Appendix – Public Comment

Seattle Fire Department Emergency Response Aerial Technology

Written Comments:

Letters	0
Emails	0
Survey Responses	67

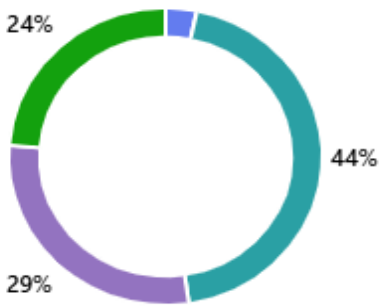
No public comment was received by the Privacy Inbox.

No physical mail (or physical public comment) was received by the Privacy team or Technology Department.

Public Comment Online Hosted Form: Optional Demographic Information

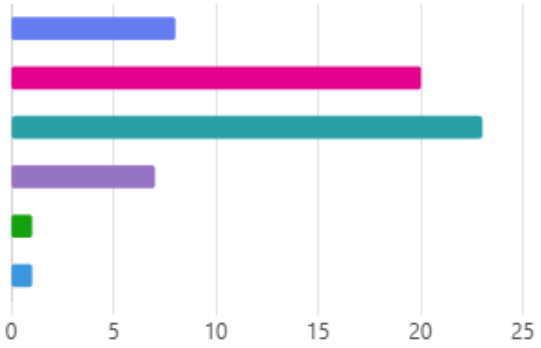
9. OPTIONAL Demographic Question: Age Range

Prefer not to identify	2
Under 18	0
18 - 44	28
45 - 64	18
65+	15



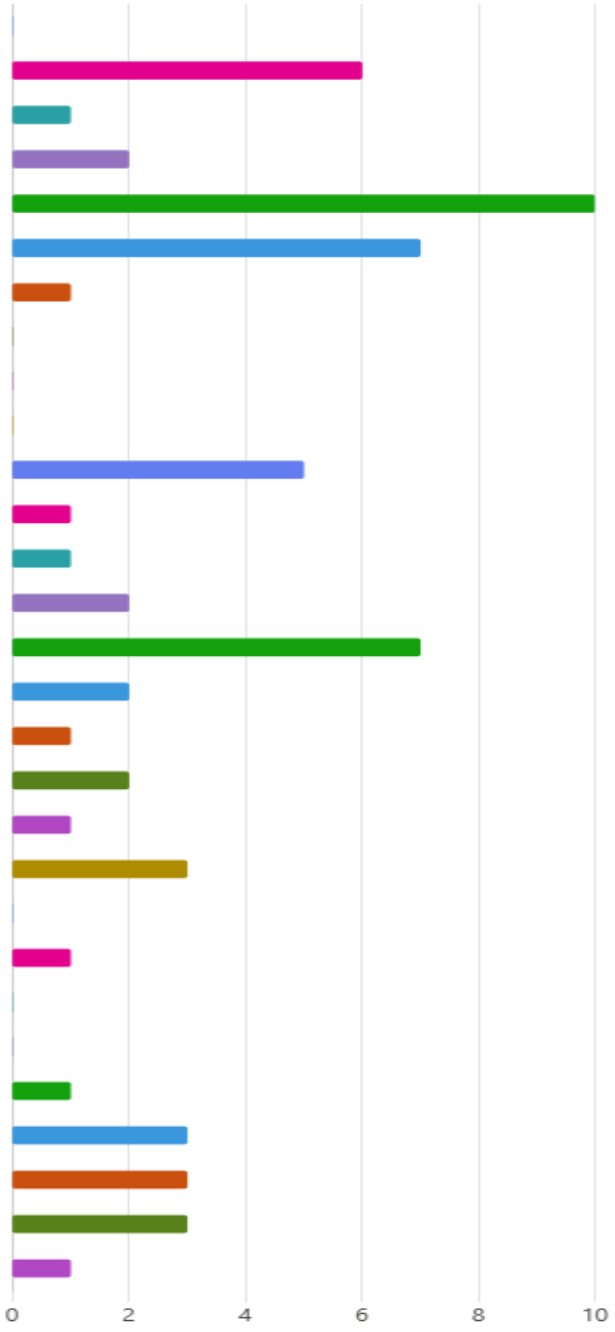
11. OPTIONAL Demographic Question: Gender

Prefer not to say	8
Woman	20
Man	23
Non-binary or gender non-conforming	7
Transgender	1
Not listed	1



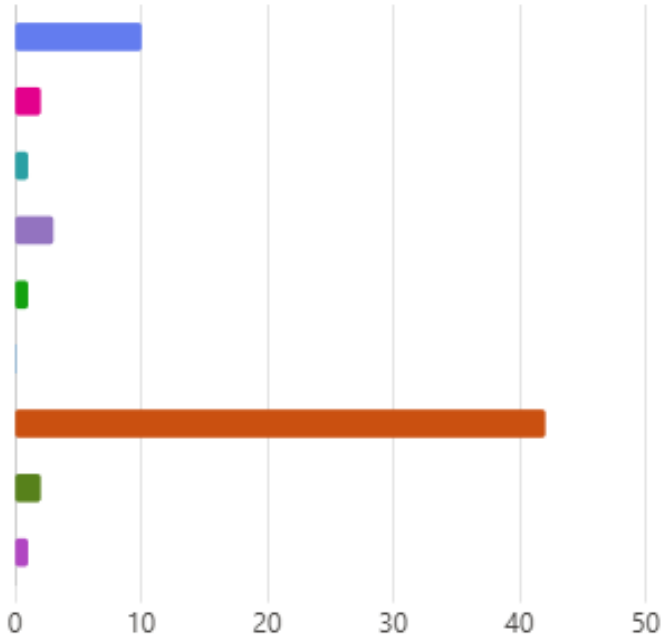
10. OPTIONAL Demographic Question: Neighborhood

Prefer not to identify	0
Ballard	6
Belltown	1
Beacon Hill	2
Capitol Hill	10
Central District	7
Columbia City	1
Delridge	0
First Hill	0
Georgetown	0
Greenwood / Phinney	5
International District	1
Interbay	1
North	2
Northeast	7
Madison Park/ Madison Valley	2
Magnolia	1
Queen Anne	2
Rainier Beach	1
Ravenna / Laurelhurst	3
South Lake Union	0
Southeast	1
Southwest	0
South Park	0
Uptown	1
Wallingford / Fremont	3
West Seattle	3
King County	3
Outside King County	1



12. OPTIONAL Demographic Question: Which race (s) / ethnicity (or ethnicities) do you identify as

Prefer not to identify	10
Black / African American	2
Hispanic / Latino	1
Asian / Asian American	3
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1
Indigenous	0
White or Caucasian	42
Another race/ethnicity	2
Other	1



OPTIONAL THEMATIC INSIGHTS GENERATED BY MICROSOFT FORMS:

1. What concerns, if any, do you have about the use of this technology?

67 Responses



2. Do you have any additional concerns about the use of technology (in case you ran out of space in section one)

31 Responses



3. What value, if any, do you see in the use of this technology?

65 Responses



4. Do you have additional comments/questions re what value do you see in this technology?

21 Responses



5. What would you want City leadership to consider when making a decision about the use of this technology?

61 Responses



6. Do you have additional comments/considerations that leadership should take into account when making a decision about this technology?

