



## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** LeRonne Armstrong,  
Chief of Police

**FROM:** Robert Rosin  
Acting Captain of Police

**SUBJECT:** Pursuit Mitigation System – 2021  
Annual Report

**DATE:** February 22, 2022

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### **Background**

Oakland Municipal Code (OMC) 9.64.040: Surveillance Technology “Oversight following City Council approval” requires that for each approved surveillance technology item, city staff must present a written annual surveillance report for Privacy Advisory Commission (PAC). After review by the Privacy Advisory Commission, city staff shall submit the annual surveillance report to the City Council. The PAC shall recommend to the City Council that:

- The benefits to the community of the surveillance technology outweigh the costs and that civil liberties and civil rights are safeguarded.
- That use of the surveillance technology cease; or
- Propose modifications to the corresponding surveillance use policy that will resolve the concerns.

Oakland Police Department (OPD) Department General Order (DGO) I-22: Pursuit Mitigation System requires that OPD provide an annual report to the Chief of Police, the Privacy Advisory Commission (PAC), and Public Safety Committee. The information provided below is compliant with the annual report policy requirements of DGO I-22 as well as OMC 9.64.040.

Acting Captain Rosin, Bureau of Field Operations I, Area 2, is currently the Pursuit Mitigation System Coordinator.

DGO I-22 explains that “StarChase,” a private company, manufactures and supports its Pursuit Mitigation GPS Tag Tracking System. The “StarChase” system is a pursuit management technology that contains a miniature GPS tag and a launcher mounted in a police vehicle. The GPS Tag and Track Launcher System are comprised of a less-than-lethal, dual barrel GPS launcher which contains two GPS Tags (1 per barrel) mounted in the vehicle grille or on a push bumper. The launcher is equipped with compressed air and an eye-safe laser for assisting with targeting before launching the GPS Tag.

### **2021 Annual Report Details**

- A. A description of how the surveillance technology was used, including the type and quantity of data gathered or analyzed by the technology:

*GPS Tag technology was deployed one (1) time in 2021. On New Year’s Eve 2021, OPD received information of an armed caravan assembling in a West Oakland neighborhood. Plain clothes officers were dispatched to the area to investigate and make observations from a safe distance. A suspect vehicle from a previous armed caravan incident was observed. The vehicle left the area and separated from the*

*caravan. OPD personnel attempted a traffic stop, but the suspect vehicle evaded OPD patrol vehicles; no pursuit was initiated or authorized. Later, an OPD officer was able to position the patrol vehicle behind the suspect vehicle. OPD Command approved the deployment of the GPS Tag in order to assist in the safe apprehension of the suspect. One GPS Tag was launched at the rear of the vehicle but failed to affix properly and subsequently fell off the vehicle. There was no active tracking yielded from the GPS Tag deployment.*

- B. Whether and how often data acquired through the use of the surveillance technology was shared with outside entities, the name of any recipient entity, the type(s) of data disclosed, under what legal standard(s) the information was disclosed, and the justification for the disclosure(s):

*No GPS Tag data was generated from this one use.*

- C. Where applicable, a breakdown of what physical objects the surveillance technology hardware was installed upon; using general descriptive terms so as not to reveal the specific location of such hardware; for surveillance technology software, a breakdown of what data sources the surveillance technology was applied to:

*n/a*

- D. Where applicable, a breakdown of where the surveillance technology was deployed geographically, by each police area in the relevant year:

*The technology was deployed on Interstate 80 near the city of Vallejo, outside of the City of Oakland.*

- E. A summary of community complaints or concerns about the surveillance technology, and an analysis of the technology's adopted use policy and whether it is adequate in protecting civil rights and civil liberties. The analysis shall also identify the race of each person that was subject to the technology's use. The Privacy Advisory Commission may waive this requirement upon making a determination that the probative value in gathering this information to evaluate the technology's impact on privacy interests is outweighed by the City's administrative burden in collecting or verifying this information and the potential greater invasiveness in capturing such data. If the Privacy Advisory Commission makes such a determination, written findings in support of the determination shall be included in the annual report submitted for City Council review

