

A Timeline of LAPD Spying and Surveillance

July 1923 - LAPD Officer William "Red" Hynes infiltrates the International Workers of the World (IWW) union. Hynes, a young LAPD officer, is assigned to infiltrate the IWW and the Communist Party. He becomes editor of the IWW's journal and secretary of the strike committee during a 1923 strike at the Port of Los Angeles.¹

July 1927 - William "Red" Hynes named head of LAPD's "Red Squad." Hynes worked closely with business owners and the Merchants and Manufacturers Association to identify and remove those perceived as radicals. He made money on the side as a private investigator, and sold information from police files to businesses.²

August 5, 1927 – LAPD officers, working in conjunction with mob boss Alfred Marco, pay the sister-in-law of an LAPD detective \$2500 to seduce married City Council member Carl Jacobson in an effort to discredit him. Jacobson had been critical of the close connection between LAPD and criminals running gambling rings in the city. Police officers arrest Jacobson just before he and the woman get into bed, but during the trial it became apparent that Jacobson was entrapped and the charges are dropped.³

January 14, 1938 - LAPD officers plant a bomb in the car of Harry Raymond, who is investigating police ties with organized crime. Prior to the bombing, LAPD's intelligence Squad, led by Earl Kynette, had surveilled Raymond for several months as he performed investigations of the LAPD for a citizens group (CIVIC) that was pushing for reform of the department. The squad had spied over 50 other people, including the district attorney and all five county supervisors, in the course of their investigation of Raymond and CIVIC. Kynette was convicted for his role in the bombing, and the Intelligence Division was disbanded.⁴

Late 1969 - James Jarrett, an undercover LAPD officer with the Criminal Conspiracy Section (CSS), begins working with a group of activists called The Friends of the Black Panthers. When two members, Donald Freed and Shirley Sutherland, ask for assistance in purchasing pepper spray for self-defense, Jarrett instead brings them explosives stolen from a Navy arsenal. Minutes after Jarrett leaves the explosives with Freed at his home, FBI, LAPD and Treasury Department agents raid the home and arrested Freed and Sutherland. The LAPD then used a man named Sam Bluth to spy on the defense by working as an investigator for the defense attorney. The case against the Freed and Sutherland is dismissed when a U.S. Attorney working on the case finds the police notes indicating that the defense had been infiltrated.⁵

¹ Donner, Frank (1990), *Protectors of Privilege*, Los Angeles: University of California Press, pp. 59-61.

² Donner, Frank (1990), *Protectors of Privilege*, Los Angeles: University of California Press, pp. 59-61.

³ Domanick, Joe (1994), *To Protect and Serve*, New York: Pocket Books, pp. 54-55.

⁴ Domanick, Joe (1994), *To Protect and Serve*, New York: Pocket Books, pp. 76-78.

⁵ Donner, Frank (1990), *Protectors of Privilege*, Los Angeles: University of California Press, p. 261-64. Dean, Paul (1995), "Mr. Tough Guy : An extremist? Hardly. But James Jarrett--militia expert--knows how to get inside their heads." *Los Angeles Times*, May 26, 1995.

December 9, 1969 – The headquarters of the Black Panthers is raided and several members are arrested. At the trial of those arrested, Melvin “Cotton” Smith, the third ranking member of the group, and Louis Tackwood, are revealed to be informant for the LAPD Criminal Conspiracy Section (CCS) who had been sent to infiltrate the Black Panther Party in Los Angeles. Smith, who testified for the prosecution, claimed that he did so to avoid prosecution, but Tackwood testified that Smith was his contact in the organization when he first infiltrated the group. Tackwood was also used by the LAPD to funnel money to Ron Karenga’s US organization in another attempt to remove support from the Black Panthers.⁶

1970 - The Public Disorders Investigation Division (PDID) is established. Chief Ed Davis establishes the PDID as a separate division from the Intelligence Division, of which it had previously been a part. The PDID will be responsible for most of the surveillance abuses of the 1970’s.⁷