25 Responses



7. Do you have any additional comments or questions?

21 Responses



Individual Responses:

ID	What concerns, if any, do you have about the use of this technology?	Do you have any additional concerns about the use of technology (in case you ran out of space in section one)	What value, if any, do you see in the use of this technology?	Do you have additional comments/questions re what value do you see in this technology?	What would you want City leadership to consider when making a decision about the use of this technology?	Do you have additional comments/considerations that leadership should take into account when making a decision about this technology?	Do you have any additional comments or questions?
1	Training of operators and clear rules on when they can and can't be used.		Ability to protect responders and save lives		Clear restrictions about when they can and can't be used.		
2	None, this seems like a great idea.	Only that people may try and irrationally block this out of insane fears and an inability to perform basic cost-benefit analysis.	Higher vantage point, increased human safety, quicker response.	No	Why only three? Should the police department get some too?	No	No
3	None whatsoever.	If you need them, use them.	Not my job. Presumably the SFD sees value in the use of drones and I have no reason to second guess that.	No	Keep the mayor out of it. She is obviously more interested in protecting someone who is here illegally than citizens or first responders.	Our leadership does not have the knowledge or expertise to make decisions about equipment that would aid the SFD.	

4	The Surveillance Impact Report specifies that the ERATs will be provided with "enclosures" in addition to the landing pads, presumably for shelter when not in use. What is the scope/scale of the protection offered by these enclosures? As I understand it, upkeep and maintenance of fire apparatus has become a problem for departments around the country, including Seattle, in the past few years, so I would like to ensure that the readiness rates of the ERATs can be kept as high as possible by reducing their exposure to the elements when stored away. I am also curious if there are any precautions or		The outlined uses in the SIR and other documents, as well as hearing about the use of drones in other fire departments around the country, has me thoroughly convinced that ERATs will be a valuable asset to the SFD to respond to incidents more efficiently and safely.				I believe the proposal outlined is fairly airtight to provide maximum value out of ERATs while eliminating the risk of use by outside agencies for purposes not in-line with it's intended use.

	countermeasures against interference from malicious actors who may try to blind, damage, or intercept the drone for whatever reason. I don't really foresee this being an issue but I would like to know if it has been considered yet.						
5	Major privacy concerns! Video footage can be accessed by SPD, hackers, Feds, even if that's not the intent. Incredibly dystopian. Where does this state surveillance intrusion on our civil rights stop? Next we'll hear SPD is mounting weapons on drones!!	Why is City even considering spending money on drones? We have a budget shortfall, and should not be cutting social services that are actually keeping folx safe. Drones do not keep us safe! Drones create profit for tech corporations. Use our tax dollars to fund proven programs, and stop buying	Zero. City does not need drones for any purpose.		Civil rights. I.C.E. is hunting down folx all over the country right now. Why would we put cameras in the air. Even the possible perception of recording residents is enough to justify pulling plug on drone program. Seattle is a "sanctuary city" isn't it?!!	Liquidate drone budget and invest in housing or other social services program with proven record.	Remember: council district elections in 2027!

		expensive toys that encroach on our civil rights.					
6	I have concerns about the moral value of the drone company and concerned that SPD will be getting to use them with SFD. I also don't see why we should use city funds to purchase or maintain drones or their software or operators.	It's not worth the risk it poses to community members already being unfairly treated.	None for the community. Only value is for tech leeches trying to monetize fear to line their pockets. We should use our funds to benefit our community instead of giving it away and harming the community simultaneously.	Please don't fall for this.	Consider who this is truly benefiting and all possible effects on your constituents.	If you agree to this, you are actively working against Seattle's best interests.	Please don't spend our money to harm us.
7	At a time when city council is claiming there's not enough money for free school lunches for kids this would be an irresponsible and gross expense on a technology that has little to no research on benefit in urban environments. In contrast there is ample evidence of	I'm horrified to hear that one of the proposed recipients of this private contract is BRINC, company that was founded in 2019 from a DHS Grant to build a "wall of drones" that would electroshock	There is little to no value until research suggests otherwise. On the contrary, the potential for harm to our community directly from the use of this technology, and indirectly from the funneling of resources away		Consider the precedent this would be setting for increased use of surveillance and information gathering that could be used to target vulnerable members of our city		

	the benefits of universal free school lunch for children.	migrants. Additionally, BRINC's mission to " put a 911 response drone on every police and fire station's roof" suggests a slippery slope to the police department being granted use of such technology. In fact, granted SFD this kind of technology effectively provides SPD with access considering the frequency of dual response and sharing of information between the departments.	from important programs far outweighs any theoretical benefit.				
8	waste of taxpayers' money; privacy issues; concerns about surveillance		I see no value in this technology. It is dangerous and expensive.		Stop surveillance. Protect the privacy of Seattle citizens.		

9	I am concerned that, even if anti-surveillance policies are put in place, they can be overturned in the future. Once drones have been deployed, how can the public be confident that they will never be used to surveil us? Privacy is incredibly challenging to protect these days, and I do not want more threats to that.		I think the notion of getting a visual of fires quickly could be useful. However, I would want to city to wait until there is significant research indicating that this is, in fact, true in urban contexts.		I am concerned about budget shortages for social services, such as school lunches, and find it unwise to allocate funds toward this technology instead — particularly since it does not have research indicating that it is useful in urban environments. Please prioritize children and social services.This is a large expense for technology that has not yet been proven useful for fire management in urban environments.		
10	The program will grow and be more expensive The use value will not outweigh the social and financial costs Invasion of privacy—it is not worth it	Additionally, is there any research that shows SFD is having any serious problems to begin with they are hoping this will solve? Or is this a fun	None whatsoever. Is there research to support a substantial need for drones in urban areas as it relates to fire? If not, why are we doing this? Lots	Seems like SFD will have fun playing with new toys. Beyond playtime, there isn't research in urban areas that supports the use of this technology.	Their voters do not want this. This is a slippery slope! Where is the data to show SFD has a serious problem in their response time? Why are we putting energy into something that isn't an	This is a scarecrow you are falling for! Stop letting big tech companies tell you what shiny new product you need next when there isn't a need for it! And when your citizens disagree with it!	

