

Gerard, Jennie

From: Kernighan, Pat
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2014 7:25 PM
To: Gerard, Jennie
Subject: FW: Oakland's Domain Awareness Center

Pat Kernighan

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From: Troy Donoviel [<mailto:tdonoviel@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 10:12 AM
To: Kalb, Dan
Cc: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Oakland's Domain Awareness Center

Dan,

I read with some concern this morning that the City Council is backing away from the planned surveillance hub subbed the Domain Awareness Center (DAC), amid concerns of privacy violations and NSA-like intrusion. I hope that this is merely a delay to better organize the DAC and not the first step in terminating the initiative and losing out on federal funding.

It is my understanding that the primary goal of the DAC would be to pull together existing camera feeds, crime maps, gunshot detectors and other tools into one center in order to better use the data and information that is already being captured. This seems to me to be a step toward the effective use of information that is already in our hands -- privacy that has already been compromised, if you must -- and not some new expansion. I recognize the privacy concerns regarding school cameras and fears that innocent lives of children may be intruded upon, so there are certainly adjustments that can be made to limit its intrusion. But allegations of using the DAC for political tracking purposes are ridiculous and encroachment of free speech by the ACLU are ridiculous -- if there is potential for violent and bad behavior, shouldn't the police have more eyes on the events? -- especially given the history of destruction by protesters.

So, hopefully the City Council will not ignore the silent majority and scrap the entire idea in favor of (relatively) vocal few. When news of this surveillance center were first aired, many of the people interviewed were not or were barely Oakland residents. One of the loudest critics interviewed was a recent transplant and new graduate from an East Coast university -- someone who hardly has the perspective of living on one's own, let alone living in our city. I am sure that it is no fun to listen to radical calls of "shame!" at what should be an orderly meeting and to struggle to have a rational discussion on an issue. I do not envy what you go through.

However, I think the fear and concern is overstated, if the center is created and managed under sound principals with the appropriate protections on the data being collected and analyzed. This project is no different than those undertaken by other major cities, so the legal hurdles and threats by the ACLU can certainly be overcome. This

seems like a feasible and important initiative for Oakland and a fairly rare instance where I am on the same side of an issue as our Mayor.

If we continue to make few changes to the status quo, how do we expect to change the status quo? Hopefully, you and the rest of the Council have the strength and perseverance to make the necessary adjustments to this initiative and continue to find ways to push it forward for the improvement of Oakland. In the end, we are just catching to where other major cities (such as NYC, Baltimore, and Chicago) already are.

Thanks for your consideration,

Troy Donoviel
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