January 1970 - Sgt. Robert G. Thoms, an LAPD community relations officer, charged in a hearing at the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee that 94 individuals were part of an interlocking leadership organization at the head of 47 groups that were “subversive” or “tools of subversion.” These charges and the release of material from intelligence dossiers on these groups, all of which were social agencies and nonprofit groups, were really just part of an attempt to undermine various social agencies and nonprofit groups, two of which, the Congress of Mexican Unity and the Black Congress, were denied funding or lost outside monetary support.⁸

February 20, 1970 - Two Public Disorders Investigation Division (PDID) members, Harry Ted Kozak and Steven MacMurray, posed as student members of “radical groups” (including SDS) at UCLA, in order to get information on campus student movements. Kozak was briefly arrested for “playing provocative roles in [a] demonstration” before revealing his true identity and role. A third man, identified as only Stephen Smith, was also an undercover agent. Because the undercover agents had posed as students, the UCLA Faculty Senate brought a lawsuit against LAPD and won its case in California Supreme Court, which declared undercover police in classrooms to be an assault on academic freedom.⁹

April 1970 – The LA Times reports on Seymour Meyerson, an activist against police abuses, who was subject to five years of surveillance and harassment by the LAPD. Among other actions, one of those spying on him, Det. Clifford Ruff, anonymously called in a report to police that Meyerson was waving a gun in his house while children were nearby. Police brought Meyerson out of his home at gunpoint, but found no gun. Meyerson successfully sued the LAPD for \$27,000, but Ruff did not suffer any consequences.¹⁰

⁶ Donner, Frank (1990), *Protectors of Privilege*, Los Angeles: University of California Press, pp. 264-65.

⁷ Donner, Frank (1990), *Protectors of Privilege*, Los Angeles: University of California Press, pp. 255-56.

⁸ Blake, Gene (1970), "Community Groups Deny Police Charge of Links to Violence," *Los Angeles Times*, March 25, 1970 p. A1.

⁹ Donner, Frank (1990), *Protectors of Privilege*, Los Angeles: University of California Press, pp. 256-57.

¹⁰ Editorial (1970), "Good Judgment: Missing In Action," *Los Angeles Times*, April 19, 1970, p. C10.

May 1970 – LA City Council members John S. Gibson, Jr. and Arthur Snyder compile a dossier from various LAPD ‘red files’ as support for their contention that some federally-funded anti-poverty programs were “aiding and abetting militant groups.” They provide dossier as briefing material to members of the LA Chamber of Commerce who were lobbying federal legislators to deny funding to these organizations.¹¹

March 10, 1971 – The LAPD admits that in 1969 it allowed writer from Look Magazine to look at supposedly secret files from its intelligence division in 1969 for article on San Francisco mayor Samuel Alioto. It is unclear why the LAPD had files on the San Francisco mayor.¹²

1972 – A lawsuit reveals that LA Trade Tech College administration had spied on campus activists and groups with wiretaps and assembled dossiers on them, which they then passed on to Public Disorders Investigation Division (PDID). Groups on whom surveillance was carried out included women’s liberation groups and SCLC.¹³

1974-75 LAPD officer Edward Camarillo, who infiltrated several activist groups in the Los Angeles area from 1974 to 1978, filed reports with the Public Disorders Investigation Division (PDID) on meetings in 1974 and 1975 between Tom Bradley and the United Farm Workers (UFW) about support for the UFW boycott of Gallo wines. Reasons for spying on the mayor and the union are unclear since the police report itself noted that UFW protesters were non-violent. When report of spying became public in 1981, then-Chief Daryl Gates dismissed it as “inconsequential trivia.”¹⁴

1974-1979 – LAPD officer Richard Gibbey infiltrates the anti-nuclear group the Alliance for Survival and the Socialist Worker’s Party. His cover is blown when he shows up in uniform to a burglary investigation at the home of a former head of the Socialist Worker’s Party.¹⁵

1975-1979 – LAPD officer Frank Montelongo infiltrated various Native American Activist groups, including the American Indian Movement, Los Angeles. He loses his cover when members of some of the groups he had infiltrated saw him in uniform. In the four years that he was spying, he found no evidence of illegal activities.¹⁶

April 1975 – Los Angeles Police Commission announces that it will destroy Public Disorders Intelligence Division files, which covered 55,000 people. Files were not really destroyed, just hidden (see entry for September 1983 below), and 2,500 were left active.