	Slippery slope— we do not want to open the doorway to sod or ice use of drones	solution to no actual problem in SFD response? If there is data showing a serious issue with SFD response, are there less invasive solutions we can try first?	of downsides and no statistics to show there would be overwhelming benefit in an urban area.		issue? So firefighters can have fun playing with drones? Why are we trying to implement an experimental solution to no actual major problem? If there is data to show a serious problem in SFD response, let's have a team of experts come up with cheaper or less invasive solutions first before considering an experimental solution.		
11	Must be tightly controlled, only with trained operators , controlled, not used by police, ICE, footage not retained,	Potentially has great value, but am concerned about abuse by other government agencies in violation of privacy and for political abuse by ICE and other agencies.	All of the ones already listed by FD! Will save lives, protect first responders, improve response times, etc.		Protect privacy, not become a police or prosecutory tool, closely reviewed and evaluated for compliance frequently, no prominent records of footage kept, can the federal government be expected to respect our privacy if this is currently charged	Appreciate that this is being explored and proposed, and such thought is going into setting it up in a way that will help the city of the citizens	Continue with extend Zoom presentations to solicit community involvement

					political environment?		
12	None - the limitations proposed should address privacy concerns adequately.		Reduction in harm due to fires / rescues, etc. responses having better information, and hence able to respond better to any threats to human life or property. Also, increased safety for fire fighters in large blazes.	This should be approved ASAP -- unlike intersection monitoring (with real privacy concerns), this is a no-brainer.	Stop wasting time -- get this approved ASAP	No	Madrona wasn't on your list of neighborhoods ... it should have been.
13	The materials provided state that the ERAT would only be used by approved SFD personnel but did not elaborate on how this technology would be used in larger regional events that would require multi-jurisdictional coordination. More a question than a concern: what protocols		ERAT will allow SFD to respond quickly and more efficiently to emerging situations, giving firefighters the ability to respond with more accurate information. ERAT also provides great safety benefits for both the firefighters and				

	will be in place for information sharing during incidents requiring support for external agencies, like Seattle Police Department, other fire departments, etc.? Second question: what are the implications for public records requests with ERAT? The materials provided state the ERAT will only livestream incidents, but not record or take images, however the livestream will create a digital record. My concern is rooted in other recent surveillance technologies, like Flock cameras, that have posed privacy risks regionally.		the people affected by the incident.				

14	In the surveillance state we're living in with minimal oversight from trusted officials, providing drones in conjunction with SPD is something the folks of seattle cannot trust. We have already seen tools like Flock be misused and abused, it's very likely the same will happen here. With the city dealing with a budget deficit, and considering whether it's worth FEEDING KIDS, it is ridiculously irresponsible to consider experimental tools that have little to no proof of efficiency, in conjunction with an already bloated police budget.		None	None, surveillance adjacent technology is dangerous for community members and not worth investing in without ACTUAL proof of efficiency for the stated purpose.	The money for this tech is WASTED when we are already blowing so much on a bloated police budget. This money should be going into our community, not theoretical toys.		

15	SFD and SPD share information; so giving SFD drones is giving SPD drones. We already have people doing first response (which is correct). There's no need for drones when we don't even have the money for basic city operation, and apparently we don't even have the money to FEED CHILDREN AT SCHOOL. SFD estimates these would be used for 1.3% of calls? Ok so who's the tech investor getting multi-million dollar contracts for this, funneling our public money into their pockets? And which politicians are getting kickbacks for it? There's no need to invent a problem with a solution that is only owned by a		THERE'S NO VALUE. This is the LAST thing we need.		Any leadership seriously considering this should be recalled/fired. So maybe consider that. Also consider what it might mean to do something tangible for the people who live here, not just the corrupt and unaccountable police force	I'm so tired of the city trying to invent new ways to spy on citizens. STOP! Please try for once to solve the real issues this city has instead of inventing new ones for your friends to get rich quick from "solving"	

	corporation that can solve that for $125 million.						
16	I have very limited concerns about the use of Emergency Response Aerial Technology when it is used as described, for emergency response purposes only. The potential benefits to firefighter safety, patient and victim rescue, faster situational awareness, and better incident command decision-making far outweigh the concerns. I appreciate that the proposed use is limited, that livestream video would not be recorded or saved, and that		I see significant value in this technology. An aerial view can help Seattle Fire make faster and better-informed decisions during time-sensitive emergencies, including building fires, brush fires, water rescues, mass casualty incidents, hazardous materials responses, technical rescues, and disaster response. In emergencies, minutes matter. If this tool helps		I would encourage City leadership to focus on the clear public safety benefit, the limited emergency response use case, and the safeguards already described. This should be evaluated as a life safety and emergency response tool, not as a general surveillance program. The City should ensure strong policies, trained operators, privacy protections, and regular reporting, but should not let generalized concerns prevent adoption of a tool that can improve		

	access would be restricted to trained Seattle Fire personnel.		firefighters understand conditions earlier, identify hazards, protect responders, locate people in danger, or improve rescue and firefighting outcomes, it is a strong investment in public safety.		emergency outcomes for residents and first responders.		
17	None really. Using new technologies to enhance our lives is the human way. Anything can be abused, but with ongoing review it can be mitigated.		Saving lives of both civilians and first responders.		That it's purported use be followed. As with anything new, additional uses may be found and considered.		
18	That it will be used outside of emergencies and will eventually result in widespread use of drones to "prevent" fires or crimes by surveilling Seattle. That the drones will capture footage outside of their focused purpose. That the data will be stored		Keeping firefighters safe so that they can see hazards from a remote location.		Very limited policy for when this technology can be deployed and actual accountability for use of this technology outside of those circumstances.	Proof of concept (that the drones actually will do what you say they will do and will actually be useful to the firefighters on the ground) before you spend millions of dollars on something that doesn't actually work while ignoring the many, documented downsides the way the City did with other surveillance technologies. This could look like a pilot where you get to use a single drone	

	and used by the federal government.					instead of going all in on a bunch of drones.	
19	The obvious—I hate living in a surveillance state and definitely don't consent to my tax dollars going to fortify it against my best interests as a local, civilian, normal person.	I live across the street from one of the stations, & have previously lived next to the one in Pioneer Square as well, so I see and interact w firefighters often enough to know I don't want those creeps given access to mass surveillance over the city, on the basis of trusting them not to abuse it. Especially when I know it's not like they've been required to take any sort of ethics classes to qualify them for this.	I understand how it could help see issues that need fixing before they cause harm. It's unfortunate that multiple real life case studies already exist showing us that police and other civil servants cannot be trusted not to abuse surveillance technology, and the benefits do not outweigh the tragedy of more women and marginalized folks being stalked and surveilled by weirdos on a power trip.		Everyone does not deserve to live in endless paranoia about whether they are currently being watched without their knowledge and consent just so some civil servants can have yet more funding and toys. We already have robust education and training available to handle fires and other accidents—I'd rather see all of that updated & reinvested in than let some creepy men (I watch them stoop outside & stare at the windows of my apartment building every day so I am calling it like anyone with eyes can see it)	People don't want this. If it is implemented it is yet another example of taxation without real representation.	Please, pretty please, make the morally righteous choice for the greatest number of people who stand to be affected by this decision.

