



Date: September 29, 2020
To: WATCH REPORT
From: Erik Herzog, Deputy Chief, Investigations Bureau
Subject: **WATCH REPORT – USE OF FACIAL RECOGNITION PROGRAMS**

Over the last few months the police department has been evaluating programs that use biometrics or facial recognition to assist with generating leads in criminal investigations. In addition to evaluating the various systems available to law enforcement, we have been researching best practices related to policy and procedure. Prior to adopting any new technology, we must have clear guidelines and policies in place to govern the use. Otherwise we risk losing access to the technology.

To have a better understanding and to ensure we are maintaining records as required by law, **effective immediately any employee initiating a trial of new software they intend to utilize to assist with an investigation must first obtain the permission of their division commander.** The division commander will ensure the trial is properly documented and coordinated with the bureau.

There have been several companies which have provided demonstrations and allowed for a temporary access to their database. These databases are not yet authorized and should only be used for demonstration / evaluation purposes. The only system using facial recognition software that is authorized for use is the LA County LACRIS system. Employees who have completed the LACRIS training can continue to access the system and use it according to the LACRIS Facial Recognition Policy, provided to all users during the training.

Please contact Sergeant Ed De La Torre in the Investigations Bureau office at 87350 if you have any questions or are aware of a program that should be evaluated.

RUN FOR 10 DAYS

Facial Recognition Use
EDH:edh