**THE PUBLIC OVERSIGHT OF SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY ACT (The POST Act)**

Each day the NYPD uses powerful, invasive, and secret technologies to monitor New Yorkers. These high-tech tools watch where we go in our cars, who we interact with online, and who we have a conversation with on the street. Many are imported from the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan with little or no notice to the public.

While there are legitimate reasons for the use of certain forms of surveillance during active investigations or to secure public safety, the people of New York City do not know how often the NYPD uses these tools to track our daily movements, activities and personal information. The public also does not know that many of these surveillance tools are deployed without accounting for potential flaws or biases that could make them unreliable.

The use of these technologies can cast a wide net across whole communities, reinforcing discrimination and racial profiling, violating the privacy of anyone who happens to be in their path, and potentially putting people’s health at risk.

*Examples of Surveillance Technology and Equipment used by the NYPD include:*

* Facial recognition technology that cannot reliably identify women and communities of color
* Cell phone tower simulators that intercept data and conversations from all devices within its reach
* Military-grade X-ray vans that use radiation to see through walls and cars
* Automatic license plate readers that track a person’s car using real-time and historical locations

*Solution*

**The Public Oversight of Surveillance Technology (POST) Act** establishes transparency and accountability measures for the NYPD’s use of powerful and invasive surveillance technologies.

The POST Act requires the NYPD to issue an impact and use policy for each piece of surveillance technology. The policy would include important information about each surveillance tool, including its description, capabilities, guidelines for use, and measures designed to protect data it collects. The Act would require NYPD to evaluate and explain the possible impacts of the technology on New Yorkers’ privacy.

After a draft of the surveillance impact and use policy is published, the public would have 45 days to submit comments. The NYPD Commissioner would then consider the comments and provide a final version of the surveillance impact and use policy to the city council, the mayor, and the public. The bill would also empower the NYPD Inspector General to make sure the NYPD follows the policies and guidelines in place.

The POST Act would not interfere with public safety or law enforcement investigations, nor would it keep the NYPD from obtaining surveillance equipment and technology. It does not require the NYPD to reveal sensitive information, like operational details.

The POST Act is endorsed by the Black, Latino/a, and Asian Caucus and the Progressive Caucus. Cities across the country such as San Francisco, Nashville, Seattle, and Cambridge have already passed similar bills. New Yorkers should be afforded the same opportunity to hold their police department accountable.