					have access to cameras, everywhere, all the time when they want them if they just choose to ignore/break whatever rules the city pretends to implement to discourage it. It is not safe to let this happen, point blank period, for the people of this city who can't defend themselves against this.		
20	the technology will be abused (as all surveillance technology is) and we will live in even more of a surveillance state than we already do. there's absolutely no reason the FIRE DEPARTMENT needs DRONES. this technology is not advanced enough to give the kind of benefit being described, it will only share video feeds of civilians, who		none.	yeah what idiot thought this was a good idea. we should all know that someone that stupid is walking around seattle.	NO ONE WANTS THIS. NO ONE HAS EVER WANTED THIS. STOP ADDING MORE SURVEILLANCE.	you're bad at your jobs, do what the people are telling you instead of what corporations are paying you to do.	have you considered developing empathy and critical thinking skills instead of being useless shills?

	have no idea a government entity has access to their location and likeness.						
21	My primary concern is privacy		I think these tools would be very valuable in a variety of emergencies		I would like City leaders to make decisions. Not just study it to death.		
22	I can see great benefits of using drones in emergencies, but am VERY wary of how they also might be used during protests and/or ICE actions.	FLOK cameras are invasive and make me very uncomfortable.	When used appropriately these technologies are helpful. My concern is with the Seattle Police Department which seems to hire officers who do not always act appropriately - I can imagine them using these inappropriately given what they have done in the recent past. I used to trust them, but have not for the last several years.		Hold public hearings and design restrictions that anticipate the uses the public would find uncomfortable.		Thanks for asking.

23	Perfectly appropriate for the fire department.	Don't let the police borrow them, ever.	Could help with the safety of those responding to a fire as well as the public.				
24	Little to none. The privacy issues have clearly been considered, and there seem to be zero risks to vulnerable communities, nor are there any risks of inadvertent disclosure to bad actors.		Substantial value. I've seen, firsthand, how difficult it was for firefighters to get a sense of what was going on during a fire at my home. I would have been thrilled had they had something like this to get a better sense of where the fire was and where it was moving through the space. From what I read, it seems like this will provide value in some of the most dangerous situations firefighters face, and will improve public safety AND firefighter safety.		The benefits to residents and firefighters; as noted above, these are high-risk situations where seconds count and any additional information is helpful to firefighters in their ability to save lives and protect property. The privacy risks seem to be almost nonexistent- the drones will be trained on the horizon, there's no recorded data, there's no livestream that anyone but a few trained individuals can see, and the benefit is substantial.		Happy to be contacted if you need someone to speak at a city council meeting or something in support. My condo had a fire in 2022, and as I said, I would have loved if firefighters had any sort of extra tools to make their jobs easier. I could see how dangerous it was for them to be fighting the fire, since they had to get onto the third-story roof to figure out what was going on, and the fire itself was in the attic. mhanley92@gmail.com

25	I have to be able to trust the Fire Dept. use drones only as it says it will. Therefore, when one of the dept. employees goes rogue (and it will happen), I expect that employee will be fired with prejudice. In case you don't know what that means, it means that the person will never again be able to work as a firefighter. I also expect that nothing that goes wrong will be hidden from the public. Remember, it's not so much the mistake or crime that upsets us; it always the cover-up. Don't do it.	I expect that those tasked with acquiring the drones will be fully educated about them before purchasing; we do need the best performing drones.	I do see value in it, as long as the use is not overdone. Drones can provide information that the department needs while fighting fires or rescuing people. I see the use of drones as a way to aid, not to replace. I suppose, in time, they might be able to do water drops in inaccessible locations just as they can provide pictures now.		City leadership should use common sense (which I unfortunately doubt they have) when deciding on the use of drones. Leadership should not bow to all who shout that they are adversely affected. For once, leadership has to consider the good that drones will do when properly overseen, and then oversee their use.		
26	none	none	Enhance SFD's ability to protect human life and property.		Technology is neither good nor evil.		

27	The data will likely be shared and accessible to SPD and other public agencies that l target those who are most vulnerable in our community. Surveillance technology like this can upend entire lives and families. The possible benefits don't outweigh the negative impacts.		Earlier warning for SFD personnel to minimize impacts of fires and other incidents.		The risk/impacts of surveillance technology on communities of color, immigrants, and low-income people. People are targeted and have died because of technology like this. The risks of that happening aren't worth the benefits of it.		
28	I don't care whether the first few are free, I do not want money going to technology that is unnecessary, used in WARs, AND used for surveillance. Our city needs those funds going to PEOPLE who are struggling and causes that will improve our community's quality of life. If the fire people are willing to say they can't do their jobs without this	People will be hurt, people will be injured. Studies will be done that show drones don't perform as well as fire people. Once the money is spent, fire leadership will look for a way to cut costs and cut jobs to humans. Drones will malfunction, drones will need repairs. The company will create a	Drones are an effective way to battle a military that is bulky and relatively slow. They do become cost effective when compared to military aircraft or battleships. They are also used, against my wishes, to commit assassinations, but as we know they don't always identify and murder the correct	To my understanding drones aren't allowed in city parks	That it's easier to avoid making a bad decision than backtrack after they spend money against their constituents welfare. Even if there was bottomless funding I still would oppose drones, however the timing of trying to add more technology into fire fighting while SPD has taken so much money without being able to demonstrate any	Who is benefitting from this? Who are the investors and lobbyists for this company? Why do you believe you need this technology? Why are you willing to take money away from other causes for killer toys?	How are we to believe drones won't be accessible in some sense to the police when fire people and police often respond in tandem?

	technology, that would be interesting, but it seems to me they are able to protect citizens without drones. Meanwhile the company selling the drones has a stated goal to use them for police work, to have them spread across our city, and we know for a fact SPD is trying to find a way to get drones themselves when it's abundantly clear that's not what the community wants. Technology is fallible and private companies have no meaningful ties to the people who will be affected. Their aim is to make money off of militarizing and surveilling our communities, and they do not care whether drones are an appropriate,	new drone as if it's the next generation of iPhone and more money will be spent on killing toys as opposed to in the community. Do not give money to this private company.	individual. Surveillance could be another usage, and will become a reality if Seattle Fire Department helps the Seattle Police Department fund and normalize these authoritarian tools. Propaganda, like drone light shows to portray drones as fun toys, is a useful way to attempt to improve public opinion.		benefit to the community is ludicrous. I will come fight the fires if needed, because someone needs to do it.		

