

AI-Assisted Police Reports Are Already Being Tested in Central Texas

By Villager staff

(AUSTIN, TX) - Law enforcement agencies in Central Texas have quietly entered a new phase of policing: the use of artificial intelligence to help draft police reports. What began as a limited pilot has grown into an emerging practice, with departments experimenting with tools that promise faster documentation, clearer narratives, and reduced administrative strain. The reality, however, is far more complicated.

The Hays County Sheriff’s Office is among the agencies testing Axon’s Draft One, an AI system that generates first-draft police reports from body-camera audio. After an officer plugs in their camera, the system transcribes the footage, asks a few clarifying prompts, and produces a narrative that the officer must review and correct. The tool is powered by a large language model similar to ChatGPT, and its output can vary widely depending on background noise, officer speech patterns, and the complexity of the incident.

Early tests have revealed both promise and pitfalls. Officers report that the system can reduce

hours of paperwork to minutes, freeing them to return to patrol or complete other tasks. But the technology has also produced errors and occasional “hallucinations,” including one widely circulated example from Utah in which an AI-generated report claimed an officer “turned into a frog” because The Princess and the Frog was playing nearby. Agencies testing the system emphasize that officers remain responsible for verifying every detail before signing their names to a report.

The trend is not limited to Central Texas. A national case study from the Council on Criminal Justice confirms that departments across the country are experimenting with AI-drafted reports built from body-camera data, voice notes, and officer transcripts. Vendors are racing to meet demand: Axon’s Draft One uses OpenAI’s technology, while Truleo’s Field Notes relies on Amazon Bedrock. Both companies market their tools as efficiency boosters, but both acknowledge the need for careful oversight.

Federal guidance is beginning to take shape.

The National Artificial Intelligence Advisory Committee has urged agencies to conduct real-world field testing, implement accuracy safeguards, and ensure that officers understand the limitations of AI-generated narratives. Civil-rights advocates warn that errors in police reports can have serious consequences, especially in communities already facing disproportionate policing. They argue that any technology capable of shaping official narratives must be scrutinized for bias, reliability, and transparency.

For now, AI-assisted report writing remains in a testing phase, but its trajectory is clear. Departments are looking for ways to streamline operations, and vendors are eager to supply tools that promise speed and consistency. Whether these systems ultimately strengthen or undermine public trust will depend on how they are deployed, monitored, and corrected.

What is certain is that the future of police documentation is already being written—and increasingly, the first draft is being written by a machine.

Northwest Austin’s Project Cosmos Quietly Emerges as a Major Data-Center Hub, Raising Neighborhood Alarm

By Thomas Wyatt | EIC, The Villager

(AUSTIN, TX) — Months after **SB Energy** assured **Northwest Austin** residents that the redevelopment of the former 3M campus would be an engineering and research facility, newly surfaced financial filings and construction activity now point to a very different reality: **Project Cosmos is becoming one of the region’s largest high-performance data centers**, with a power demand approaching 50 megawatts and a long-term lease valued in the billions.

The 1-million-square-foot campus at **6801 River Place Boulevard**, tucked between River Place and Four Points, has been under renovation since early 2024. For much of that time, SB Energy representatives described the project as an R&D hub anchored by Graphcore, the AI-chip company SoftBank acquired last year. But recent disclosures filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission tell a more expansive story, listing the Cos-

mos Technology Campus among SB Energy’s **active data-center developments** and identifying the site’s primary use as **data-center operations and office space**.

A separate filing details a **\$999 million financing package** for what is explicitly labeled a “high-performance computing data center,” along with a **15-year lease agreement** expected to generate **\$2.5 billion in rent**. Together, the documents confirm what neighbors long suspected: the redevelopment is not merely an engineering headquarters but a large-load digital infrastructure project with regional implications.

That revelation has intensified frustration among residents who say they were misled during early community meetings. Concerns now center **on noise, vibration, light pollution, water consumption, and the strain of a 50-megawatt facility on Austin’s electric grid**. Several residents have also questioned whether the city has adequate

oversight, noting that the former 3M campus was already zoned for research and development — a designation that allows data-center construction without triggering Austin’s newer regulatory framework.

City officials acknowledge that Cosmos falls outside recently drafted data-center rules, which were designed to address the explosive growth of high-capacity computing sites across Central Texas. Because SB Energy secured its permits before the rulemaking process began, the project is effectively grandfathered in.

SB Energy has maintained that Graphcore will anchor the campus and that the company is committed to environmental stewardship. But filings suggest Graphcore represents only one component of a much larger operation, and residents say the company’s reluctance to use the term “data center” has eroded trust.

Construction continues across the site, with heavy equipment visible from River Place Boulevard and a steady flow of contractors entering the property. More community meetings are expected as residents push for clearer disclosures, environmental safeguards, and independent monitoring of noise and utility impacts.

For now, Project Cosmos stands as one of the most consequential — and contentious — technology developments in Northwest Austin, a project whose true scale is only now coming into focus.



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