



City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In the Year Two Thousand and Nineteen

Upon the Recommendation of Councilors Alisa F. Klein, William H. Dwight, and Gina-Louise Sciarra

19.176 AN ORDINANCE
Prohibiting the Use of Face Surveillance Systems

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Northampton, in City Council assembled, as follows:

That the ordinances of the City are hereby amended by inserting, as Chapter 290, Section 1, the following ordinance titled **Prohibition on the Use of Face Recognition Systems by Municipal Agencies, Officers, and Employees**.

Section 1.

Definitions. For purposes of this section:

- (a) "Face surveillance" refers to an automated or semi-automated process that assists in identifying an individual by capturing information about an individual based on the physical characteristics of an individual's face.
- (b) "Face surveillance system" is any computer software or application or other technology that performs face surveillance.
- (c) "City official" shall include all officials and employees of the City, whether elected or appointed.

Section 2.

Prohibition

It shall be unlawful for any city official to expend any city resources to obtain, retain, access, or use any face surveillance system.

Section 3.

Miscellaneous

- (a) Three years from the month of enactment of this ordinance, this ordinance shall be placed on the agenda of the City Council for such amendments as Councilors may propose and the Council may adopt.
- (b) Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to limit any individual's rights under state or federal law.
- (c) The provisions of this ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage.