

## CAMPAIGN DOCUMENT / PUBLIC-INTEREST OP-ED

# A Cautionary Tale for Current Police Officers About AI

**The future will remember more than the institution tells you it will remember.**

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<b>Suggested website placement:</b> Research and Documents; VPD/Public Safety; AI City Hall.

## To the good officer reading this: the archive is coming.

For most of modern policing, institutional memory was selective. A report could summarize an event. A supervisor could shape the file. A press release could become the public narrative. Records could be delayed, fragmented, or buried under process. That world is ending.

Artificial intelligence changes the accountability environment. It does not make every accusation true. It does not replace courts, discipline, or due process. But it changes the cost of finding patterns. What used to require a lawyer, a journalist, a researcher, and months of document review may soon be done in hours: timelines, contradictions, missing entries, body-camera gaps, CAD logs, radio traffic, press releases, complaint histories, map data, budget claims, and statistical patterns.

*The safest officer in the AI era is not the officer who trusts the institution to protect him. It is the officer whose own record can survive reconstruction.*

## What AI will make harder to hide

- Contradictions between what happened, what was logged, and what was later said publicly.
- Patterns where certain neighbourhoods, complainants, or vulnerable people are treated as low-credibility by default.
- Repeat use of boilerplate language that conceals discretionary decisions.
- Budget claims that do not match measurable public-safety outcomes.
- Press releases that celebrate seizures or arrests without showing market impact, reduced harm, or safer streets.
- Internal warnings that were ignored before a public failure.

The point is not that police should fear technology. The point is that honest officers should want technology to expose what honest officers already know: institutions sometimes ask decent members to defend narratives they did not create.

## The choice facing rank-and-file members

A current officer has three choices in the coming decade. The first is denial: assume the old file system will protect everyone. The second is cynicism: assume every complaint is hostile and every critic is anti-police. The third is professionalism: treat every file, every statement, and every public communication as something that

may one day be reconstructed by AI, reviewed by the public, and compared against every surrounding record.

That third path protects the officer, the victim, the accused, and the public. It also protects the institution from leadership failures that ordinary members should not have to carry.

## The warning for police leadership

AI will not only review individual incidents. It will review strategic claims. If a police service says it is reducing fentanyl harm, AI-assisted researchers will ask: did street price rise, did availability fall, did overdoses fall, did deaths fall, did the border flow change, and did the public receive accurate information? If a police service says it is serving the Downtown Eastside, AI-assisted reviewers will ask whether response times, sanitation conditions, assaults, overdoses, and resident complaints improved.

*In the AI era, performance theatre will become searchable. Outcome failure will become comparable. Institutional excuses will become machine-readable.*

## The pro-police position

This is not an anti-police argument. It is the most pro-police argument available: good officers need clean institutions. They need public trust. They need honest metrics. They need leaders who do not hide behind members when policy, communications, or funding narratives fail.

The message to current officers is simple: keep your own record clean, document concerns, refuse false certainty, insist on accurate public language, and do not let institutional loyalty become personal liability. The future archive will be less forgiving than the old one.

### Source and verification note

Draws from prior campaign themes on AI-assisted accountability, police communications, public records, and the need to distinguish rank-and-file officers from institutional leadership failures.

Authorized by Scott Gilbert, Financial Agent for Scott Gilbert. Contact: scottgilbertvan@gmail.com. Campaign contributions and expenses will be reported as required under B.C. local election campaign financing law.