Effectiveness of Boston Police Department Technology in 2024

The Boston Police Department has a public safety mission and mandate to protect the City of Boston. Technology deployed appropriately plays a critical role in effective policing and our ability to investigate and follow through for public safety to keep residents and Officers safe.

Of note, in 2024:

- Violent Crime decreased 1% (-29 incidents) compared to 2023. Violent crime decreased 4% compared to the 5 year average and decreased 13% compared to the 10 year average.
- Citywide arrests increased 9% compared to 2023 (+654 arrests). Arrests increased 11% compared to the 5 year average.
- 24 Homicides in 2024 is the lowest total for Homicides in the city for any year dating back to the 1950s. This was a 35% decline from 2023, 43% decline compared to the 5 year average, and a 48% decrease compared to the 10 year average.
- Total shooting victims decreased by 14 (-10%) compared to 2023. Shooting victims decreased by 68 (-35%) compared to the 5 year average and decreased 76 (-37%) victims compared to the 10 year average.
    - This was the lowest year for incidents of gunfire in the city since at least 2011 when reliable tracking began.
    - Over the previous 2 decades, the city averaged more than 260 victims shot per year. Over the past 4 years, this has declined by more than 100 victims on average per year.
    - Fatal shooting victims decreased by 7 (-27%), however this remains 39% below the 5 year average and 44% below the 10 year average.
    - Non-Fatal shooting victims decreased 6% (-7 victims). This is 34% below the 5 year average and 35% below the 10 year average.
    - This is the 4th consecutive year of declines in shooting victims and shooting incidents, and the 4th year in a row with less than 200 victims shot in the city. Prior to 2021, only 1 year (2019) had recorded less than 200 shooting victims since at least 2005 when reliable tracking began
- 865 firearms recovered (+4% vs 2023)
    - 541 crime guns recovered (-6% vs 2023)
    - 293 surrendered firearms recovered
    - 60 of these firearms were privately manufactured ("ghost guns").
        - This is a decrease of 20 from 2023. (Note these numbers may increase as additional evidence is processed.)
- Boston's crime rate per 1000 residents remained significantly lower than most major cities in the US based on data compiled by the Major City Chiefs Association.

In all that the Department does, we are cognizant of honoring the privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties of each and every individual with whom we interact. The Department does not and will not support any means – including the use of any technology or collection or retention of any information – that would violate an individual's rights in any way.

We acknowledge the worry and the concern that exists around technology and the idea of "surveillance." To be clear, the Department does not use technology for any general "surveillance" purposes. Rather, technology is just one tool that is employed strictly to fulfill our public safety mission, for legitimate law enforcement purposes, and subject to judicial oversight.

The Ordinance on Surveillance Oversight and Information Sharing ("Surveillance Ordinance"), and the annual reporting requirement, in particular, provides the Department an opportunity to track and

publish information and data to demonstrate how the technology we utilize is effective and vital to our work.

Among its many uses, technology has been effectively used to:

- Identify potential suspects and investigate crimes
- Deploy resources
- Respond to incidents more quickly and begin emergency medical care
- Identify individuals who are at risk and in need of services
- Protect the City of Boston from foreign and domestic extremist groups
- Locate missing persons and suicidal persons
- Memorialize/record victim, witness, and suspect statements
- Ensure safety of undercover officers and confidential informants
- Deploy specialized equipment for operations in low light areas
- Intelligence and evidence gathering
- Track and ultimately recover stolen property
- Analyze, examine, identify, and conduct comparisons for forensic evidence (including DNA, trace evidence, latent prints) and ballistic evidence

In 2024, the Department handled 598,693 calls for service, generating more than 99,000 police reports and more than 7,300 arrests.

What follows is a representative sample of incidents that demonstrate how technology was utilized in the previous year and is not intended to be an all inclusive list of successful uses of the equipment. As many of these incidents remain under active investigation and prosecution, only a general synopsis of the evidence can be provided. Additionally, specific details on the investigative techniques employed in each case cannot be disclosed publicly due to the risk of negatively impacting ongoing and future investigations.

In 2024, Officers of the B-2 Drug Control Unit (DCU) initiated an operation relative to a Drug Trafficking Organization operating within the City of Boston and surrounding areas. During this three-year drug investigation into this particular cartel, Officers quickly learned this organization ran a dispatch/delivery drug distribution business throughout Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Hampshire. Members of the B-2 DCU completed over two dozen undercover purchases of fentanyl and cocaine from this organization. In addition to the controlled purchases, Officers effected numerous arrests, documented intelligence reports, and conducted undercover operations. This investigation culminated with the execution of over 100 search warrants and included seizure of 2.3 kilograms of fentanyl, 12 kilograms of suspected fentanyl and cocaine, 300 grams of cocaine, 6 firearms, and approximately $400,000. Twenty-five individuals were charged in this multi-state conspiracy with nineteen individuals placed under arrest on the date of execution. Six individuals remain outstanding. This large-scale investigation would not have been as successful without technological surveillance methods. The following surveillance types were used to assist Officers throughout their investigation: **Department Cell Phone Cameras (Audio/Video Recording and Non-Recording applications and Software and Databases)**, **Hand-Held Video Cameras** (Primarily used for surveillance), **Fixed Pole Cameras** (installed pursuant to search warrants), **GPS Car Tracking Devices** (pursuant to search warrant(s)), **Title III Wiretap** (Federal Warrant obtained), and Cell Phone Ping Warrant (search warrants sought at State and Federal level).

