Brennan Center Questions and Document Requests for BRIC and BPD
Massachusetts Public Records Request B000169-13020

April 3, 2025

Questions for BRIC

Identifying and Documenting Events and Threats

Identifying Events

(1) Are search terms applied across social media platforms solely to identify events or are they also used for other purposes including, but not limited to, identifying threats?

(2) Does BRIC use the following to create search terms and/or to identify, monitor, and document events?
   - Information gathered through monitoring individuals or groups online
   - Information gathered via online aliases undertaking discreet or undercover activities

Documenting Events

(3) For the purposes of circulating SITREPs, whom does BRIC consider to be part of the "private sector" versus "public sector" recipients?

(4) BRIC SITREPs received through open records requests submitted by other civil society organizations have included redactions of flyers. Are screenshots of flyers (or of social media posts advertising events) included in SITREPs?

(5) BRIC special event notifications/notices received through open records requests submitted by other civil society organizations have included screenshots of flyers and social media posts advertising events, with at least one instance of a private text message being shared. Does BRIC rely on non-public information (e.g., information gathered via direct messages, private social media profiles, or private online groups) to build out its event notifications? If so, how is that non-public information stored (e.g., is that information included in the event notification)?

(6) How does BRIC decide which events to include in the events manager/database?

(7) In its December 18, 2024 response to the Brennan Center's request for documents related to BRIC's use of social media for the November 2024 elections, BRIC produced an events manager spreadsheet containing a link to a Facebook post advertising a "Trump Victory Standout." Was this information obtained by BRIC through an online alias? If so, is that alias still in use? If not, when was it discontinued?

(8) In its December 18, 2024 response to the Brennan Center's request for documents related to BRIC's use of social media for the November 2024 elections, BRIC produced a so-called "CTC" document titled "Joint Special Event Assessment 2024 General Election Report":

- What does CTC stand for?
- What is the purpose of a CTC?
- What information is included in CTCs and why?
- Who is involved in drafting CTCs, what is the review process, and who receives them?

Identifying and Documenting Threats

(9) During its February 18, 2025 meeting with the Brennan Center, BRIC stated that it participates in daily meetings to determine follow-up actions BPD and/or BRIC should take in response to potential threats (e.g., further analysis, opening an investigation, referral to the FBI, etc.). Does BRIC save social media information about potential threats before it opens an investigation? If so, where and for how long?

Ongoing Monitoring and Online Aliases

(10) How are event organizers identified for ongoing monitoring?

(11) How does BRIC monitor individuals? (e.g., Are they followed or friended? Is the following and friending done through an alias account? If BRIC is looking at information that doesn't require any interaction, including following, is that done through an alias account?)

(12) Is approval needed for a BRIC analyst to join *public* groups using an online alias?

(13) How many approvals for the use of an online alias were approved within the past year for both discreet or undercover use?

SITE Intelligence Software

(14) Is BRIC currently contracted with SITE Intelligence Group for the company's SearchFeed or SourceFeed products? Does BRIC still have access to SITE's blog?

Questions for BPD

Youth Violence Strike Force ("YVSF")

(1) What rules or policies govern the YVSF's online activities and are there any additional limitations on the YVSF's permitted online activities where the YVSF is engaging with or monitoring minors?

(2) Does BPD consider the "reasonable discovery" standard as articulated in *Long* (2020) to apply to its YVSF activities?

(3) How is the BPD preparing to comply with discovery requests that include:
- Perceived race of surveilled suspects? (*Dilworth*, 2021)
- Usernames and Bitmojis of undercover Snapchat accounts? (*Dilworth*, 2024)

Document Requests

(1) BRIC and BPD org chart
(2) BRIC's list of online search terms related to Black Lives Matter Protests during May through August 2020 and/or the list of search terms BRIC accessed through the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative related to those protests
(3) A list of public and private sector recipients of BRIC's November 2024 election SITREPs
(4) A blank request form to use an online alias
(5) A blank approval form to use an online alias
(6) Once published, BPD's/BRIC's 2025 annual surveillance report compiled as required by Boston's Ordinance on Surveillance Oversight and Information Sharing