Dear Senator Dreyfus,

We have heard that you do not support the idea that drones should be a part of domestic law enforcement. Before you consider this as your final opinion, think about how the casualties--both civilian and police--of a criminal conflict, would be greatly reduced by a single drone. Eventually, crime rates would be expected to decrease as we would be more efficient in bringing criminals to justice. However, human ability to make moral decisions should also be considered in solving complex police investigations.

Now let’s elaborate on how robots will be better compared to humans in the police force. Robots are more efficient, and although they need maintenance, they require less continual upkeep than humans do. Unlike the corruption with our current police officers, they cannot be bribed or compromised with criminals, as their pre-defined program always tells them what they need to do. Also, robots may be considered as an investment, as even though “employing” one would cost more than employing a human, less human lives would be potentially claimed, therefore making the robot worth its high price. In the long run, these drones would be highly expected to significantly lower the crime rate in the U.S while risking less human lives.

On the other hand, one key component of police force investigation is the ability to make moral decisions. Robots have no sense of free will, so they may not be as good as humans in making these types of decisions. For example, take Alex Murphy, a man who has been “put in a machine,” i.e. the majority of his body has been replaced with mechanical parts. He still has the ability to make moral decisions and be as efficient as our drones. Because he has that ability to make moral decisions, the public can trust and relate to him without the fear of robot mishaps.

Now, the question is: Is it better to have Alex have his own free will, or is it better to have his conscience taken over by a robot? On one hand, Alex will be able to make decisions morally, using his conscience, while drones will always stick to their programmed tasks. Personally, we think that Alex should keep his free will. If his conscience is replaced by a robot’s program, there would be no special use for Alex anymore, as he would become one of many drones employed in the police force. If Alex kept his conscience, he would be able to solve complex problems where moral decisions are needed, such as a situation in which a criminal hacked into a drone’s database, potentially making some criminals not be identified as “criminals” by drones. Basically, we think it would be optimal to have the “best of both worlds,” where we have the conscience of a human and the highly efficient capabilities of a robot.