

## A Resolution of the Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission Opposing the Implementation of Facial Recognition Technology by the Milwaukee Police Department

**WHEREAS**, the Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission (ERC) is charged with promoting and protecting the civil rights of all Milwaukee residents, workers, and visitors and ensuring enforcement and adherence to Chapter 109 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances; and

**WHEREAS**, Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) has been shown in multiple studies and documented incidents across the country to pose significant risks to civil rights, privacy, and freedom from discrimination—particularly for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), transgender individuals, and other marginalized communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) has conducted research at the request of the ERC which affirms that FRT carries the potential for disproportionate impacts and inaccuracies, especially when applied to individuals in protected classes and there is little publicly available information about the positive outcomes of FRT in peer cities (see LRB memo);

**WHEREAS**, public testimony received by the ERC has echoed concerns from national civil rights organizations and local stakeholders, expressing alarm over the possible misuse of FRT and its chilling effect on public trust in law enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, the ERC finds that the absence of a clear, transparent, and publicly accountable policy from MPD regarding the use of FRT—and even the existence of such a policy—cannot sufficiently guarantee the prevention of discrimination or civil rights violations for Milwaukee residents, and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, the ERC is obligated to advocate against practices that undermine the legal protections afforded under Chapter 109 and to promote a just, inclusive, and equitable community, including our public safety infrastructure;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission formally opposes the implementation or use of Facial Recognition Technology by the Milwaukee Police Department for the reasons stated above; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Chair of the Equal Rights Commission is hereby directed to:

1. Draft and submit a formal letter to the Chief of Police of the Milwaukee Police Department—copying the members of the Milwaukee Common Council, the Mayor of Milwaukee, and the Fire and Police Commission—summarizing the Commission's findings, LRB research, and public testimony received;
2. Clearly state that, in the absence of a comprehensive, enforceable, and publicly accountable policy from MPD—and even with such a policy—the risks of harm and discrimination remain unacceptably high;

3. Convey the Commission's official position that it opposes the implementation of FRT by the MPD and strongly urges the Chief of Police to reject its formal adoption and further deployment in the city Milwaukee.