Throughout 2024, Detectives utilized the **BAT and BTD Cameras** to assist in responding to numerous community complaints regarding non-residents parking, loitering, and abandoning vehicles on multiple

streets in various neighborhoods in the city. Upon further investigation, and use of the **Associative Violence Information System**, investigators connected vehicles with individuals, including those with violent group affiliation and significant firearm history. While no criminal charges were filed, numerous vehicles were stopped and/or towed, ultimately ending the activity, addressing the complaints, and deterring the activity.

Drug Control Unit Officers have utilized **pole cameras** for drug investigations, pursuant to search warrants. The cameras assist with identification of targets' vehicles and their patterns of leaving and returning to a residence. Thereafter, additional search warrants for the targets, vehicles, and residences have resulted in the recovery of drugs, firearms and arrests.

Drug Control Unit Officers utilize Department-issued **hand held video cameras**, the **BAT & BTD Camera System** and **pole cameras** (with authorization of a search warrant) to capture real-time interactions that have resulted in search and arrest warrants which will be used in the prosecution of a number of individuals for such offenses that include Trafficking in Heroin and Cocaine.

The Special Investigations Unit deployed the **Cell Site Simulator** to locate a Fentanyl Drug Trafficker for the Citywide Drug Control Unit. This deployment was authorized by BIS Command pursuant to a Suffolk Superior Court Search Warrant. This deployment resulted successfully in locating the Drug Trafficker's base of operation, resulting in the arrests of several individuals for Drug Trafficking charges.

During 2024, the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) utilized a **covert camera** relative to active federal Drug Trafficking Organization investigations with the FBI. This deployment also included the use of a **pole camera,** which provided critical covert observations of drug traffickers at specific locations under investigation. SIU also utilized hand **held cameras/video cameras** during surveillance operations of suspects under felony investigation and during the execution of search warrants to document evidence.

During the course of an investigation in 2024, Detectives assigned to the Human Trafficking Unit executed a search warrant on a cellular phone and utilized **Forensic Examination Hardware and Software**. While reviewing the contents of the phone, Officers observed images that depicted firearms possession. Detectives further connected a recent **ShotSpotter** activation near a residence connected with the phone's owner. Following additional investigation and physical surveillance, a traffic stop was conducted and cocaine and fentanyl were recovered.

Additionally in 2024, the Fugitive Unit obtained search warrants and utilized **Cell Site Simulator** technology provided by the United States Marshall Service. As a result, and by the use of this technology, the Fugitive Unit was able to arrest several codefendants in an armed carjacking / kidnapping case that occurred in Roxbury. Three suspects were arrested outside of the state and the fourth was located and arrested in Dorchester. The Fugitive Unit also sought a search warrant to utilize a **Cell site Simulator** via the U.S. Marshall Service to locate and apprehend a suspect wanted for a brutal daytime homicide.

In early 2024, the Fugitive Unit, in conjunction with the US Marshall Service and pursuant to a search warrant, used a **cell site simulator** to locate an individual wanted in relation to a homicide. The individual was located in Fall River.

In early 2024, Homicide investigators utilized a nearby **surveillance camera** to refute a witness's account and observe that she had been in close contact with the victim when he was shot. The camera also

provided investigators with information about another witness who was located and interviewed. Without the surveillance camera video, Detectives would have very little information on what actually occurred.

In January 2024, Officers responded to a radio call for a commercial burglary at a restaurant in Dorchester. Detectives utilized **private video** and the **BAT & BTD Cameras** to track the suspect and an arrest warrant issued.

In January 2024, Detectives from C-11 and E-5 executed a search warrant at an apartment in Roslindale related to two suspects who were believed to have committed numerous armed robberies (with a Firearm) throughout the City. The investigations were assisted by **Body Worn Camera video**, the **BAT & BTD Cameras, private surveillance video, social media video, electronic product tracking devices**, and various **Database** searches. While executing the search warrant, Detectives recovered stolen property and other evidence connecting the two suspects to eight (8) robberies, including four (4) in Roslindale. Detectives also located a spent shell casing which the **Firearms Analysis Unit** matched to a shell casing from the scene of one robbery.

In February 2024, Detectives in E-18 utilized the **DoIT/BTD Camera System (with Genetec)** to capture still photographs of two suspects running away from an armed robbery of a pizza deliveryman. These photographs were disseminated on a Boston Regional Intelligence Center ID WANTED bulletin, released to the media, and featured on BPDNews.com. As a result, several tips from the public were received by BPD Crimestoppers. E-18 Detectives corroborated the tips and, following further investigation, arrested the suspect.

In February 2024, as a result of a Search Warrant execution on a phone and the **Forensic Examination** of the phone, the Human Trafficking Unit arrested an individual for aggravated rape of a child and Human Trafficking. During the arrest and search warrant of the suspect's home, the Human Trafficking Unit recovered a firearm.

In February 2024, pursuant to a Superior Court Search Warrant and BIS command approval, SIU deployed and utilized the **Cell Site Simulator** to locate a cell phone in Boston that was being utilized by a drug trafficking suspect.

In February 2024, Detectives assigned to District A-1 utilized the **BAT & BTD Cameras**, along with MBTA and store surveillance video, to identify an individual suspected in two armed robberies of convenience stores in Downtown Boston, which led to his arrest.