	effective, safe, or fiscally responsible way to fight fires. Can the fire people not protect civilians themselves?						
29	As a former wildland firefighter, I do not think Seattle Fire Department needs these technologies to effectively fight fire in the city, and wildland firefighters can allocate their own funds for this technology. Drones are not useful or effective tools for city fires. This is basically appropriation of taxpayer dollars for really expensive toys for adults. We have much bigger problems that	1. What brush fires? How many? Do you have a pulaski in that big ol engine yet? Why don't ya start there. Dig a fucking line with a $100 tool instead of looking at the fire burn with a $10,000 drone. 2. Drones do not help with water. Get a fucking hose. 3. Explain how a drone helps with a mass casualty event? Which one? When was the last	None.		Much more pressing budgetary concerns (transit, social housing, public goods and parks) rather than superfluous toys for the fire department.	Grill them on exactly what data shows that these toys make any difference in emergencies. When I was fighting wildland fire they took extra time to find hotspots just so they could play with their toys instead of get to work. Just go do a manual sweep to find hotspots because you're going to have to anyway.	

	those dollars can be used for.	time this happened? How many kids are hungry and can't get free meals right now because of our budget? 4. I could go on. This is a waste of money.					
30	My concerns with camera footage captured on drones is when the footage is used outside the original purposes as stated by the agency, such as surveillance, facial recognition, tracking license plates, etc. And used for purposes beyond safety and emergency services.	N/A	Like the woman who was recently rescued 2 miles out in Puget Sound, I could see how drones mounted with cameras would be extremely useful for covering large amounts of area in search and rescues, or in the case of fire departments, surveillance of areas in wildfires and even possibly use inside buildings to search for signs of life, etc.	N/A	I would want very clear and strict policies over who has legal access to the footage, where is it stored and for how long. And explicit language about what type of equipment can be mounted onto drones and what cannot. (aka no weaponry, tear gas, or other materials that have been used by law enforcement against citizens and residents).	N/A	No

31	Surveillance of marginalized communities, the jobs this could be helping the unemployed instead, humans over profit		No value use humans		Think of how it affects communities		
32	Footage and use needs to be protected by law. It's like the library; no one else needs to access or use it.		Safety for firefighters and people and animals endangered by fires		Privacy, privacy, privacy, protected by ironclad law		
33	Sharing this technology with the police department, federal authorities, or the real time crime center. This seems like a valuable tool for the Fire Department but should NOT be used with the police or any agency outside of the fire department.		It seems very useful for fire and rescue operations.		Ensure that equipment and camera feeds are not shared with police, or federal agencies under any circumstances.		
34	That the ICE thugs will use them to spy on people they say are illegal immigrants..	Yes.	It might be good for firefighting in the backcountry. I don't want to see it in populated areas because	Don't use this technology!	Be clear how this technology will be used by SPD and ICE thugs to harm people of color, poor people, immigrants, etc..	Force SPD to wear body cams and keep them turned on. We need to know what the SPD thugs are doing to vulnerable people so they can be held accountable for their violence.	Will any of our comments prevent ICE and SPD thugs from killing or injuring people of color and poor folks? Or is this survey just whitewashing?

			it will almost certainly be used to hurt the poor, the homeless and those the ICE thugs want to assault, maim, kidnap or deport.				
35	That it can be used for surveillance and by the police.	That its value and use have not been properly vetted.	That is for you to justify? What additional value does this technology provide that cannot be provided by spending the same money on existing services?	I don't see any value. I see you wanting new toys without having done the work to justify the spending.	Is this really the best use of our money currently? Or is this simply a new shiny?		
36	I have concerns that the drones will be used by police or other government departments		the value of remote drone fire fighting operations is invaluable and much needed in all aspects of the profession.		i would request that firefighter drone operations be under scrutiny and every operator be registered for its use as well as the additional faa requirements for their use.		firefighting wildfires desperately need drone operations to be fought more effectively...such endeavors do need experimentation to go forth.
37	So long as it is only used by SFD or a state fire response and not any other		Saving lives. Spotting wildfires that have jumped ahead of the main fire.	See # 3.	Please don't use 'AI'. It is still in its infancy and makes too many mistakes.	If ICE want's to use them, go to court to stop them.	

	organization, I am fine with it.						
38	I am concerned that the technology will not be used properly within the proposed safeguards, given multiple SPD personel have been found abusing similarly advanced technology like FLOCK cameras with minimal or nonexistent professional consequences, retrainings, or increased use restrictions. I am concerned that this technology will be disproportionately used against specific populations or areas, in order to influence or punish behaviors which are lawful but undesired such as public nudity, social justice organizing,		This technology will be extremely effective at expanding the Panopticon effect on the general population in order to control or limit lawful yet socially undesirable behaviors.		The actual relative risk of injury or death that LEOs face compared to other common industries, the continued and ongoing misuse of existing survelliance systems by SPD personnel, and the risk of interception or co-opting by either federal agencies or foreign adversaries	We're still proving that ShotSpotter predictably continues to be wildly expensive and completely ineffective at reducing gun violence, or improving conviction rates. We should wait before trying another new overpriced, underproven, and potentially biased survellience technology	

	and minority specific gatherings. I am concerned that the proposed safeguards are insufficient, and that use of drone cameras will further increase the indiscriminant survelliance of uninvolved civillian bystanders. I am concerned that they may be used to clandestinely surveil areas which would typically be unobservable without visible structures to raise you (i.e. such as bedroom windows), without proper warrants. I am concerned that this technology may be hacked by malicious actors, endangering our privacy and						

	safety. I am concerned that this technology will dramatically expand law enforcements ability to surveill without warrants or higher permission, as would be required for use of a helicopter. Iam concerned that any tracking of the use of these drones will be insufficient to actually determine if the drones are being used in accordance with policies and procedures. Furthermore, I am concerned because it is well established through multiple studies that increased survellience does not reduce crime, but rather displaces it, and						

	the perception of constant surveillance is shown to have a sustained significant negative impact on individuals stress levels and quality of life. Law Enforcement is far from one of the deadliest professions in the US, and in Seattle there are RARELY such extingent circumstances that LEOs would be unable to effectively complete tasks utilizing already existing and funded technologies.						
39	This technology being seized by the Federal Government & ICE to be used to harm our communities. While policies about how we use		It is undeniable that sending flying drones into dangerous situations means that less people are endangered, hard places are		How can we prevent the federal government & ICE from seizing the technology & using it to hurt our communities? How do we		