*Staff reached out to each City Council office to ask about possible community complaints or concerns related to this surveillance technology. No community complaints or concerns were communicated to staff. The suspect connected to the vehicle where the GPS Tag Tracker was deployed was (one) male African American.*

- F. The results of any internal audits, any information about violations or potential violations of the Surveillance Use Policy, and any actions taken in response unless the release of such information is prohibited by law, including but not limited to confidential personnel file information:

*There were no audits as the technology was deployed only once, the use was in alignment with DGO I-22, and no data was generated.*

- G. Information about any data breaches or other unauthorized access to the data collected by the surveillance technology, including information about the scope of the breach and the actions taken in response:

*There were no Pursuit Mitigation System technology data breaches as there was no data generated.*

- H. Information, including crime statistics, that helps the community assess whether the surveillance technology has been effective at achieving its identified purposes:

*Table 1 below provides 2021 Part 1 Crime Data. The Crime Data report shows the high level of many types of Type 1 violent crimes occurring throughout the City. OPD uses surveillance technology to address this high level of crime.*

<b>Part 1 Crimes</b> <i>All totals include attempts except homicides</i>	<b>01-01-2020 through 12-31-2020</b>	<b>01-01-2021 through 12-31-2021</b>	<b>Year-to-Date % Change 2020 vs. 2021</b>	<b>3-Year Year-to-Date Average</b>	<b>YTD 2021 vs. 3-Year YTD Average</b>
<b>Homicide - 187(a)</b>	102	124	22%	100	24%
• <b>Homicide - all other *</b>	7	10	43%	7	50%
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	3,315	3,559	7%	3,206	11%
• <b>With Firearm</b>	499	599	20%	462	30%
<b>Rape</b>	217	158	-27%	193	-18%
<b>Robbery</b>	2,417	2,693	11%	2,641	2%
<b>Burglary Total</b>	8,689	10,197	17%	11,291	-10%
• <b>Auto</b>	6,221	8,179	31%	8,921	-8%
• <b>Residential</b>	1,247	1,055	-15%	1,370	-23%
• <b>Commercial</b>	958	670	-30%	750	-11%
• <b>Other/Unknown</b>	263	293	11%	249	18%
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft</b>	8,722	9,010	3%	8,071	12%
<b>Larceny</b>	5,974	6,186	4%	6,643	-7%
<b>Arson</b>	193	170	-12%	172	-1%
<b>Total Part 1 Crimes</b>	29,636	32,107	8%	32,324	-1%

- I. Statistics and information about public records act requests regarding the relevant subject surveillance technology, including response rates:

*There were no public records requests (open or closed) related to GPS Tag technology in 2021.*

- J. Total annual costs for the surveillance technology, including personnel and other ongoing costs, and what source of funding will fund the technology in the coming year:

*OPD anticipates that the annual cost – once deployed – will be approximately \$30,000 annually for unlimited data and mapping service. This expense will be supported from OPD's database subscription account.*

- K. Any requested modifications to the Surveillance Use Policy and a detailed basis for the request:

*No requests for changes at this time.*

*While there was just one deployment of the GPS Tag system in 2021, OPD Command Staff has a plan to re-highlight the importance of the use of the GPS Tag technology as it relates to pursuit mitigation. The Training Section will produce a video which demonstrates the use of the GPS tag system and covers some of the relevant policy points which will help officers remember to request/use the technology during stressful enforcement action when split-second decisions are crucial. Additionally, OPD will move all vehicles equipped with the GPS Tag systems to the Patrol Division. Patrol Officers are engaged with more pursuits than other units because they have fewer resources available to follow and are more often responding to crimes in progress than special duty teams.*

OPD is committed to providing the best services to our community while being transparent and instilling procedural justice through daily police activity. This report is compliance with these OPD commitments as well as the reporting requirements of OMC 9.64.040. OPD hopes that this report helps to strengthen our trust within the Oakland community.

Respectfully submitted,

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