In March 2024, the same suspect robbed three convenience stores while armed with a firearm. The **BAT & BTD Cameras** were accessed and used to determine the direction of flight after all three of the incidents. Additional private video surveillance systems and security cameras were also used. The suspect was identified and arrested within days of the incidents.

In March 2024, Officers assigned to District B-3 responded to a **ShotSpotter** activation in Dorchester with no corresponding 911 call. ShotSpotter indicated one (1) round fired. Upon arrival, Officers observed the street was quiet. Officers located one (1) spent .380 auto shell casing in the street. Officers did not locate any victims, suspects, or witnesses. Detectives utilized the **BAT & BTD Cameras** and identified a suspect vehicle during a shots fired investigation.

Effectiveness of Boston Police Department Technology in 2024

In March 2024, Detectives assigned to District A-1 utilized the **BAT & BTD Cameras** to track unarmed robbery suspects from Downtown Boston to Jamaica Plain. The cameras were effective in leading to the arrest of two individuals and in obtaining the search warrant for evidence.

In March 2024, **Body Worn Cameras/Axon VMS System** helped the E-18 Detectives hold a suspect responsible for recklessly firing shots in Hyde Park, MA. Shortly after the shooting, Officers in District B-3 stopped the motor vehicle, but the suspect sped off after Officers observed a firearm in the vehicle. Detectives reviewed the Officers' **BWC video** and matched the suspect's clothing to an individual captured on private surveillance video holding and discharging a firearm in Hyde Park. Additionally, the **Firearms Analysis Unit** matched ballistics recovered from the scene with evidence thereafter recovered from the motor vehicle.

In March 2024, Officers responded to Dorchester Ave. and Ashmont St. for a **Shot Spotter** activation (two activations for 8 rounds and 10 rounds, 18 rounds total) and in response to 911 calls. On scene, Officers located a victim suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. In this incident, the **BAT & BTD Cameras** were critical for investigators to both the victim and potential suspects and vehicles involved in the incident. As a result, with the assistance of this technology, Detectives were able to identify and charge suspects in connection with this shooting.

In April 2024, Detectives utilized the **BAT & BTD Cameras** and privately owned cameras to identify and locate a suspect in two commercial breaking and entering incidents in Dorchester. The suspect was identified and a warrant issued for his arrest.

In April 2024, Detectives assigned to the Human Trafficking Unit used **Department cell phones** to photograph a hotel room and reviewed hotel **video surveillance** that depicted a child sex trafficking suspect. Detectives also reviewed **Body Worn Camera video** that confirmed the identity of a suspect, which led to his arrest on charges of Aggravated Rape of a Child.

In April 2024, Officers responded to a radio call in Dorchester for "investigate premises" where earlier that morning there was a **Shot Spotter** activation for 1 shot fired in the area, without any 911 calls. A shell casing was recovered. Detectives reviewed video from the **BAT & BTD Cameras** that captured the suspect discharging a firearm.

In April 2024, Officers responded to the Boston Medical Center for the report of a person stabbed in Dorchester and spoke with a victim who reported he was attacked when he was walking home from the bus. The victim was struck from behind in the head with a bottle and stabbed in the hand with a knife. Officers searched during heavy rain but were unable to locate the crime scene. Using the **BAT & BTD Camera** systems, investigators recovered video footage of the suspect in the area, which assisted in leading to his arrest.

In May 2024, Officers responded to a radio call for a panic alarm at a business in Roxbury. They spoke with the store owner who reported he was robbed at gunpoint when an armed man walked into his store and demanded money. The victim provided a description of the suspect and video from the store. Detectives then tracked the suspect using the **BAT & BTD Cameras**, which led to the recovery of higher quality video footage from another nearby business. These images were provided to the public via the Office of Media Relations, and Detectives received a tip which identified the suspect, leading to the suspect's arrest.

Effectiveness of Boston Police Department Technology in 2024

In May 2024, Officers responded to a radio call for shots fired in Roxbury. The victim was double-parked waiting for food when two individuals on scooters approached both sides of his vehicle and began shooting at him with his daughter in the backseat of the vehicle. Bullets struck the driver's door of his vehicle and ballistic evidence was recovered from the scene. Detectives utilized the **BAT & BTD Cameras** to identify the shooters and tracked their movements across the city to a commercial area where higher quality video and images were recovered. Based on these images, Officers identified the suspects and arrests were made.

In May 2024, the Sexual Assault Unit utilized the **Forensic Division's Digital Evidence** capabilities to acquire cellphone data from a device to identify the victim's whereabouts around the time of the sexual assault. Victims under the influence of drugs or alcohol may forget their exact location, which can make it difficult for investigators to pinpoint the crime scene. This technology helps investigators follow up on locations and exact times when investigating allegations of criminal activity.

In May 2024, two victims suffering from gunshot wounds self-applied to the hospital. Detectives spoke with one of the victims and determined that the shooting took place in South Boston. Detectives were able to review video from the **BAT & BTD Cameras** and video from the Boston Housing Authority and observed the suspect, his clothing description, and his path of flight after the shooting. This information assisted Detectives in obtaining an arrest warrant for the suspect.

