A majority of New Jersey residents support the New York City Police Department’s surveillance of Muslims, according to a Rutgers-Eagleton Poll released Thursday.

Almost half of the people polled said they believed the NYPD’s monitoring of Muslim communities in New York and New Jersey was needed to protect Americans, while 32 percent said it was a violation of civil liberties.

But in Hudson and Essex counties, where much of the surveillance took place, only 37 percent of the people polled backed the surveillance while 44 percent saw it as a violation of civil liberties.

The Masjid Omar Mosque on Getty Avenue was one of the mosques in New Jersey that was under surveillance, according to a report by the New York police.

New York officers videotaped and photographed worshipers at Masjid Omar Mosque and also recorded license plate numbers of people who attended Friday prayers there, the report said.

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Paterson