



City Council

February 25, 2025
Packet Addendum #1

From: [Ann](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Rafael Gutierrez](#); [Samma Fox](#)
Subject: Study Session on Louisville Police Dept.
Date: Monday, February 24, 2025 11:40:09 AM

Dear Mayor Leh and Council members:

I'd like to offer input for the Study Session on our Louisville Police Department. I am particularly interested in the role of the LPD related to preparedness and operations during a large-scale emergency or disaster. I have reviewed the provided information and have discussed these issues in various forums with the City and LPD since 2021. I offer these comments.

First, I commend the LPD on several 2024 accomplishments. I'm grateful that the Department has completed hiring goals and reached full staffing. I applaud the implementation of the Mental Health Co-Responder program. And I appreciate the strong focus on community engagement and community policing to make our community safe and equitable. I also appreciate the effort of Chief Gutierrez and staff to support Marshall Fire impacted neighborhoods and residents.

Notably missing, however, is any discussion of emergency preparedness, operations, and response in either the presentation or the 2025-2028 Guiding Document:

- The Responsibilities listed on p. 16 of the Guiding Document do not include Emergency Preparedness.
- The only mention of Emergency Operations is an initiative to create the technology for it in the Police building (the building that was evacuated during the Marshall Fire)
- There is no mention of evacuation planning, communications, emergency preparedness elsewhere in the documents
- The org chart does not indicate any staff member assigned to emergency preparedness

At the Jan. 14 Council Study Session about 2025 Priorities, I made comments about the lack of visible City strategies, programs and activities related to disaster preparedness and resilience, including within the Police Department. I pointed out the lack of specific actions for Louisville in the CWPP, the numerous incomplete actions in the Louisville Annex of the 2022-2027 Boulder Hazard Mitigation Plan, and the incomplete coverage of the City's Wildfire Risk Assessment. I urged Council to take this on as a high priority for 2025 to review where the City stands on these issues and set goals for City staff, including the Police Department.

In response, Acting City Manager Fox stated that Louisville is covered under County programs. Chief Gutierrez reassured Mayor Leh that the LDP has fully developed emergency procedures in place that are not appropriate to be shared with the public

and that individual residents are responsible for their own preparedness and evacuation planning. But without any mention of these activities in LPD guiding documents, citizens have no reason to trust that Louisville is prepared for future disasters.

It is critical that the Council give serious discussion to our City's preparedness for large-scale emergencies, provide clear-cut expectations to City departments and staff, and be transparent about these roles with City residents to build trust and community preparedness.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ann Brennan
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From: [Tawnya Somauroo](#)
To: [Rafael Gutierrez](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Public Comment on LPD Guiding Document
Date: Sunday, February 23, 2025 8:34:03 PM

Dear Chief Gutierrez and Council,

As a resident and community organizer who regularly engages with others in Louisville, I see firsthand that our community places its trust in the Louisville Police Department. Chief Gutierrez (“Chief G”) has had a positive influence, earning the love and respect of both residents and officers. I support his leadership and especially appreciate his attention to community policing and outreach.

After reviewing the study session packet, however, I do have two major concerns that I urge Chief G and the Council to address.

1. Lack of large-scale emergency operations in the guiding document

It is so disappointing that large-scale disaster preparedness is absent from the guiding document. The Marshall Fire exposed serious gaps in evacuation and traffic management, which many residents felt were not properly addressed by previous police command. While progress has been made—such as updating neighborhood evacuation polygons and improving Everbridge alert sign-ups—Louisville still lacks a formal emergency operations plan and staff mysteriously cannot answer simple questions about who Louisville’s emergency manager is.

The city has never recognized emergency operations as a core service, nor has it set any goals for what the appropriate level of preparedness for our community should be. Louisville commissioned an expert [emergency operations assessment](#) in 2023, yet no commitment has been made to implement its recommendations. It is unclear whether the city is even compliant with [basic state law](#) on preparedness operations.

If we don’t adopt formal goals around large-scale emergency operations, it will continue to fall through the cracks. Given that the LPD plays a critical role in managing any disaster, the Guiding Document should name emergency operations as a function of the department and include a goal around supporting them.

2. Lack of Transparency on Surveillance Technology

It appears that the LPD has adopted new surveillance technologies without public disclosure, consultation with the Council and the public, or transparency about their usage. This is disappointing and would appear to deviate from the principles of community policing outlined in the document.

I think that most of the public will be comfortable with a subset of uses for police drones in our community, but there are also potential uses that will raise concerns. Police drone technology spans a wide scope, from basic cameras to AI-integrated facial recognition and weaponized drones. What tech exactly is the PD using? Is the PD using AI with the surveillance tools in its database? Who manages this data, how is it used, and how long is it stored? The privacy policy of the data management company should also be made public.

I recognize that these tools are essential to Chief G’s efforts to maintain a high level of service

and attract and retain talented officers. I have no desire to overburden the LPD with unnecessary processes. However, transparency and open dialogue with the Council and the public regarding surveillance technology are both reasonable and achievable without creating undue strain.

REQUESTS:

1. Please add large-scale emergency operations to the LPD Guiding Document as a service the LPD provides, with a goal to work with the city and LFPD to implement the 2023 All Clear Emergency assessment recommendations
2. Please disclose all surveillance technologies currently in use, including drones, software, and new integrated database products.
3. Please commit to consult with Council before deploying new surveillance tools in the future.
4. Please create publicly available policy documents for all surveillance technology in use now and in the future.
5. Please consult with Council before adopting/amending those policy documents.

Thank you for considering these concerns.

Sincerely,

Tawnya Somauroo
Louisville

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