In May 2024, Detectives responded to a radio call for a person with a knife in Hyde Park and located a victim who was approached from behind by a suspect who took the victim's cell phone and air pods. Detectives utilized **surveillance cameras** and observed the suspect had stalked the juvenile victim before the robbery as he walked home from school. In the course of the investigation, Detectives linked this suspect, through **surveillance video**, **Body Worn Camera video**, and a fingerprint processed by the **Latent Print Unit,** to additional incidents including a commercial breaking and entering, larceny of a motor vehicle, and vandalism.

In May 2024, there was a person shot in the area of Dudley St. in Dorchester. Witnesses provided Detectives a suspect description, possible first name of the suspect, and the direction the suspect came from prior to the shooting. An image of the suspect was disseminated by the BRIC to area law enforcement partners for possible identification. Four Officers identified the suspect based on the image and Detectives used the **Associative Violence Information System** to confirm the suspect's identity, their association with a violent group that has participated in violence in the city, and the suspect's history with firearm activity. The suspect was arrested approximately one week after the shooting.

In May 2024, Officers responded to a radio call for an East Boston resident who discovered her vehicle had a flat tire and the tow truck operator notified her that bullet fragments fell out of the engine block when he hooked up the tow. When asked, neighbors stated they heard what they believed were shots fired approximately two hours earlier, but no one called 911. Video from the Boston Police Department **District A-7 exterior camera** captured the passenger of a vehicle shoot at a male walking on the street before fleeing. Additional video from nearby businesses assisted with identification of the suspect's vehicle. The license plate had been removed from the suspect vehicle, but images from video that captured the vehicle's distinctive characteristics were shared with surrounding cities, including those with access to **FLOCK ALPR Cameras**. In June 2024, Officers conducted a traffic stop on the suspect vehicle and the driver was arrested for possession of a ghost gun. Thereafter, this individual was identified as the shooter in the May 2024 incident and charged with the shooting and unlawful possession of a firearm.

Effectiveness of Boston Police Department Technology in 2024

In June 2024, Officers responded to a radio call in Hyde Park for a person stabbed and located a victim suffering from multiple stab wounds to the back. Witnesses stated there was a group of 15-20 juveniles fighting in the street. An additional victim was also located nearby suffering from a head injury. Due to the severity of the injuries, full notifications were made and Homicide Detectives responded to the scene. Detectives used cell phone video provided to them, **Body Worn Camera** video footage, and **MBTA surveillance video** to identify the juvenile suspect in a near fatal stabbing.

In June 2024, 4 individuals were arrested for armed robbery after showing a firearm to the victim and stealing his moped. **Video surveillance** from several different sources allowed Detectives to observe the suspects on mopeds following the victim prior to robbing him. Detectives quickly broadcast the suspects' descriptions. An officer identified two of the suspects by name because after the robbery the group went to a school to fight a student. Thereafter, the four suspects were arrested wearing the same clothing as observed in the **surveillance video**.

In June 2024, Officers responded to a radio call for a commercial breaking and entering in Dorchester. **Private security cameras** and the **BAT & BTD Cameras** captured the incident and the suspect. Images were disseminated and multiple people identified the suspect and recognized him in relation to other breaking and entering incidents. Detectives secured an arrest warrant and the suspect is facing numerous counts of breaking and entering across the district.

In June 2024, Officers responded to a radio call for a report of a robbery in East Boston. On arrival, Officers met with the victim who reported that earlier in the morning he went to his usual bank and made a withdrawal before driving to his business. When he arrived at his business, two males approached him, represented they were police officers who had a warrant for his arrest and instructed the victim to get out of the vehicle. The suspects fled with the victim's vehicle and money; the vehicle was located abandoned nearby. A quick video canvas of cooperative nearby businesses and review of the **BAT & BTD Cameras** allowed Detectives to quickly gather images of the two suspects that were disseminated to the public and led to their identification. **Video surveillance footage** also assisted Detectives in identifying the vehicle used by suspects to arrive and flee the scene after abandoning the victim's vehicle.

In June 2024, a midday stabbing in Jamaica Plain was captured by **video cameras** in the area. Detectives used the images to help with the investigation and identify the suspect who was arrested for the assault.

In June 2024, the **BAT / BTD Cameras** with **GENETEC video management system** were used to capture images of two suspects involved in an armed robbery by firearm in Mattapan. The victim reported he was robbed of his iPhone at gunpoint by two male suspects. One suspect was identified and arrested.

In June 2024, Officers responded to a radio call for a suspicious person in Dorchester and spoke with a juvenile who alleged she had been approached by an unknown male who grabbed her and attempted to pull her down the street. With the use of **privately owned video cameras**, the **BAT & BTD Cameras** with **GENETEC video management system**, Detectives determined that the report was false and further resources were not needed to investigate the unfounded allegations.

In July 2024, Officers responded to a **Shotspotter** activation in the area of Ashmont St. There were no 911 calls following this activation. Ballistic evidence was recovered and ballistic damage was observed to a parked motor vehicle. Real Time Crime Center analysts reviewed the **BAT / BTD cameras** in the area of

the activation and provided suspect information to Officers on scene, detailing clothing, a vehicle description and direction of flight. The vehicle was later located nearby unoccupied.

In July 2024, there was a person shot in the area of Columbia Rd. Detectives spoke to witnesses who relayed information about the suspect who is known by a nickname. Through the course of the investigation, Detectives identified a person of interest who was in the area at the time of the shooting. Detectives then used the **Associative Violence Information System** and confirmed the person of interest was known by an alias that matched the witnesses' statements. Ultimately, an arrest warrant was sought in connection to this shooting.

