

## **What is law enforcement facial recognition?**

Facial recognition is a digital technology that compares images obtained during criminal investigations with lawfully possessed arrest photos. **No one has ever been arrested by the Milwaukee Police Department solely based on a facial recognition search and we intend to craft our policy to ensure this remains.** When used in combination with **human analysis** and additional investigation, facial recognition technology is a valuable tool in solving crimes and increasing public safety.

## **How is facial recognition used by police?**

Police agencies, including ours, have successfully used facial recognition to identify suspects whose images have been captured by cameras at robberies, burglaries, assaults, shootings, and other crimes.

## **What happens after the computer matches are identified?**

If possible matches are identified, trained investigators conduct a visual analysis to assess the reliability of a match and conduct a background check to compare available information about the possible match and relevant details of the investigation.

## **Are matching photos grounds for arrest?**

**No.** A facial recognition match does not establish probable cause to arrest or obtain a search warrant, but serves as a lead for additional investigative steps. The detective assigned to the case must establish, with other corroborating evidence, that the suspect identified by the photo match is the perpetrator in the alleged crime.

## **Has the software provided substantial leads in criminal cases?**

Yes. We will share some examples.

## **Have studies shown that some facial recognition software is less accurate in analyzing the faces of African Americans, Asians, women and other groups than of white men?**

Some studies have found variations in accuracy for some software products in analyzing the faces of African Americans, Asians Americans, women, and groups other than non-white males. However, over the last half decade, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has identified major improvements in the accuracy of facial recognition software. Moreover, MPD intends to craft a policy mandating that facial recognition software recommendations **must** be analyzed by multiple human reviewers before a possible match candidate can be conveyed to an investigator. Even when an investigator is informed that a possible match candidate has been identified, it only serves as a lead for additional investigative steps. **Identification of a possible match candidate does not establish cause to arrest or obtain a search warrant.**

**Will video from the body-worn cameras submitted for facial recognition analysis?**

No. For example, MPD would not use facial recognition technology to examine body-worn camera video to identify people who may have open warrants. However, if an officer, whose body-worn camera is activated, witnesses a crime but is unable to apprehend the suspect, a still image of the suspect may be extracted from body-worn camera video and submitted for facial recognition analysis.

**Would MPD use facial recognition technology to identify people recorded on the city's network of security cameras?**

No. Video from city-owned and private cameras is not analyzed unless it is relevant to a crime that has been committed.

**Would MPD use facial recognition to monitor and identify people in crowds or at rallies?**

No.

**Would MPD use facial recognition technology to routinely compare images of unidentified suspects to other government photo databases, like drivers' license photos, or to social media?**

No. In rare cases, however, the Chief may specifically authorize the comparison of an unidentified suspect's image against images other than mug shots, only if there is a legitimate need to do so.