

Lovasi-Wood, Andrea

HALIFAX REGIONAL
MUNICIPALITY

June 8, 2021

MUNICIPAL CLERK

From: Bryan Short [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 2:36 PM
To: Lovasi-Wood, Andrea
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [External Email] Re: [External Email] Re: Presentation Request - Board of Police Commissioners

[This email has been received from an external person or system]

Hello Andrea,

Thanks very much for your message. I feel as if the committee has taken a very narrow reading of my request and I would like to urge them to reconsider. The main point I'm making is that the situation with Clearview AI demonstrates that the Halifax Regional Police does not have functional oversight of their information technology. If it did, the use of a technology product that privacy commissioners from across the country determined was an illegal form of mass surveillance would not have taken place. The fact that the Halifax Regional Police have stopped using Clearview AI does not address this much broader issue -- one related to technology procurement, police governance, transparency, and accountability. For this reason, I urge the committee to reconsider my request.

I should also add that I've made this presentation with other police boards / commissions in Canada who also "tested" Clearview AI. Stemming from these, the Vancouver Police Department and Edmonton Police Service have introduced new protocols to increase transparency and accountability when it comes to the procurement of new technologies that use facial recognition. Both have agreed to develop internal policies related to the use of this technology, complete privacy impact assessments and consult with regional and national privacy commissioner offices, and seek approval from their governance body, before moving ahead with facial recognition again.

In an era where the police are under heightened scrutiny and public trust in law enforcement is weakening, these are the minimum conditions to move forward with a technology that presents broad-based harms. That the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners are unwilling to listen for five-minutes about these concerns, and consider implementing a new system of checks and balances to help mitigate them, is very concerning and I seriously urge them to reconsider.

Thanks,

Bryan

Municipal Clerks Office

Date Distributed: June 9, 2021

BOPC Chair and Vice Chair, CAO,
STAFF, Solicitor

Other:

Lovasi-Wood, Andrea

HALIFAX REGIONAL
MUNICIPALITY

May 28, 2021

MUNICIPAL CLERK

From: Office, Clerks
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 8:28 AM
To: Lovasi-Wood, Andrea
Cc: Singh, Sweta
Subject: FW: [External Email] Presentation Request

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Due By: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 8:50 AM
Flag Status: Completed

Municipal Clerks Office
Date Distributed: May 31, 2021

BOPC Chair and Vice Chair, CAO,
STAFF, Solicitor

Other:

Logging presentation request for BOPC.

Les

From: Bryan Short [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 7:20 PM
To: Office, Clerks <clerks@halifax.ca>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [External Email] Presentation Request

[This email has been received from an external person or system]

Hello,

I'd like to request the opportunity to present before the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners on the topic of facial recognition technology. I would like to make this presentation on behalf of OpenMedia, a community of hundreds of thousands of people from all across Canada that seek to keep the Internet open, affordable and surveillance free.

In particular, I'd like to highlight the harms that come with the unregulated police use of facial recognition technology. Canada's federal privacy laws do not account for the broad-based harms unlocked by mass biometric surveillance. Likewise, Nova Scotia's provincial privacy laws do not account for the use of biometrics and I am doubtful that the Halifax Regional Police have any internal policies surrounding the use of this potentially dangerous technology.

My concerns will be grounded in the reality of the Halifax Regional Police's use of Clearview AI, a facial recognition product that Canada's Privacy Commissioner, along with three of his regional counterparts, concluded was illegal. I have made these presentations before other Police Boards and Commissions in Canada, which most recently led to the Vancouver Police Department implementing a moratorium on the use of this technology.

I understand that the Halifax Board of Police Commissioner passed a resolution last year to make some policies of the Halifax Regional Police available to the public. Along with other recommendations, I will advocate that a policy surrounding the use of technologies that include biometric surveillance be made available to facilitate accountability and transparency.

The presentation will take approximately five minutes.

Thanks very much,

Bryan

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Bryan Short

Digital Rights Campaigner, OpenMedia