In July 2024, Officers in West Roxbury received an armed robbery report by a victim who alleged that he was approached by three suspects and robbed of his friend's motorcycle at knifepoint. The victim provided descriptions of the alleged assailants and their means and direction of flight. Detectives searched and reviewed **BAT & BTD Cameras** and obtained **private video** which contradicted the victim's allegations. The true owner of the motorcycle also went to the police station shortly after the alleged victim told Officers he had purchased the motorcycle. After Detectives spoke with the victim and his mother, the motorcycle was returned to its true owner.

In July 2024, around 8pm a parent reported to the front desk of the District A7 police station that his 11-year-old autistic son was missing. Detectives quickly canvassed the area around his summer school and located a nearby convenience store with video that showed the juvenile and another child entered the store shortly after school dismissal. Additional video, including the **BTD traffic cameras** in the area captured these two males walking shortly after dismissal. Detectives provided the images of the two juveniles to the BPD school police unit who assisted with an identification of the second child. Officers went to the friend's house and an adult called the child who was still with the missing juvenile at a nearby restaurant. The use of surveillance technology, cooperative partnerships with local businesses, and community assistance, the juvenile was located approximately two hours after he was reported missing.

In July 2024, Officers responded to a radio call for 5 people shot at a residence in Dorchester. On scene, Officers also located a vehicle struck by gunfire that was occupied by the driver and her infant and toddler. No information was gathered from victims or witnesses beyond reports that the gunshots came from an area across the street from the residence. Detectives recovered and reviewed video footage from **private home security camera systems**, the **BAT & BTD Cameras, MBTA bus and train station cameras**, and **Boston Housing Authority cameras** to track the suspects movements after the shooting. **Forensic Examination Hardware and Software** was utilized to access a DVR system to retrieve crucial video footage of the incident. Video showed the suspects switched clothing with one another in an attempt to evade identification. Still photos from video surveillance were used to create an ID wanted bulletin, which led to a stop of one of the suspects approximately one month later. Ultimately, two suspects were arrested and charged in relation to this incident, and a firearm to be processed by the **Crime Lab and Firearms Analysis Unit** was also recovered during a subsequent search warrant.

In July 2024, Officers responded to a **Shot Spotter** activation and 911 calls for a person shot in Dorchester. Detectives immediately began viewing the **BAT & BTD Cameras via GENTEC** and observed the described shooter and the house he went into. Detectives relayed this information and the suspect was arrested. Subsequently, a search warrant led to the recovery of valuable evidence.

Effectiveness of Boston Police Department Technology in 2024

In July 2024, an officer on patrol heard gunshots in Downtown Boston, and two victims were located. During the course of the investigation, Detectives identified two suspects using **private video** and the **BAT & BTD Cameras, fingerprint analysis, and publicly available social media** posts from the suspects that led to their arrests.

In July 2024, Officers responded to a radio call for an attempted child abduction in West Roxbury. The 3-year-old's father reported that he and his daughter were approached by two women who asked the father for some help. While the father assisted, he believed the two women grabbed his daughter and took her to the other side of their car in an attempt to get the child into the car. The father provided a vehicle description and partial plate. With this information, Detectives searched several **databases** and identified the suspect vehicle and possible suspects. Following interviews with witnesses and the suspects and review of **private surveillance video**, Detectives were able to exonerate the suspects from any crimes or criminal intentions. The two women moved the child from the dangerous flow of traffic on one side of the vehicle to the safety of the sidewalk. Due to the assistance of technology, the Detectives were quickly able to reduce the father's fear that his daughter was almost kidnapped. The incident became a learning experience for all parties and the Department did not need to devote further resources to this incident.

In August 2024, a victim reported that two males on a scooter drove next to her, grabbed her gold necklace from her neck and drove away. **BAT & BTD cameras** captured images of the two suspects on a scooter who matched the description and who were fleeing in the same direction. After further investigation, arrested warrants were sought for the two suspects in connection with this incident and multiple unarmed robberies across the city.

In August 2024, Detectives were able to make an identification of a homicide suspect by using **private video surveillance footage**. Additionally, Detectives were able to trace the path of flight of the suspect, as well as his path to the location of the incident via the **BAT & BTD Cameras** and MBTA cameras.

In August 2024, Detectives utilized the **BAT & BTD Cameras** and **private video surveillance** to observe the path of flight of a suspect in a homicide and him disposing of a weapon which was then recovered. In part based on the clothing description of the suspect that was observed on video, an individual was taken into custody the following day, wearing the same clothing, which was stained with blood.

From June 2024 to August 2024, in five robbery incidents, six elderly victims had gold chains holding pendants ripped from their necks by an unknown male suspect. In one of the incidents, a gun was shown to the victims. **Surveillance video** from **private homes and businesses**, the **MBTA**, and the **BAT & BTD Camera systems** enabled investigators to capture images of the suspect before, during, and after the crimes. After the incidents received extensive media coverage, a BPD Detective received an anonymous tip that was further investigated with the use of various **Software & Databases** and resulted in the identification of a suspect. Following further investigation, an arrest warrant was sought and the suspect was located out of state.

In September 2024, the Crimes Against Children Unit executed a search warrant following a cyber tip report involving Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM). The suspect's mobile device was previewed on scene without evidence of CSAM. Following use of **Forensic Examination Hardware and Software**, a full system extraction and processing recovered data and evidence from the suspect's device(s), which led to his arrest and prosecution. Without these tools, investigators would not otherwise have been able to recover data from the suspect's device after destruction/deletion.