¹¹ Donner, Frank (1990), *Protectors of Privilege*, Los Angeles: University of California Press, p. 259.

¹² Drummond, William J. (1971) "Police Admit Opening Files for Writer on Alioto," *Los Angeles Times*, March 11, 1971.

¹³ Jones, Jack (1972), "Suit Claims Police at Junior Colleges Spied on Activists," *Los Angeles Times*, Mar 21, 1972.

¹⁴ Sappell, Joel (1981), "L.A. Police Scrutiny of Private Meeting Revealed" *Los Angeles Times*, November 18, 1981.

¹⁵ Johnston, David (1981), "LAPD Spying Issue Raised in ACLU Suit," *Los Angeles Times*, July 16, 1981 p. A1.

¹⁶ Johnston, David (1981), "Southland Indian Groups Infiltrated by Police Spy," *Los Angeles Times*, November 21, 1980.

The removal of files took away the opportunity of surveillance subjects to check on why police were observing them.¹⁷

September 1976 – LAPD officer infiltrates Chicano activist group the Brown Berets. Lieutenant Fernando Sumaya infiltrates the Brown Berets, a Chicano activist organization. Brown Berets charge that Sumaya was an agent provocateur and responsible for setting fires around downtown LA when Governor Reagan was giving a speech, and had planned to detonate explosives in the area. Brown Beret members charged with crimes related to the fires are acquitted because of Sumaya's role in inciting violence.¹⁸

June 17, 1977 - Public Disorders Intelligence Division officer Connie Milazzo, who had infiltrated the left-wing Progressive Labor Party (PLP), was arrested at a PLP protest that turned into a brawl. Two months later her identity was revealed and charges against her were dropped, while eight others in the group were sent to trial. The PLP defendants were acquitted because Milazzo was present at meetings between the defendants and their attorneys, and because the police did not want to reveal more of Milazzo's clandestine activities.

Shortly thereafter (August 13, 1977), she married Jon Dial, a long-time activist in many movements, who had disappeared in early 1977. It is suspected that Dial was also a spy.¹⁹

1978 – The Citizens' Commission on Police Repression (CCPR) releases a leaked memo from LAPD that lists political and social groups ranked according to their supposed propensity for violence. Included on list along with groups like the Ku Klux Klan are the Southern Christian Leadership Council, United Farm Workers and National Organization for Women.²⁰

February 25, 1978 – A three man taping crew from LAPD records a city council meeting at which protesters are speaking against a proposed nuclear power plant. LAPD at first claimed that filming was for "training purposes," then claimed, without evidence, that they were expecting violent protesters at the meeting and wanted to get record of violent actions. Although the city council president claimed that the taping was allowable, others on the council were extremely upset at the apparent attempt to quash free and open speech.²¹

May 1, 1980 – Fabian Lizarraga, an undercover agent with the LAPD who has infiltrated the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP), helps to instigate a riot at a rally the RCP holds in MacArthur Park. While undercover, Lizarraga slept with an RCP member as a way to get more information from her. He was also present when an RCP member was murdered at Aliso Village housing project by gang members. Attorneys for RCP claimed

¹⁷ Hazlett, Bill (1975) "Police Purge Nearly 2 Million Dossiers," *Los Angeles Times*, April 12, 1975.

¹⁸ Donner, Frank (1990), *Protectors of Privilege*, Los Angeles: University of California Press, p. 271.

¹⁹ Farr, Bill "Suspect Cleared: She's A Policewoman" *Los Angeles Times*, August 5, 1977. Rosenzweig, Dave (1978), "Vanished Leftist Activist Believed Alive And Wed" *Los Angeles Times*, March 15, 1978 B1.

²⁰ Thompson, Elizabeth (1978), "Police Spying' On Local Groups Charged," *Los Angeles Times*, July 19, 1978 D1.