	the tech are nice, the federal government does not care what our policies are. I am also concerned that policies may change in the future on a local level, that under a different local administration this technology will be used for surveillance & persecution.		easier to access, & aid can be delivered quickly. However, I do wonder if these advantages could be gaibed better through spending the money on other options such as better infrastructure, better gear, & more extensive training.		ensure that future leadership cannot change or ignore the policies we set now to protect people from.surveillance?		
40	Drones are hackable spy devices. The drones in question have cameras per SFD public statements "...cameras will be aimed horizontally...". They operate by radio, controlled by computers. Both the computers and the radio are trivially exploitable. This information is public and non-controversial.	Drones are a fire hazard. Flying things require high power density. Drones and RC aircraft use lithium-polymer batteries, which are notoriously the most fire-eager type of lithium battery chemistry in wide use.	Firefighters might have fun playing with a toy at public expense? I see value in firefighters having fun. I would prefer that their fun was self-financed though.	Drones are not useful for carrying items. A drone cannot safely navigate in fire updraft or near flames. It will catch fire and that un-quenchable fire will fall down on whomever is below. Carrying something *above* a fire is not the same as delivering that thing to someone within a fire zone.	When evaluating any technology, please consider physics. Can the proposed job physically be accomplished by the tool under question? Drones will not work to deliver emergency supplies in a fire. You can't fly an FPV drone with the camera "in the horizontal position" if you want to know where you are. Have any City leadership any	Leadership making decisions about whether SFD is allowed to have drones amounts to micromanagement. If leadership existed within the City of Seattle then leadership would have set up frameworks such that delegated parties could act without having to ask permission for everything. Does the CIty not have an Office of Technological Assessment? These frameworks are not easy to make nor to administer, but that is the skill of leadership. Leadership is not about making decisions but	SFD should consider getting some smaller trucks. Nearly every week SFD completely blocks my street, frequently over apparently nothing. Frequently they park a giant truck in the parking lot of my huge building and trap 25 cars in the lot. Smaller equipment in dense cities makes for quicker response times. Sorry about the ego hit I guess

	Others will aim the cameras and retain the data, SFD will not get a say.				experience in this space? Drones are neither new nor secret.	facilitating good decisions in those whom you lead.	
41	I support as described in Seattle Times 7.24.26	If vary from stated rules and guidelines	Can provide first responders with real time info!		Strict rules and guidelines.		
42	Privacy concerns should be an issue. BUT I'm sure SFD can work through the issues because the drone technology looks like it can and will be enormously beneficial in protecting lives and property.		Increase "situational awareness" by firefighters.			Go for it!	
43	That the data will be coopted by ICE to use in targeting immigrants. That the cameras will be coopted by SPD to use in illegal surveillance.	no	Excellent value in search-and-rescue operations, especially in difficult or dangerous areas.	no	See Answer 1	no	no
44	Privacy, it will be abused		None, it will not provide the		Privacy		

			benefits being touted.				
45	That the police will "borrow" the drones for their own purposes at odds with ther SFD's mission		Paris France uses drones to coordinate forces in major disasters. Nothing inherently wrong with the tech in the right hands. I trust the SFD. Not sure if I can trust the SPD	I think it would be worth sending some SFD personnel who are fluent in French for a friendly visit to the Paris Fire Department. We may be leaders in the US, but we might be able to learn a couple cutting edge techniques from our Parisian allies.	Avoiding over-priced vendors not offering an open-source software solution. Getting locked into a single vendor. Getting ripped off. Protecting the civil liberties of all people in Seattle.		
46	I'm generally concerned about surveillance of citizens, especially as the SFD is closely connected to SPD, which often shares at the federal level. We are seeing feds/ICE use systems like ALPRs to track immigrants and snatch them off the streets. There is no guarantee the data collected by these drones will not be mismanaged and put people in vulnerable positions.		None. The costs far outweigh any benefits, and at this time all proposed benefits are experimental.		Consider all the better ways this money could be spent -- such as reinstating free school lunches, for one. Consider all the ways data from Flock cameras and other cameras allowed around the city by our mayor have already endangered citizens. Consider how every choice that heightens surveillance brings us closer to the fascist agenda of Trump and his supporters, where		

	Furthermore, the supplier of these drones has a background of anti-immigrant actions, including pitching a program to tase migrants via drones. The expense of this technology also concerns me. This will funnel hundreds of thousands of dollars from the city budget toward a company that is bankrolled by tech oligarchs like Sam Altman and Shyam Sankar. This money could support many other more needed programs in the city, especially since the department estimates drones would only be deployed in about 1% of all calls. Why waste this funding on an experimental technology that				anyone who lives or acts in a way they don't condone is considered less than human and undeserving of rights.		

	would barely be used when it could feed kids in city schools or go towards solutions for homelessness?						
47	That they will be used as a back door for public surveilance. That there will be footage that is saved in a way that is easily accessible by hackers. That proper safeguards will be rushed.		potential visual into upper levels of a building on fire to help scope for people still in the building.		data storage, file access, independent oversight of data and drone use.		
48	I have several concerns about this technology. 1. What evidence is there that this technology will not collect and share data? 2. What policies exist at the fire department that		An aerial perspective could be helpful in a small number of emergencies but the numbers provided seem exaggerated. The		1. How was the vendor chosen? Why has there not been a RFP? The fire foundation should not be allowed to provide resources without city approved purchasing rules		

	will ensure data will not be collected or shared and what will the consequences be if that happens? 3. How will the technology help save lives and property as is stated in the document? It lacks proper data to show this. 4. Why now? This is too costly to pursue given the budget crisis.		presentation and report provide hypotheticals without data to back the benefits. There is not a step by step description showing how the ERAT will actually be deployed and when it will actually begin to be beneficial to the authorized personnel on site of the emergency.		and regulations. A quick search about Brinc makes one question its business practices. 2. What will be the actual benefit beyond the human capabilities already in place that respond to emergencies? Is this technology really needed? 3. How can the city afford to pay for this technology and the annual estimated cost of $60K per drone just to maintain it? 4. How will you ensure that the police or other law agencies do not ever find a way to use the drone for themselves?		
49	I don't trust that personal data will not be shared with other agencies. I don't believe the		Perhaps to replace certain high paying positions.		Examine the full costs for this project and who the drone maker is.		

	drone maker can be trusted as it has ties to Peter Thiel.						
50	Our privacy is being impeded upon with mass expansion of surveillance technology. The city and state does not have a grasp on how these contractors are collecting data from the footage and making that footage broadly available to other state arm apparatuses including ICE, CBP, other states tracking down abortions seekers, gender affirming care seekers, probably protestors tomorrow, other state dissidents, and whomever else the federal and state governments of this country deem illegal.	This technology will be used by SPD. There will not be oversight by the Seattle Office of Civil Rights. What provisions are being made, if any, to protect criticized privacy? What AI tech and data collection will be used on the back end that the city won't even be aware of? Where are the safety restrictions for civilian privacy written into the contract? A state surveillance entrapment is being built around us by our own tax dollars. I am asking you to STOP the	None. This is tech used for genocide in Palestine. Imperial boomerang effect. This can and will be used to continue to engage and unalive those who are deemed less than by the current federal government. We've already seen WA state's cameras be used by other state agencies to disappear our neighbors. This will be no different and the moving drone footage is even more dangerous.	At a time when council members are saying there isn't enough money to expand so many human-centered services, SFD wants to give a private drone company hundreds of thousands of dollars each year in reoccurring expenses. SFD estimates drones would be used for only 1.3% of calls - which makes this seem like a solution in search of a problem. Drones as a firefighting tool have well established utility in wilderness areas, but there's little research to support their usefulness in urban environments. Why spend money on experimental technology when we're in a budget deficient and	Do your due diligence. What oversight measures have been taken? How is this prioritized over actual public health measures that save lives that we need to fund? (Housing, street medics providing outreach to our unhoused, food and water to our unhoused, more funding for affordable housing, youth violence prevention programming, education, lunches, affordable food, healthcare, on and on and on…) What privacy and civil rights experts have been consulted? What do most vulnerable populations and surveillance tech	Consult privacy advocates, civil rights advocates, surveillance oversight and civil rights impacts toolkits, please.	How is SPD not just getting around oversight is this is acquired?