Effectiveness of Boston Police Department Technology in 2024

In September 2024, Officers and Detectives responded to a **ShotSpotter** activation for 7 rounds in Dorchester. A 911 caller also provided suspects' descriptions and direction of flight. Officers immediately gave chase to a suspect who was apprehended with a firearm loaded with one round in the chamber and a fully loaded magazine consisting of 21 live rounds on his person. Officers, K-9, and Detectives searched the area and located ballistic evidence where ShotSpotter had indicated activity. This evidence was examined by the **Crime Lab** and **Firearms Analysis Unit**.

In September 2024, District C-11 Officers responded to a **ShotSpotter** activation for two rounds and multiple 911 calls in Dorchester. A nearby officer also heard the gunshots and an off duty officer witnessed the shooting. The suspect's vehicle description and direction of flight was broadcast and the suspect was apprehended. Firearm and ballistic evidence were recovered and subject to examination by the **Crime Lab** and **Firearms Analysis Unit**.

In September 2024, a caller reported seeing six individuals with firearms exit a vehicle in Roslindale. The caller described the motor vehicle, including the license plate. Officers responded and located the group of suspects; some fled in a motor vehicle and others fled on foot. Officers apprehended those who fled on foot and also located three firearms the suspects discarded. Detectives secured **video footage** of the suspects exiting their vehicle with firearms drawn and taking tactical positions as they maneuvered through the area. Using **Software & Databases**, Officers located and secured the suspect vehicle.

In September 2024, Officers responded to a **ShotSpotter** activation in Dorchester and located 9 shell casings and damage to a parked motor vehicle. A suspect was apprehended a short distance from the scene in possession of a firearm. Subsequent review of video from the **BAT & BTD Cameras** showed the potential suspects running from the scene.

In September 2024, Officers, Detectives, and the Robbery Task Force responded to a bank robbery in West Roxbury. **Various video footage** sources, to include bank video and private Ring video, along with visual observations, resulted in the successful arrest of two suspects and the recovery of the stolen money within 12 hours.

In October 2024, **Shotspotter** activated for 10 rounds in the area of Evans St. A caller reported hearing shots in the area but had no specific additional details. Ballistics were recovered in the area of Evans St. Approximately 10 minutes later, a caller reported a gunshot victim was inside a residence about two blocks from where the ballistics were located.

In October 2024, Officers responded to a **Shotpotter** activation in the area of Geneva Ave. There were no 911 calls following this activation. Ballistic evidence was located near Vaughn Ave and a bystander told police they heard what they believed to be two gunshots. Real Time Crime Center Analysts reviewed the **BAT / BTD cameras** in the area of the activation and relayed information to Officers and Detectives on scene about a group in the area at the time of the shots fired.

In October 2024, in response to a call for a **Shotspotter** activation, two Officers observed a male walking away from the area. The Officers attempted to ask the individual if he had heard anything and the individual continued to walk away from the Officers. As Officers got closer they observed what appeared to be the end of a firearm magazine sticking out of his jacket pocket. Additional Officers responded to the scene and verbal commands were issued for the suspect to drop the firearm. The suspect was very emotional and made several suicidal statements while the Officers attempted to de-escalate the

situation. Suddenly, the suspect took out the firearm and pointed it directly at his own head. The Officers then created distance while giving verbal commands to drop the firearm and continued de-escalation efforts. The communication efforts of one Officer in particular resulted in the suspect dropping the firearm.

In October 2024, Officers responded to a radio call for an armed robbery in progress at a corner store in Dorchester. **Private video** from inside the store captured images of the suspect and **BAT & BTD Cameras** allowed Detectives to track the suspect as he walked several blocks from the crime scene and changed his clothes. Following the suspect's arrested, Detectives also obtained evidence that the suspect had removed his GPS bracelet at the time of the robbery.

In November 2024, a victim reported tracking his stolen scooter to a residence in Dorchester where he recovered it and took it home. A short time later, two suspects arrived at his house and made threats. Detectives utilized the **BAT & BTD Cameras** to obtain video footage of the suspects and victims going back and forth across the street with the scooters. The video was among the evidence used to secure a search warrant where 6 stolen scooters were recovered and two individuals were arrested.

In November 2024, a victim walked into the Boston Medical Center and reported that he had been shot in the foot in Dorchester. At that same time, Officers had responded to a **Shot Spotter** activation in Dorchester where they located spent shell casings and blood. **Private security video** was recovered and showed the victim had engaged in a shootout with another male. All parties were subsequently identified and arrested and a search warrant recovered a firearm.

In November 2024, Officers responded to a call for shots fired in the area of Annunciation Rd. Ballistic damage was recovered and an image of the suspect was captured on **Boston Housing Authority surveillance cameras**. The image was disseminated to area law enforcement partners through the BRIC for possible identification and two Officers contacted the Detective with a possible identification of the suspect. The Detective then utilized the **Associative Violence Information System** to confirm the suspect's identity and noted this individual was affiliated with a violent group known to participate in previous firearm violence. Ultimately, an arrest warrant was sought for the individual.

