

Eye on Surveillance  
info@eyeonsurveillance.org

Apr 29, 2024

District Attorney Jason Williams  
Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office  
619 S White St  
New Orleans, LA 70119

Dear District Attorney Williams,

It has come to our attention that your office is currently piloting predictive policing technologies through the Risk Terrain Modeling (RTM) software, an initiative that violates the very law you once championed as a councilmember.

Chapter 147 of the New Orleans Municipal Code, specifically [Section 147-2](#) [1], unequivocally prohibits the use of predictive policing technology by any city official or entity. This legislation, which you supported, was designed to protect our community's privacy and to prevent the potential for systemic biases inherent in predictive policing practices. It is disheartening to see these very principles being overlooked in the pilot program your office has undertaken.

Such technologies disproportionately impact communities of color that are already burdened by over-policing and under-resourcing. While we understand and appreciate the intention to enhance public safety—indeed, Jeff Asher, your office's data analyst, has noted that murder is down [30%](#) [2] in New Orleans—the approach taken with predictive policing is contrary to the actual needs of the community.

Furthermore, the implementation of this technology stands in stark contrast to the spirit of the ordinance, which emphasizes transparency, accountability, and the protection of civil liberties. The utilization of RTM software, particularly without a robust public discussion and thorough vetting process, bypasses the communal consensus that is vital for any surveillance-related initiative.

Therefore, Eye on Surveillance demands an immediate cessation of the predictive policing pilot program. We urge your office to reconsider its approach to harm reduction, focusing instead on strategies that build upon and directly invest in community resources, attempt to build public trust, and respect the legal framework established by our city's laws.

Please respond by May 13, 2024 confirming that the program has been terminated.

Sincerely,

Eye on Surveillance

[1] - [https://library.municode.com/la/new\\_orleans/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICO\\_CH147SUTEDAPR\\_S147-2PRSUTE](https://library.municode.com/la/new_orleans/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICO_CH147SUTEDAPR_S147-2PRSUTE)

[2] - <https://jasher.substack.com/p/its-early-but-murder-is-falling-even>