The concept of developing the proper balance between national security and civil liberties

begins with understanding the rights and freedoms of the American people and the ways in

which the government delivers information to the public or accesses the history of an individual.

To create compromise between citizens and the government is necessary. In doing so the

government provides people with fair and constitutional laws which still allow the government to

operate in the best interests of its citizens.

Understanding the rights and freedoms of the American people is extremely important to

the balance. Using the Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, including the Bill of Rights, to

insure that national security does not interfere with these policies sets up a boundary. A boundary

is important, in this context, to insure power remains equal between the people and the

government. This boundary is also needed to protect the voice of the American people and to

significantly remind our society of why the United States of America was established, which was

to have the ability to be free.

Governmental watch, which some argue is an invasion of privacy, is sometimes

necessary to protect U.S. citizens and the government. Facial recognition, traffic monitoring

cameras, and the ability to browse history or networks assist with solving crimes; however, lines

should be drawn to prevent the government from gaining excess information that does not relate

to an issue or investigation currently being resolved. Determining a balance between obtaining

limited privacy and the ability to gain information is a major and necessary guideline to insuring

freedom for the people as well as the ability for the government to protect all citizens.

Overall, the government’s current domestic surveillance program legitimately protects

national security interests and does not improperly violate civil liberties. It doesn’t violate civil

liberties, simply, because it defends the citizens. In addition, individuals who don’t commit any

crimes, have nothing to worry about, unlike those, such as terrorists, who do. For example, facial

recognition was used in the recent Boston Marathon investigation to track down bombing

suspects. As Americans continue to learn from experiences such as 9/11 and the Boston

Marathon bombing, the government of the United States will continue to improve and strengthen

the balance between national security and civil liberties.