



August 7, 2019

Sent via email

Primary Records Access Officer
Michael Halpin
Massachusetts State Police
470 Worcester Road
Framingham, MA 01702
msp.rao@state.ma.us

Re: Public records request related to the use of robotics.

Dear Mr. Halpin,

This is a request under the Massachusetts Public Records Law, G.L. c. 66, § 10, made on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Massachusetts (“ACLU”).

A Massachusetts State Police Facebook post describes an event to be held on July 30, 2019 regarding the use of robotics in law enforcement operations.¹ The ACLU is interested in this subject and seeks to learn more about how your agency uses or has contemplated using robotics.

The ACLU seeks records² relating to the Massachusetts State Police (“MSP”) plans for, acquisition of, and/or use of robotics. This includes but is not limited to the MSP relationship with the following companies: Ghost Robotics, iRobot, Endeavor, and Boston Dynamics.

Records requested

The ACLU requests all such records created on or after January 1, 2015, including but not limited to:

1. Communications between any representative of the MSP and any representative of the aforementioned companies, and any other vendor offering any product or service related to robotics.

¹ MSP Facebook post. <https://www.facebook.com/events/massachusetts-state-police-museum-and-learning-center/robotics-use-in-law-enforcement/2342438732696891/>.

² Throughout this request, the term “records” includes but is not limited to any paper or electronic information, reports, evaluations, memoranda, correspondence, letters, emails, charts, graphs, flyers, meeting agendas, meeting minutes, training materials, diagrams, forms, DVDs, tapes, CDs, notes, or other similar materials.



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2. Internal communications between representatives or employees of the MSP relating to any product or service related to robotics.
3. Documents relating to the MSP's purchasing or use of robotics, including but not limited to: purchase orders, RFPs, licensing agreements, invoices, and contracts (including non-disclosure agreements) related to any product or service related to robotics.
4. Materials relating to how products and services related to robotics function (or function improperly), including e-mails, handouts, PowerPoint presentations, advertisements, or specification documents.
5. Manuals, policies, procedures, and practices governing the use or monitoring of a product or service related to robotics.
6. Documents, including emails, discussing, referencing, or pertaining to the weaponization of any robotics.
7. Training materials related to any product or service related to robotics by employees of the MSP.
8. Records relating to any mobile application related to any product or service related to robotics.
9. Records relating to any public process or debate about any product or service related to robotics, including meeting agendas or minutes, public notices, analyses, or communications between the MSP and elected officials.

Because this request involves a matter of public concern and is made on behalf of a nonprofit organization, we ask that you waive any fees. ACLUM is a nonprofit §501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the protection of civil rights and liberties for all persons in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. As the state's affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU of Massachusetts is part of a nationwide network of advocates dedicated to defending and expanding the civil liberties of all.

If you decide not to waive fees, we request that you permit us to examine, at our election, the responsive documents before deciding which portions to copy. We would prefer the documents in electronic format.

If you believe that some portion of the documents requested are exempt from disclosure or require redaction, please release any reasonably segregable portions that are not exempt. In addition, please note the applicable statutory exemption and explain why it applies to the redacted portions. As you know, a custodian of public records shall comply with a request within ten days after receipt.

If you have questions about this request, please contact me at (617) 482-3170 x346 or kcrockford@aclum.org.



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Thank you for your assistance. We look forward to your response

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kade Crockford".

Kade Crockford
Director
Technology for Liberty Program
ACLU of Massachusetts