34 Lexington St #2

East Boston, MA 02128

June 8, 2020

Boston City Council

**Testimony in Support of**

**Ordinance Banning Facial Recognition Technology in Boston**

Dear City Councilors,

I am writing in support of the ordinance banning facial recognition technology in Boston presented by Councilors Wu and Arroyo. This ordinance establishes a ban on government use of face surveillance in the City of Boston. Boston must pass this ordinance to join Springfield, Somerville, Cambridge, Brookline, and Northampton in protecting racial justice, privacy, and freedom of speech.

As a resident of East Boston, I’m deeply concerned about how facial recognition technology could be used against my community’s immigrant population. These are the same community members who work in our health centers, our grocery stores, and our schools.

A ban on face surveillance technology is critically important in the City of Boston because numerous studies have shown that this technology reinforces racial and gender bias. In fact, an MIT researcher found that 1 in 3 Black women is likely to be misclassified by the technology.

I encourage you to press pause on the use of face surveillance by government entities in the City of Boston by supporting and passing this crucial ban. We cannot allow Boston to adopt authoritarian, unregulated, biased surveillance technology.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Louis Roe