



# Surveillance Technology Ordinance

Library Commission

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## Chapter 19B: Administrative Code

A new San Francisco ordinance requires city departments that use or acquire surveillance technology to submit a Surveillance Technology Policy to the Board of Supervisors for each form of technology.

## Purpose of Ordinance

- Promote transparency of government
- Protect privacy rights of residents and businesses
- Initiate a public discussion on government surveillance

# Surveillance Technology Ordinance

## Chapter 19B: Administrative Code (full text provided as an explanatory document)

A “Surveillance Technology” is any technology used to collect information on any individual or group. It includes “*any software, electronic device, system utilizing an electronic device, or similar device used, designed, or primarily intended to collect, retain, process, or share audio, electronic, visual, location, thermal, biometric, olfactory or similar information specifically associated with, or capable of being associated with, any individual or group.*”

“Surveillance Technology” includes but is not limited to the following: international mobile subscriber identity (IMSI) catchers and other cell site simulators; automatic license plate readers; electric toll readers; closed-circuit television cameras; gunshot detection hardware and services; **video and audio monitoring and/or recording technology, such as surveillance cameras**, wide-angle cameras, and wearable body cameras; mobile DNA capture technology; biometric software or technology, including facial, voice, iris, and gait-recognition software and databases; software designed to monitor social media services; x-ray vans; software designed to forecast criminal activity or criminality; **radiofrequency I.D. (RFID) scanners**; and tools, including software and hardware, used to gain unauthorized access to a computer, computer service, or computer network.”

## Notable Exemptions

- Office hardware (computers, TVs, etc.)
- Databases and enterprise systems used in course of ordinary business (HR, Payroll, etc.)
- IT security systems
- Physical access control systems
- Staff communication devices
- Devices intended to monitor safety and security of city facilities
- GPS devices on city vehicles



SFPL  
Partners

Committee on Information Technology (COIT)

- Manage timeline
- Steer development of policy toolkits and templates
- Empanel Privacy and Surveillance Advisory Board
- Act as liaison with Board of Supervisors

Office of the City Attorney

- Provide legal counsel on interpretation of ordinance and applicability to existing technologies

## Citywide Inventory

# Surveillance Technologies

- 33 City departments report 186 surveillance technologies
- 60% of technologies fall into 10 categories for which COIT is providing policy templates
  - Audio Recorder (4 technologies)
  - Automated License Plate Reader (5)
  - Biometric Processing Software (6)
  - **Camera (64)**
  - Drone (5)
  - Location Management System (11)
  - **RFID/Toll Reader (4)**
  - Smart City Sensors (3)
  - Social Media Monitoring Software (8)
  - Miscellaneous (2)
- Remaining technologies will be evaluated individually by COIT Privacy & Surveillance Committee

## SFPL Current Inventory



**1. PASSIVE RFID  
TAGS/SCANNERS**



**2. ENVISIONWARE COMPUTER  
MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE**



**3. SECURITY CAMERAS**



## 1. Passive RFID Tags/Scanners

- RFID technology is specifically cited in the ordinance
- RFID scanners and tags will be used throughout the system to check in and out library materials
- SFPL is transparent about using passive RFID technology ONLY for inventory control of materials

**SFPL is fully committed to protecting patron privacy by not using RFID technology for surveillance purposes.**

## 2. Envisionware Computer Management software

- Envisionware is SFPL's computer management system
- Patron barcodes are associated with the reservation in Envisionware while the patron is using the reserved computer
- Envisionware does **NOT** monitor or document what content, type of content or websites that the patron visits while using the computer

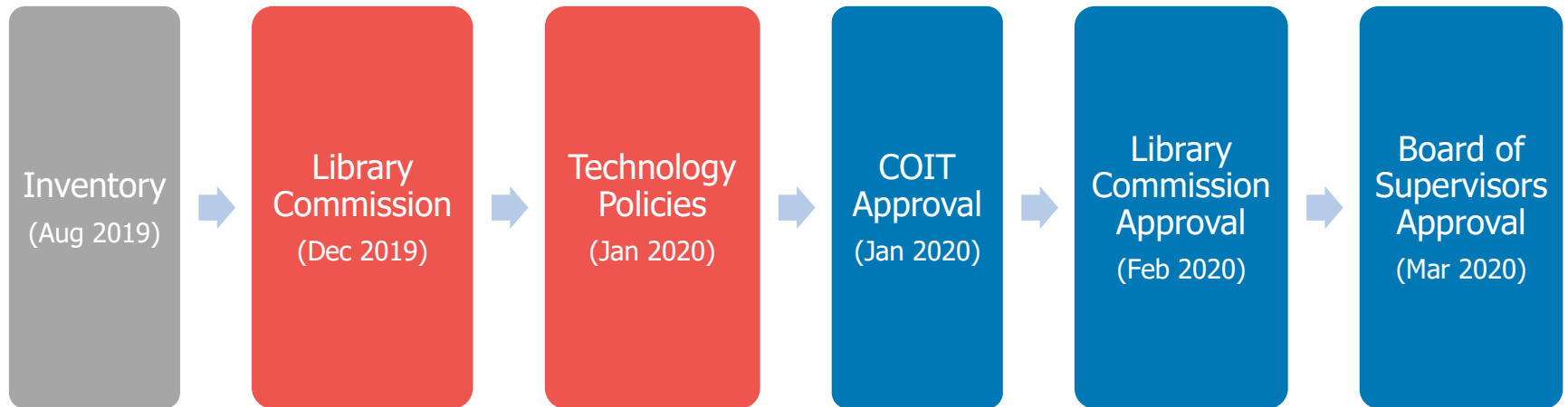
**SFPL is fully committed to protecting patron privacy by not using Envisionware technology for surveillance purposes.**

### 3. Security Cameras

- Security Camera technology is specifically cited in the ordinance
- Cameras are used to ensure staff and patron safety within SFPL facilities
- Security Cameras do **NOT** monitor or track individuals to determine what they are doing while at the library

**SFPL is fully committed to protecting patron privacy by not using Security Camera technology for surveillance purposes.**

# Project Timeline



## Annual Reporting

- SFPL will be required to report on and update surveillance policies annually
- This could include amending any existing policies to account for changes in technology
- It could also include drafting new policies to account for future applicable technologies

# Questions