillance Policy by GRFD and GRPD.

## 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, if and when it becomes appropriate for the IAU to complete an investigation into these complaints, an analysis pursuant to AP 15-03 will also be conducted by OPA which can then 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

