I am a software developer with experience working with what is commonly termed ‘artificial intelligence’ today, typically but not exclusively in the realm of biotechnology and various forms of image recognition. I have designed new deep learning frameworks from scratch and built platforms to streamline their use. I’ve studied under and worked with globally recognized experts in the emerging field of AI Ethics. I say all of this to make it clear that my opinion as stated here is not an uninformed one.

AI, in its current form, has no place within law enforcement and any attempts to use it in the manner outlined in the proposal is one I and others in this field will resist as strongly as we are able to. The fact is that deep learning is an excellent tool but at its core is little more than a mountain of linear algebra we pour data into and trust that the information emerging on the other side is accurate, with a limited ability to check its work. There are contexts in which this is okay, and in those it is used frequently without notable issue. Law Enforcement is not one of them.

Please consult any of the hundreds of studies on what happens when people build crime prediction systems based off of data of existing crimes - the biases of the police department are inevitably ‘learned’ as part of the representation the machine learning system embodies - or even when a ‘smart’ resume grading system is created to understand why. One of the oldest and most basic lessons we learn as software developers is that Garbage In translates to Garbage Out, and the data that informs these systems is nowhere near clean enough to be used in the manner it is throughout the United States and China.

Facial Recognition, also, sets an extremely dangerous precedent even if it could be trusted to work properly with the faces of racial minorities - it can’t; the data that trains them is predominantly white and that isn’t changing any time soon - such that I and others have been working towards countermeasures in the event that it began to be used by my police department *for years*. Respectfully, even as I have nothing to hide, I would not be comfortable going out in public with my face uncovered ever again if it became clear the TPD were using something like Clearview...which individual police are already doing. I do not think that it is unreasonable to believe that my right to walk around the city without extensive disguise trumps whatever benefit the TPD believes it will derive from this.

I typically believe in minimal, if any, regulation with regards to AI research as I believe it is an extremely promising field - it is why I have dedicated nearly five years of my life to it - with the potential of changing the world for the better, but like any tool it is also capable of making the world an even worse place than it already is, especially if it is used improperly. By Improperly, I do not mean immorally, but by people without a true understanding of its limitations, and with all due respect given how specialized a field this is - the fundamentals are graduate level math - that adequately describes just about everyone involved in making this decision for the TPD.

It also, sadly, leaves the perspectives gained on this by those decision makers to the representatives of the third parties that develop the platforms that would be used, and the ethics of these companies are all extremely questionable. This really is not something that needs to be elaborated upon, given the abuses witnessed across the board - that individual Toronto police were even able to use clearview unilaterally of their own volition should really speak to this - and the number that are to one degree or another backed by Palantir.

I did not start anything over the Toronto Police’s use of Stingray devices, or their decision to lie about it for years, despite the massive ethics and privacy concerns encapsulated in that. I *will* repeatedly write my MPP and MP over any future use of ‘AI’ by the TPD and the desperate need for regulation on the use of these technologies by law enforcement.