		acquisition of surveillance drones under the guise of fire necessity. The supplier is a Seattle company called BRINC that, just this month, raised $125M from the biggest tech oligarchs in world (including OpenAI's Sam Altman and Palantir's Shyam Sankar). BRINC's stated goal is to "put a 911 response drone on every Police and Fire station roof." BRINC was founded in 2019 with a DHS grant to design a border "wall of drones" to electroshock migrants. This is terrifying. How		people's basic needs are not being met. We have so many people dying on the street from houselessness, lack of basic human services. People not having easy access to food and water living outside while facing addiction are overdosing. That is where we need our money going. I'm a teacher who might need to leave Seattle because I can't afford rent here. We need to use our money on actual life saving services. Not fascist tech toys.	community advocates say? What surveillance impact toolkits and community civil rights toolkits have been utilized? Have you seen all the videos of drone camera footage being released and hacked? How would you prevent this footage from being utilized by ICE and CBP, and other agencies with nefarious intentions? How will you stop the cops from chasing after our overly policed neighbors (Seattle red lining maps, yes, S Seattle, Communities of Color) who are already surveilled at rates much higher than our whiter north seattle neighbors? (Drive up 23rd from S Seattle to N Seattle or vice versa).		

		can we claim to be a sanctuary city while acquiring this tech? We cannot. This tech acquisition goes against everything Seattle stands for. This tech is being used for genocide in Palestine. We cannot and must not let Seattle be a city that acquires it intentionally.					
51	Privacy, and the equipment being used for inmoral purposes other the one its made for		Find other alternatives that dont include surveillance and that dont have as much possibilities of being used for inmoral				

			purposes (like stalking, recording, following people without consent between others)				
52	If camera views are recorded, privacy becomes a possible issue.		ERAT will provide extremely valuable information on incident size up, and changing condtions which could reduce response times, allow better placment of apparatus as conditoins change, identify hazards before SFD risks personnel into scene. Also could supplement use of fixed cameras for improved apparatus routing to incident scene, as well as	Although owner and operating agencies have fixed cameras for their use, these are typically not available for use by SFD. Having SFD dedicated ERAT systems, could provide views not available to SFD. For instance Rail and Road tunnels. Once the vehicle (train, truck, cars) have stopped moving (common in an incident) there is adequate space for careful drone use in front or behind trains, road vehicles to perform essential scene size ups. Location, number and condition of patients. ID hazardous material placards without risking personnel etc	Extremely low cost methods to provide Scene Size up befor responders must risk their lives.		

			identifying possible toxic plumes and their directions.				
53	It will be used to harass young people of color and gather data that can be given to the thugs at ICE.	Yes, drones are an invasion of privacy and the data they collect will be used to go after targets favored by SPD - people of color, immigrants, young people, disabled people. It puts people of color and immigrants very much at risk for being assaulted, kidnapped or killed by the ICE thugs.	Slight value. Cops have been on quiet strike since 2020 and respond to very few urgent calls. They claim they are understaffed, but seriously, who has seen a cop on the streets or sidewalks of Seattle for years? SPD only comes out to earn triple overtime directing sports traffic.	It will be used for discriminatory purposes.	Consider how much drones will threaten the safety, privacy and even lives of immigrants, particularly those of color. Parents and children will be sent to unspeakable concentration camps. People will die under those horrific conditions.	Don't approve these drones, which will invade privacy, imperil the lives and safety of immigrants, people of color and whomever SPD decides is "suspicious." Why create more data to turn over to the ICE terrorists who have virtually no limits on their terrorism? With many on the City Council, especially Saka and Kettler, preferring punitive measures to all other "solutions" I fear for the safety of immigrants and people of color. Once drones produce this "data," it the right-wing Council WILL pass it on to armed, masked thugs.	Why are you doing this? It's an unnecessary and horrible plan that will result in injury, family dissolution, incarceration or death.

54	Seattle is swiftly becoming a privacy nightmare with the rapidly increasing investment in surveillance technology. I am strongly concerned about the SFD's history of mismanaging surveillance data in ways that exposes Seattle residents and makes us unsafe. I'm also upset by the insistence on this large spending on a technology that has never been studied in an urban environment, meaning dumping hundreds of thousands of dollars annually during a budget crisis on the idea of a shiny new toy maybe helping with something.		Negative value; I do not feel safe in the city of Seattle anymore due to the high prevalence of cameras, and this only aggravates that issue.		Please consider an upstream solution instead. If the goal is reducing the impact of fires, smaller fire engines and increased public transit to reduce traffic would both be considerably effective in improving response times while also benefitting the community in other ways. (If a drone detects a fire on Pine during rush hour, that sure isn't going to help get the firefighters there in time!) Breaking up emergency response more appropriately would also help, i.e. the fact that only about 4% of all fire department deployments are actually in response to fire.		

55	These drones will cost hundreds of thousands of dollars yearly, if implemented, while the city faces a giant budget deficit. At a time when Council has been considering only partially funding meals for kids who need them inside and outside of school, how was this determined to be an efficacious use of dollars ?	There's been little research on the use of drones for urban firefighting missions. What's the evidence for using them ?			Public support		
56	Surveillance co-opted by SPD. Increased surveillance makes the public feel unsafe and anxious. Seeing a drone fly overhead is concerning and dystopian.	They cost so much money that would be better spent elsewhere.	None.			What safe guards are there for abuse of power? SPD will certainly co-opt this and y'all are hiding behind SFD to support it.	I'm writing as a resident and worker of the Chinatown-International District, a community that is being paraded as the city's testing ground for surveillance. Cameras and drones are a detriment to my community's safety. The CID has built years of trust with SFD since Donnie Chin. Please do not throw that away by investing in this technology.

