

## Safety and Innovation Zone Demonstration Project Summary Report

The Safety and Innovation Zone Demonstration Project was a cross-departmental effort that started in the summer of 2021 and concluded spring of 2023. Internally, the project was a collaboration between the Departments of Public Safety Communications and Emergency Management, Fire, Police, and Technology Services. The County team joined with external strategic partners including Comcast, Commonwealth Cyber Initiative, George Mason University, Juganu, US Ignite, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. The goal of the project was to evaluate the impact of emerging sensor technologies in the public safety space to learn if data gathered could impact emergency response preparedness and incident response times.

### Report on Data and Privacy

*Made possible through grant funding, a George Mason University team participated with the project team on privacy practice review and sensor data assessment and analysis. These are their insights.*

**Assessing Risk:** Data privacy risk was successfully identified, assessed, and mitigated for the project. A privacy-first approach can produce interesting data while still respecting privacy.

**Data is Paramount:** Implementation of robust data privacy and security protections also introduced constraints around data management generally and perhaps avoidable data quality challenges. Data analysis was constrained by sensor outages and data quality issues. Operational support for data quality and data privacy risk management activities requires both skills and capacity.

**Partnerships Matter:** Trust building activities proved critical to leveraging the partners' skills and establishing the underpinnings for success with future initiatives. Flexibility is required when piloting new data-rich technology. Data analysis is a massive endeavor, one which highlighted the resource capacity gap within the County to support this type of work operationally.

### Privacy Panel Report

*The Safety and Innovation Zone Data Privacy Oversight Panel was formed for the purpose of gaining community input and oversight on the implementation of County privacy principles for the pilot. These are the Panel insights as summarized by a grant-funded Virginia Tech Panel member.*

**County-wide Adoption of Privacy Best Practices:** Develop a County-wide privacy policy utilizing the SIZ Project privacy principles as a starting point. Further community engagement would be appropriate to finalize the principles. Implement a county privacy program using the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) framework.

**Incorporate Privacy Risk:** - Incorporate the assumption of continuous risk management activities into the design of a County-wide privacy program. Consider updates to public engagement guidelines and partnering MOUs to address varying degrees of privacy risk.

## Lessons Learned Report

*The Safety and Innovation Zone Demonstration Project partners committed time to the pilot outcomes and the supporting processes. The partners collectively provided these insights and lessons learned.*

**Continuous improvement:** The project team documented improvements in work processes, learning perspectives, the selected technologies and their integration which will facilitate replication and scaling of similar efforts in the future.

**Visionary partnerships:** The project benefited from thought leadership from each partner, creating an opportunity to be at the forefront of the national dialogue on partnerships and privacy.

**Community engagement:** The Safety and Innovation Zone Data Privacy Oversight Panel provided a forum for community input and oversight and could also be an opportunity for engagement with the business community, business improvement districts and chambers of commerce.

**Early integration:** Engaging technology vendors as early in the process as possible will be helpful to communicate intended use cases and gain an understanding of their feasibility and timeline for introduction.