



Seattle City Council

Robert Kettle, District 7

June 1, 2026

From: Councilmember Robert E. Kettle

To: Mayor Katie B. Wilson

Re: Technology-Assisted Public Safety Pilot Program Pause is Inconsistent with Council Legislation

I am writing to you to alert you that the decision to pause the expansion of the Technology-Assisted Public Safety Pilot Program, including the installation of and operation of CCTV cameras in the Stadium District, the Central District, and the Capitol Hill Nightlife District, is inconsistent with first Ordinance 127297 and then Ordinance 127412 based on legal review.

Ordinance 127297 authorizes approval of uses and accepts the Surveillance Impact Report (SIR) for Closed-Circuit Television Camera Systems. Ordinance 127412 articulates the grounds that provide a basis for a program pause, which only include the following conditions: (1) the City or its vendor receives a warrant, subpoena, court order, or is otherwise required by law to release Seattle CCTV data for use in a civil immigration enforcement, gender affirming care, or reproductive health care matter; or (2) the Mayor and Police Chief have determined that CCTV data is being used, or potentially will be used, to track individuals seeking reproductive health care, gender affirming care, or for civil immigration enforcement purposes. Neither condition has occurred that would merit a temporary program pause.

Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 14.18 lays out the process, requirements, and authority for the use of surveillance, and Section 14.18.030.C specifies the only Council-recognized exceptions to the authorization of a surveillance technology. There is no authority granted via the authorizing ordinance or SIR for the Mayor to pause the program beyond those expressly listed.

We look forward to collaborating with you to restart the program with immediate utilization of the CCTV cameras to improve public safety in Seattle, especially ahead of the commencement of the 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup, where 10 of the 11 host cities have fully functioning CCTV camera systems – Seattle is the only one that does not.

Respectfully,

Robert E. Kettle
Chair, Public Safety Committee