²¹ Shutt, Doug (1978), "Photographers at Council" *Los Angeles Times*, March 1, 1978 p. A3. Shutt, Doug (1978), "Police Taking Photos of A-Plant Critics Ousted," *Los Angeles Times*, March 1, 1978 p. B1.

that LAPD intentionally stayed away from the area while the RCP was there because they suspected that the group members would be attacked.²²

1982 – Documents released because of lawsuits against LAPD reveal that Chief Gates, who had earlier claimed that the LAPD had no interest in the CCPR, was frequently briefed on the group's activities and members. The spying occurred despite internal police rules against conducting surveillance on peaceful groups.²³

June 1982 – LAPD is sued for spying on students at Cal State LA. Documents also show that police had infiltrated student groups at Cal State Northridge.²⁴

October 11, 1982 – Documents are released showing that the LAPD spied on a police watchdog group, Coalition Against Police Abuse (CAPA) from 1976-1980, a period after the department had agreed not to spy on groups engaging in constitutionally protected activities. Despite claims that they were only looking for potential terrorist activity, reports sent to the chief of police by the four undercover officers who infiltrated the group focused on internal politics of the group, meeting with public officials and other protected activities.²⁵

1983 - After numerous scandals and lawsuits stemming from the division's illegal surveillance activities, the LAPD disbands the Public Disorders Investigation Division (PDID) and assigns surveillance functions to the Anti-Terrorism division. The change is intended to end unauthorized surveillance of peaceful individuals and groups.²⁶

September 1983 – LAPD detective Jay Paul is revealed to have kept 180 boxes of surveillance files in a mobile home, and to have leaked some to right wing group. An independent attorney hired to look into spying charges concerning Public Disorders Investigation Division (PDID) finds that Paul, with the approval and assistance of supervisors and fellow officers, hid surveillance files that were meant to be destroyed. Among the files in the hidden boxes were reports on members of the Police Commission and a judge, Jerry Pacht.

Paul is also found to have been supplying LAPD surveillance information to the right-wing group Western Goals. Paul entered information on a computer system at his wife's law office provided by Western Goals. Paul's wife was paid by the organization, although Paul himself was not. The computerized files were available to be accessed by police departments whose internal rules prevented them from collecting and maintaining files on peaceful groups. Paul and other LAPD officers in the PDID had also been using Western Goal's periodical Information Digest to obtain information on perceived "communitic" threats.²⁷

²² Johnston, David (1982), "Use of Special Prosecutor Urged: Revolutionaries want probe of LAPD undercover operation," *Los Angeles Times*, Dec. 12, 1982 pg. C1.

²³ Johnston, David and Joel Sappell (1982), "Police Spying Data Was Channeled to Top Brass," *Los Angeles Times*, October 11, 1982 p. B1.

²⁴ Donner, Frank (1990), *Protectors of Privilege*, Los Angeles: University of California Press, p. 281.

²⁵ Johnston, David and Joel Sappell (1982), "Police Spying Data Was Channeled to Top Brass," *Los Angeles Times*, Oct. 11, 1982 p. B1.

²⁶ Donner, Frank (1990), *Protectors of Privilege*, Los Angeles: University of California Press, p. 285.

²⁷ Sappell, Joel (1983), "Police Spy Unit Hid Work as Part of Policy, Council Told," *Los Angeles Times*, September 29, 1983. Sappell, Joel (1983), "Detective in Spy Case Linked to Birch Leader," *Los Angeles Times*, May 24, 1983 p. B1.

March 26, 1984 - At a hearing concerning Jay Paul's misconduct, PDID officer Perry Hutchison reveals, that he had passed information on to Exxon, and also traded surveillance information with Security National Bank, by whom he was paid as a consultant.²⁸

February 1989 – LAPD Assistant Chief Paul Vernon asks the Anti-Terrorist Division to print out files on police watchdog Michael Zinzun, a former member of Citizens Committee Against Police Repression (CCPR) and Coalition Against Police Abuse (CAPA), in order to discredit him as a candidate for Pasadena city council. Vernon distributed the information three days before the election, noting that it came from the Anti-Terrorist Division. Zinzun, successfully sues the city for defamation in 1994. Zinzun had previously been a member of the 1982 ACLU suit against the city and LAPD that led to numerous revelations of police misconduct and the eventual dismantling of the Public Disorders Intelligence Division (PDID).²⁹

January 1992 – Because LAPD is unwilling to reveal the involvement of the Anti-Terrorist Division in their arrests, Los Angeles prosecutors drop charges against members of the Revolutionary Communist Party who had participated in protests against the police.³⁰