In November 2024, Officers responded to a person shot in the neck in Roxbury. **Shotspotter** activated for six rounds, and ballistic evidence was recovered from the scene. Witnesses were interviewed on scene - with one witness describing / pointing and captured on a **body worn camera video** the suspect's flight from the scene. Detectives were able to track the shooter on video, including the **BAT & BTD cameras**, traveling on foot after the shooting and then observed entering the passenger side of a vehicle. Detectives continued to track this vehicle and were eventually able to secure the license plate. Following additional investigation, including reviewing **Body Worn Camera video footage**, Detectives were able to secure a warrant for two individuals for accessory after the fact.

In November 2024, the Licensed Premises Unit utilized **Software & Databases** (Age ID by Intellicheck) to discover 8 underage patrons at an establishment in the Fenway.

In November 2024, while conducting enforcement in the area of Franklin Park, the Auto Theft Unit on-sited several brush fires in Franklin Park. The fires appeared to be intentionally set. Prior to the fires, Officers observed three unknown individuals enter the golf course. A Boston Police **drone** was used to locate three suspects in the area of the fires within Franklin Park. The three individuals were arrested for

trespassing and an arson investigation was opened. The **drone** allowed Officers to search a large open and wooded area quickly at night.

In November 2024, Detectives in Brighton reviewed **BAT & BTD video** footage and located a vehicle matching the description provided by a 13-year-old kidnapping victim. With this information and additional information developed during the course of the investigation, Detectives identified the suspect and they were arrested on kidnapping and related charges.

In December 2024, District A-1 Officers and the Harbor Unit arrested two suspects for trespassing on Long Island that were flying drones near Logan Airport in violation of FAA Regulations. Officers were alerted to the presence of the drone activity using **drone monitoring applications**. Additionally, investigators seized the drone and recovered flight data with the assistance of the Secret Service.

In December 2024, upon the activation of **Shot Spotter** and 911 calls for a person shot in Dorchester, Detectives immediately began viewing the **BAT & BTD cameras** in the immediate area. While viewing these cameras, they observed two persons fleeing between two buildings. Detectives broadcasted this description and responding Officers were able to apprehend these suspects after a brief foot chase. Detectives canvassed the suspects' direction of flight and located discarded firearms, to be processed by the **Crime Lab** and **Firearms Analysis Unit**. The person shot in this incident died as a result of his injuries and the two suspects were charged with murder.

In December 2024, Officers secured video from a gas station in Roxbury that showed two juveniles wearing ski masks breaking the entrance door with a fire extinguisher. Detectives utilized **cameras, including the BHA cameras**, to review the juveniles' whereabouts and secured images of the two before they put on the masks. The images were publicly released, and the juveniles were identified.

In December 2024, Officers responded to a radio call for a person stabbed in East Boston. On arrival, Officers located a male victim suffering from a non-life-threatening stab wound to his abdomen. Officers and Detectives spoke with witnesses and also gathered **video surveillance** in the area from residents and small businesses. As a result, Detectives identified a suspect, and he was arrested.

BPD #	Grant Name	Amount	Start Date	End Date
BPD24005	FY23 OJP Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative	$44,100.00	10/1/2023	9/30/2026
BPD23034	FY22 DNA Backlog Reduction	$315,365.00	10/1/2022	9/30/2024
BPD24034	FY23 DNA Backlog Reduction	$317,082.00	10/1/2023	9/30/2025
BPD25034	FY24 DNA Backlog Reduction	$280,065.00	10/1/2024	9/30/2026
BPD23056	FY22 Justice Assistance Grant	$441,825.00	10/1/2021	9/30/2025
BPD24056	FY23 Justice Assistance Grant	$481,919.00	10/1/2022	9/30/2026
BPD25056	FY24 Justice Assistance Grant	$395,746.00	10/1/2023	9/30/2027
BPD22151	FY21 BJA Connect and Protect	$527,586.00	10/1/2021	9/30/2025
BPD23011	FY23 COSSUP Grant	$1,124,566.00	10/1/2023	9/30/2026
BPD23152	FY23 BJA Dementia Grant	$142,079.00	10/1/2023	9/30/2026
BPD23151	FY23 BJA Justice and Mental Health Grant	$59,268.00	10/1/2023	9/30/2026
BPD23050	FY23 BJA Prosecuting Cold Cases	$500,000.00	10/1/2023	9/30/2026
BPD22038	FY 21 BJA National Sexual Assault (SAKI)	$2,500,000.00	10/1/2021	9/30/2025
BPD23149	FY22 Coverdell MSP passthru	$36,119.00	4/11/2023	9/30/2024
BPD24149	FY23 Coverdell MSP passthru	$36,615.00	2/12/2024	9/30/2025
BPD25149	FY24 Coverdell MSP passthru	$32,185.00		9/30/2026
BPD24016	SORB 2023 Address Verification	$70,132.00	9/20/2023	6/30/2024
BPD25016	SORB 2025 Address Verification	$80,700.00	11/1/2024	6/30/2025
BPD24018	SFY2024 State JAG ALERRT	$50,000.00	12/8/2023	12/31/2024
BPD23153	FY22 LEMHWA Program Grant	$59,405.30	9/1/2022	5/31/2025
BPD24124	FY23 COPS CD Micro-Grant	$175,000.00	10/1/2023	9/30/2025
BPD24126	FY23 COPS Accreditation Proj	250,00.00	10/1/2023	9/30/2025
BPD21030	FY20 Port Security Grant	$239,926.00	9/1/2020	8/31/2023
BPD22030	FY21 Port Security Grant	$113,224.00	9/1/2021	8/31/2024
BPD23030	FY22 Port Security Grant	$54,500.00	9/1/2022	8/31/2025
BPD24030	FY23 Port Security Grant	$16,387.00	9/1/2023	8/31/2026
BPD25030	FY24 Port Security Grant	$29,496.00	9/1/2024	8/31/2027
BPD21159	FY20 Securing the Cities Prog - FY 21	$2,000,000.00	9/11/2020	7/31/2030
BPD22159	FY21 STC Boston Continuation - FY 22	$1,500,000.00	8/1/2021	7/31/2022
BPD23159	Securing the Cities (Boston) - FY23	$950,000.00	8/1/2022	7/31/2023
BPD24159	Securing the Cities (Boston) - FY 24	$1,000,000.00	8/1/2023	7/31/2024
BPD25159	Securing the Cities (Boston) FY 25	$1,000,000.00	8/1/2024	7/31/2025
BPD21160	MA Inno & Conv INTEGRITY Proj	$197,450.00	10/1/2020	9/30/2024
BPD25160	MA Inno & Conv INTEGRITY Proj	$80,000.00	10/1/2024	9/30/2027
BPD24147	FY 24 Municipal Road Safety	$23,400.00	10/31/2023	9/15/2024
BPD25147	FY 25 Municipal Road Safety	$56,890.00	11/1/2024	9/15/2025

