

From: [Jake Gale](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Public Comment Regarding Resolution 26-1399
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 11:36:09 AM

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Dear Council President Noecker and Members of the Saint Paul City Council,

My name is Jake Gale, and I am a Saint Paul resident living in Ward 3. I am writing today to express opposition to Resolution 26-1399 which would authorize the Saint Paul Police Department (SPPD) to apply for a federal grant that would enable the expansion of its "Drones as First Responders" program.

- The grant in question is closed, and the SPPD failed to follow Section 86.12 of the St. Paul Administrative Code by applying for the grant without seeking prior council approval.
- The drone program has already been expanded once without public input, and RES 26-1399 would continue that pattern.
- Expanding this program contradicts RES 26-1421, which resolved that the city must invest in strategies to make neighborhoods safer without creating systems of mass surveillance.
- The city has no policy on AI-powered mass surveillance technology, and no framework for protecting data, privacy, and constitutional rights.
- Declining to approve this resolution will not impact SPPD's budget or impact public safety.
- There is no framework in place to ensure that this technology does and will not disproportionately impact communities of color and other marginalized communities.

AI-enabled surveillance technologies are advancing rapidly with little accountability or guardrails around how that technology is used. The public has not been given an opportunity to fully provide input on the SPPD's program, and enabling it to expand further at this time and in this manner runs contrary to transparency and informed consent.

I ask that you decline to support RES 26-1399; direct the city to end all contracts with Axon, Flock, and Skydio; and take action to ban AI-enabled mass surveillance technologies in the city of Saint Paul. Thank you.

Jake Gale