57	Surveillance technology has a tendency to spread regardless of its efficacy, and I am concerned that it reflects misplaced priorities. The yearly cost for three drones will be over $180,000 between licensing, repairs, and training; such funds equal 40% of the cost of the expansion of meals for kids outside of school. The money SPD spends on "emphasis patrols" for shoplifting covers the cost of both universal free school lunches and the expanded meals. Poverty is very real in Seattle and far more pressing than fires, especially since surveillance tech disproportionately affects black, brown, and	The "experts" SFD mentioned in the SIR are all drone research groups and private companies In the past SPD has co-opted surveillance from other departments without any public review. SDOT cameras, which were previously adopted only for the purpose of traffic control have been incorporated into the Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC) thereby dramatically increasing mass surveillance and making it accessible to the federal government, including ICE. If we are to adopt new surveillance for	Zero		I want City leadership to realize that the devastation of poverty is an everyday horror, far more common than spectacular crimes seen on KOMO. Poverty kills and traumatizes, not to mention exacerbates all kinds of crime. To truly reduce crime, create more social programs like universal free lunch expansions, not more surveillance tech nominally intended for fire prevention.		

	immigrant communities.	the fire department, it is essential that it is limited to its intended purpose and department.					
58	What is the actual technology being considered? Calling something an ERAT or drone is too vague. It's like asking the city to approve a new camera without knowing the type, make, model, full capabilities and costs.	What about the AI capabilities for this unknown drone?			How much is this really going to cost? What happens when the fire department needs to replace the drone?		
59	It ends up discriminating against people of color. It is a waste of money that should go to social needs. It is repressive		None		Use the money for public good, housing, health care, child care, education		

60	While the City Council was claiming the city doesn't have enough money to fund both universal free school lunches and expand meals for kids outside of school, SFD was asking for drones that'll cost hundreds of thousands of dollars per year. The yearly cost for three drones will be over $180,000 between licensing, repairs, and training. That money would cover 40% of the cost of expanding meals for kids outside of school. Add in what SPD spends on "emphasis patrols" for shoplifting, and you can cover the cost of both universal free school lunches and the expanded meals. It isn't an issue of lack of money; it's how	Mass surveillance and privacy risks, lack of transparency and oversight, documented abuses - incidents include police using surveillance tech for digital stalking and leaked drone footage showing private home interiors, and cross-agency data sharing.	In the past, SPD has co-opted surveillance from other departments without any public review. SDOT cameras, which were previously adopted only for traffic control, have been incorporated into the Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC), dramatically increasing mass surveillance and making it accessible to the federal government. If we are to adopt new surveillance for the fire department, it is essential that it is limited to it's intended purpose. Until the surveillance ordinance is strengthened, we cannot	The expansion of this technology is outpacing cities' ability to regulate it, creating long-term risks to privacy, civil liberties, and democratic participation — while offering only modest or unproven benefits to public safety.	True public safety lies in investing in people and communities. The people of Seattle are TIRED of community needs being placed on homeowners. Every time our community needs money for schools, parks, mental health, and substance use intervention, the solution is to increase property taxes. STOP THE FRIVILOUS SPENDING AND START INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES IN A MEANINGFUL WAY!	You work for us! Stop putting your self-interest ahead of the people who voted for you!	

	the city chooses to spend it. The city will make poor kids fight to see who gets to eat while giving unlimited money to surveil, harass, control, criminalize, and cage Black, Brown, and poor people.		ensure that these will be used for their intended purpose.				
61	They'll result in disproportionate surveillance of people in certain areas. Lots of people unrelated to any calls SFD is responding to will end up be surveilled. No study has been submitted showing a cost benefit analysis of this vs. any other use for a few hundred thousand dollars per year.		Absolutely none		Pointless to bother saying since elected officials have shown that they ignore community feedback and the Community Surveillance Working Group when they oppose surveillance technology.		This process is a complete farce which is why I'm not spending time on it. We saw with CCTV & RTCC that this is just checking a box before elected officials expand surveillance. Public opinion/opposition doesn't matter so why should I waste any more of my time filling this out?
62	I notice that the experts cited in the SIR are all either private companies, or drone-company related research groups. I also don't see a lot	I heard that they're deploying these drones from fire stations. Doesn't that mean if you live near a fire	If it's able to suss out where people are during a fire, fast enough and accurately enough, it could help focus efforts to		How are you measuring the benefits versus the cost? The upside cannot be considered in a vacuum when there's a hard limit to funding.		

	specifically related to fighting fires in urban environments, which are different from, say, wildfires. How will SFD be measuring the efficacy of this technology versus its expense?	station, you're going to be getting you/your house on drone footage a lot?	get to people more quickly. It may also be able to assess structural dangers to prevent injury to firefighters.		We underfund social programs all the time without considering how many premature deaths that costs us.		
63	Drone camera systems used for general surveillance and long term recording, or using recognition software create privacy concerns, but the combination of limits on recording, viewing, and the short list of callouts permitted seem to address those concerns well.		Overhead cameras can provide information that it is impossible to get in person, and could potentially locate hazards, or better paths of access, and save lives. There is also the ability to assess safety after natural disasters that could both protect lives and speed response.		This seems like a high value technology, and has a potential to have a positive impact. The policy seems constructed to minimize privacy violations while getting value from the new systems.		The proposed policy has no exclusions. Based on the proposed usages, that there may be reasons to take video for training and technical reasons on occasion, and there should be an exception added to the proposed policies for operations over Seattle Fire controlled spaces such as fire station, and fire training locations in order to do things like train operators on how different types of fires look to the thermal cameras. Also, given recent floods and landslides causing infrastructure damage, there should also be an exception made to permit recording and viewing damaged areas once an approved

							operator verifies that no people apart from public employees, contractors, and other official emergency response personal are in frame.
64	I am concerned that this is not an effective use of money. There has been very little study of the effectiveness of aerial drones in urban firefighting.	I am also concerned that SPD will be given access to the drone camera feed for further surveillance purposes, and they have collaborated and shared information with ICE in violation of WA state law.	Very little. SFD is already able to effectively respond to fires and other emergencies, and there is very little evidence that aerial drones meaningfully expand that capability.	How did SFD determine this was the best use the money? How will SFD determine its effectiveness if it is used? How will SFD and city policy protect against fire fighting drones being used for unintended surveillance?	Unbiased studies (read: not conducted by drone companies) into the effectiveness of aerial drones for fire fighting in urban environments. Whether unproven technology is the best use of our budget that already has a shortfall.	Who has access to the camera feed. Is the video stored anywhere? What company controls the servers where it is stored, and who can access it? What is the risk of ICE being able to access the camera feed.	
65	It is too expensive and takes food away from children!	Yes, we all know who will be profiled or targeted, people of color.	For people to check if their roofs are clean.		The cost and what it steals from others who need life supporting services.		

66	Many, invasion of privacy and misuse. Unnecessary. Pressing needs in City for funding eg schools.	Acting on symptoms of systemic failure to provide caring responses to systemic problems with further or expanded policing	None	Focus upstream and solve social inequality - policing doesn't help	Long term effects on ALL of us. There is nothing good about this.		
67	This is an extravagant cost at a time when we have a budget shortfall. This increases mass surveillance on the residents of Seattle. We don't want it		Negative because it increases surveillance on Seattle residents who have not opted in		That we can barely afford to provide free meals for children so why should SFD have money for unnecessary tech. There are a million better uses for this money.		