



Nashville Community Review Board

Legislative Update from the 3/18/25 Metropolitan Council Meeting:

BL2024-690: Community Safety Camera Network Guardrails

Summary:

On March 18th, 2025, the Metropolitan Council of Nashville and Davidson County voted to pass [BL2025-690](#), an ordinance amending Chapter 13.08.080¹, of the Metropolitan Code. The chapter, which governs “deployment of surveillance or electronic data gathering devices onto public rights-of-way”, was amended to include language regulating the use of a Community Safety Camera Network (CSCN) by the Metro Nashville Police Department. Despite pre-existing contracts between the Metro government and Axon (FUSUS), 13.08.080 primarily focused on regulation of License Plate Reader use prior to BL2025-690. Importantly, this ordinance does not constitute approval by Metro Council of a new or extended contract with Axon regarding FUSUS technology. As it stands, the CSCN exists only as a registry of private cameras and their locations throughout Davidson County.

BL2025-690 adds language to 13.08.080 which clarifies definitions within the code, requires routine audits, and requires any CSCN contract to include a termination clause. The bill defines a “common area” as any space that the public has reasonable access to; distinguishes between a “donor camera” (privately owned camera) and “public safety camera” (governmental camera); defines a “public health and safety emergency” as any event or situation that poses a significant threat to the public that would require a response from emergency services; and defines “residential use” as any parcel that includes a single-family, two-family, or multi-family residence.

The bill also prohibits MNPDP from accessing live video feed from donor cameras with the sole exception of responding to public health and safety emergencies. Further, MNPDP shall not have access to any donor camera that records areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy, records areas not owned by the camera owner, or is focused on entryways if installed on a property of residential use. To ensure compliance with CSCN regulations, BL2025-690 also requires that MNPDP submit an audit of the program to Metro Council annually-- in addition to completing quarterly internal audits. Audit records must be kept for at least 3 years. Finally, requiring any CSCN contract to contain a termination clause grants Metro Council the ability to immediately terminate any CSCN contract due to any change to local, state, or federal law that would violate the community camera safety network policy, or if there is misuse of the community camera safety network program.

Chapter 13.08.080 of the Code governs the use of all public surveillance technologies. However, BL2025-690 was drafted soon after Metro Council rejected an extension of MNPDP’s contract with Axon (FUSUS), amid growing concerns about the risks associated with FUSUS camera integration. As a result, this bill has been colloquially referred to as a “FUSUS bill” by councilmembers, journalists, and other community members. To be clear, the CSCN regulations defined in the Metro Code need not only apply to FUSUS technology. *NCRB’s 2024 FUSUS Informational Report*² provides more details on FUSUS’s history and use in Nashville.

¹ See Metro Code 13.08.080 in ‘Further Reading’

² See *NCRB FUSUS Informational Report* in ‘Further Reading’

Summary of Amendments:

Amendment A (Preptit) – The CSCN shall not utilize AI, machine learning technology, or other artificial mechanisms to capture conversations through lip reading. Additionally, each time a MNPD accesses a camera, the officer must document it in writing with details including the date, time, and why it was accessed. Finally, the metropolitan government may hire an independent firm to conduct an audit of the program at any time.

Amendment B (Huffman) – Prohibits camera use in multifamily residences for any areas other than a parking lot, parking garage, or other outdoor common area.

Amendment C (Toombs) – MNPD shall not have live stream camera access to camera located on property for solely residential use.

Amendment D (Preptit) – If any camera records any MNPD officer using excessive or unlawful force, that video will be immediately preserved and sent to the MNPD office of professional accountability and the district attorney general.

Legislation History:

- **Summary:** An ordinance amending Section 13.08.080 of the Metropolitan Code of Laws to pertain to the use of a community safety camera network.
- **Original Sponsors:** Rollin Horton, Sheri Weiner, Mike Cortese, Brenda Gadd, Jacob Kupin, Jason Spain, Russ Bradford, Jordan Huffman, Erin Evans, Bob Nash, Olivia Hill, Sandy Ewing, Burkley Allen, Tasha Ellis, David Benton
- **Amendments:** 1. Amendment A; 2. Amendment B; 3. Amendment C; 4. Amendment D
- **Timeline:**
 - 3/18/25 – Passed on Third Reading
 - Votes (Y-N-A): 28-7-1
 - 3/4/25 – Passed on Second Reading as Amended
 - Votes: 28-8-1
 - 3/4/25 – Amendment in Metro Council
 - Amendment B: Approved
 - Amendment C: Approved
 - Votes: 23-13-1
 - Amendment D: Approved
 - 2/18/25 – Postponed due to Inclement Weather
 - Votes: 24-13-1
 - 2/18/25 – Amended in Metro Council
 - Amendment A: Approved
 - 2/18/25 – Approved with Amendments in Public Health and Safety Committee
 - Votes: 7-2-0
 - 2/4/25 – Deferred (1 Meeting) in Public Health and Safety Committee
 - Votes: 8-0-2
 - 1/21/25 – Passed on First Reading and Referred to Public Health and Safety Committee
 - 1/14/25 – Filed

Next Steps:

BL2025-690 is not a contract with Axon (FUSUS), it is a bill that establishes specifications and guardrails for public surveillance technology use and would apply to any potential future CSCN contracts. Any contract with Axon which hopes resume FUSUS camera integration would require approval by Metro Council via a resolution or ordinance.

Further Reading:

- [NCRB FUSUS Informational Report](#) – The most recent FUSUS report published by the NCRB in November 2024, when it was in consideration for re-introduction via RS2024-792. This report highlights the history of FUSUS in Nashville, what the technology is, and potential risks of re-introducing the technology.
- [Metro Code 13.08.080](#) – The Metro Code of Law that BL2025-690 amends. Metro Code 13.08.080 governs the use of public surveillance technologies in Nashville. Including, but not limited to FUSUS cameras, LPRs, etc.