



## With Police Forces Stretched, Citizens Look To Private Security Firms

Startling statistics from police agencies around the country are clear: crime rates are up amid Covid-19. In fact, a report to the National Commission on Covid-19 and Criminal Justice reveals a steep increase in rates of violent crimes in several American cities.

Homicides and aggravated assaults rose beginning in late May and June 2020, according to the report. Homicide rates between June and August of 2020 increased by 53 percent over the same period in 2019, and aggravated assaults went up by 14 percent.

With many police forces pinched around the country, businesses and residents are turning to private security firms to fill in the gaps for safety and handle low-level crimes. Firms like New York-based Mulligan Security, where CEO Kevin Mulligan said he is receiving more requests in recent months.

“We have seen an increase in requests for security related services; guarding, access control, interior and exterior patrols and the like,” said Mulligan.

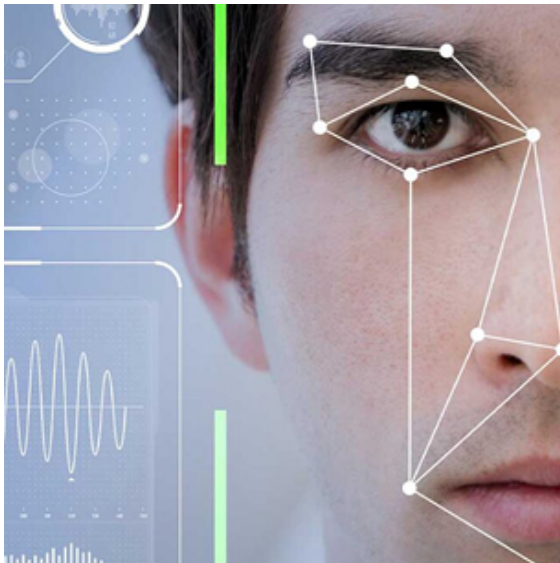
The increase in service requests, Mulligan noted, is due primarily to needs arising out of current events in his area, such as protests, political rallies, and demonstrations. Concerned property and facility managers, he said, want to prevent unanticipated and unintended consequences.

Mario Doyle of Doyle Security Services in New York is seeing an upswing in requests around residential safety needs fueling a lot of his business lately.

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## Poll Finds Most Americans Support Facial Recognition

A new poll fielded by the Security Industry Association (SIA) finds most Americans approve of facial recognition technology.

The poll of 1,000 American adults finds 59 percent said they approve of the technology and 68 percent say they think it can make society safer.

The support rises significantly when it comes to specific public and private sector applications, said SIA officials in a release on the news.



## Prepping For Holiday Safety, NRF Launches Covid Training Sessions

The NRF Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the National Retail Federation, is offering two new credentials as part of its RISE Up program in response to the coronavirus pandemic. The programs focus on safe retail operations and conflict de-escalation, according to NRF officials.

The organization said in a release that the Covid-19 Retail Operations credential will train customer-facing retail workers, distribution center workers and job seekers to help safely operate during the pandemic.

Among sectors, results broke down as follows:

- Airlines – 75 percent support
- Security at Office Buildings – 70 percent support
- TSA and Airport Security – 69 percent support...

“Designed to assist retailers meet state and local requirements for Covid-19 trainings, the course helps educate employees to recognize Covid-19 symptoms, take appropriate actions if exposed and understand CDC best health practices and tools used in retail,” said the NRF statement...

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