BPD #	Grant Name	Amount	Start Date	End Date
BPD24013	FY24 VAWA STOP Grant	$145,687.72	1/1/2025	12/31/2025
BPD25039	FY 24 DOJ USAO - EOPSS PSN grant	$87,000.00	7/5/2024	6/30/2025
BPD24123	FY 21 EOPSS CISM grant	$85,000.00	1/1/2024	6/30/2024

APPENDIX: PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST COUNTS

This appendix describes how the City determined the number of public records requests that were received for each type of technology covered by the Surveillance Oversight Ordinance.

SEARCH TERMS

For each individual technology, City staff generated a list of relevant search terms that could reasonably be expected in records requests related to a given technology (see table at end of this section). In most cases, the terms chosen were intentionally broad to minimize the potential for undercounts.

MANUAL REVIEW

All records requests received by relevant departments in 2024 that contained **at least one** of the search terms were individually reviewed by City Staff. During individual review, City Staff used their discretion to confirm whether or not a given records request was actually about the technology associated with that search term. After individual review, the City calculated total counts for each technology.

VALIDATION WITH SPECIFIC TEAMS IN BPD

For some technologies, the City was able to ask that team directly for the number of record requests received in 2024. These include:

- Body Worn Cameras
- Cameras & Video Management System
- Crime Lab Unit
- Latent Print Unit

CAVEATS

- This method may not account for misspellings in record requests. For example, if someone wanted records about "Shotspotter" but used the term "Shotspoter" in their request, this method would not have identified that request.
- Some public record requests that ask for information about more than one type of technology or more than one type of reporting department may be double counted. For example, a single request asking for Body Worn Camera Footage and Shotspotter information would be counted as a search for both technologies

Technology	Reporting Departments	Search Terms	Manual Review	Team Count	Total
Shooter Detection System	BMPS	"Shooter", "Firearm", "Gun"	0	-	0
Critical Incident Monitoring System (CIMS)	OEM	"CIMS", "Camera Network", "Infrastructure"	1	-	1
Body Worn Cameras	BPD	N/A - team asked directly	-	983	983
Crime Lab Unit	BPD	N/A - team asked directly	-	1	1
Firearms Analysis Unit	BPD	"Firearm", "Gun", "Firearm Analysis Unit"	4	-	4
Latent Print Unit	BPD	N/A - team asked directly	-	0	0
Cameras & Video Management System	Parks, BPD, BPS, BMPS	"Footage", "Camera", "Video"	7	1,776	1,783
Audio/Video Tools	BPD	"Footage", "Recording", "Sound Capture"	139	-	139
Automated License Plate Readers	BPD	"ALPR", "Plate Reader", "Plate Scanner", "License Plate"	5	-	5
Cell-Site Simulators (Stingrays)	BPD	"Stingray", "Sting-ray", "Sting Ray", "Site Simulator", "Cell Simulator"	9	-	9
Electronic Intercept and Analysis System ("Wire Room")	BPD	"Wire Room", "Wire Tap", "Phone Tap", "Call Monitor", "Call log"	13	-	13
Forensic Examination Hardware & Software	BPD	"Forensic", "Biometric", "DNA Evidence", "Blood"	12	-	12
Gang Database	BPD	"Gang Database", "Gang Data"	7	-	7
GPS Tracking Devices	BPD	"GPS Tracking", "GPS Monitoring", "GPS"	11	-	11
ShotSpotter	BPD	"Shotspotter", "Shot Spotter", "gunshot", "gun shot"	15	-	15
Software and Databases	BPD	"Software", "Database"	40	-	40
Specialty Cameras (Night Vision, Thermal, Infrared, and X-Ray)	BPD	"Night vision", "Thermal", "Infrared", "X-ray", "XRay", "Camera", "Footage"	50	-	50
Unmanned Aerial System (Drones)	BPD	"UAV", "Drone", "Unmanned Aerial System", "UAS"	16	-	16
Vehicles with Surveillance Tech	BPD	"camera", "dash cam", "cruiser"	135	-	135