July 29, 1993 - Investigation announced into the possibility that LAPD passed information on Arab groups to Anti-Defamation League (ADL). The computer of Roy Bullock, an investigator for the ADL, contained information that could only have come from police. People protesting at the ADL's offices accuse the LAPD of sending a plainclothes officer to photograph them.³¹

April 1995 – The Los Angeles Police Commission approves a relaxation of the surveillance rules put in place after revelations of Public Disorders Investigation Division (PDID) misconduct in the early 1980's. The move allows the department more freedom to use electronic surveillance devices in the early stages of investigations and lowers the standard for opening an investigation from “probable cause” to “reasonable suspicion.” Plainclothes surveillance of suspects is now automatically approved, and undercover spying is allowed with the consent of the chief.³²

August 17, 2000 – Numerous undercover LAPD officers infiltrate protests at the Democratic convention held in Los Angeles. Their orders are not only to look out for weapons, vandalism and other illegal activities and objects, but to keep superiors informed of protesters plans and movements.³³

²⁸ Donner, Frank (1990), *Protectors of Privilege*, Los Angeles: University of California Press, p. 287.

²⁹ Freed, David, William Overend (1989) "Gates Reprimands Aide For Using LAPD Files for Political Research," *Los Angeles Times*, February 16, 1989 p. A1.

³⁰ Stolberg, Shery (1992) "LAPD Drops Radicals' Case Rather than Reveal Data," *Los Angeles Times*, February 1, 1992 p. A1.

³¹ Newton, Jim (1993) "LAPD Link to Spy Case Investigated," *Los Angeles Times*, June 30, 1993 p. B1.

³² Newton, Jim (1996). "LAPD Pushing to Relax Limits on Undercover Probes; Enforcement," *Los Angeles Times*, October 11, 1996 p. A1.

³³ Shuster, Beth (2000) "Campaign 2000: Officer Keep Eye on Protesters From Within," *Los Angeles Times*, August 18, 2000 p. A1.

January 2004 – LAPD installs surveillance cameras in MacArthur Park.³⁴

October 2004 – LAPD begins installation of cameras in Hollywood. Eventually 64 cameras are placed along Hollywood, Sunset and Santa Monica Boulevards and Western Avenue. Some of the cameras are paid for by the Hollywood Entertainment District Business Improvement District.³⁵

May 2005 – LAPD announces plan to install cameras in the Fashion District of Downtown Los Angeles. The cameras are paid for by the Motion Picture Association of America because of the area's reputation as a site where bootlegged movies are sold on the street.³⁶

September 2005 – LAPD begins installing more than a dozen cameras in the Jordan Downs housing project.³⁷

September 2006 – LAPD installs 10 cameras in the Skid Row area of downtown Los Angeles. The Central City East Business Improvement District pays for the purchase and installation of the cameras.³⁸

February 2009 – LAPD installs five surveillance cameras, paid for by a local Business Improvement District, in Sherman Oaks. Cameras are located at Calhoun and Ventura Blvd; Cedros and Ventura Blvd (2); Van Nuys Blvd and Ventura Blvd; and Milbank and Van Nuys Blvd.³⁹

June 2010 – Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa announces a plan to have a total of 125 cameras installed at LA housing projects, including Nickerson Gardens, Imperial Courts, Jordan Downs and Ramona Gardens. Cameras are paid for with federal stimulus funds. Ten of the cameras have license plate recognition technology.⁴⁰

May 2011 – LAPD installs surveillance cameras in area of North Hills bounded by Nordhoff, Roscoe, the 405 Freeway and Van Nuys Boulevard. The cameras are powerful enough to be able to zoom in on a license plate two blocks away.⁴¹

May 2011 – LAPD begins using cameras in its helicopter fleet that are powerful enough to recognize an object in a person's hand from thousands of feet in the air.⁴²

³⁴ <http://www.eweek.com/c/a/Government-IT/LAPD-Systems-Keep-an-Eye-on-Crime/>

³⁵ www.ics.uci.edu/~redmiles/ics131-FQ04/week05bPrivacy/LATimes20041028Surveillance.PDF

³⁶ http://www.lapdonline.org/may_2005/news_view/20096

³⁷ Winton, Richard (2005), "LAPD to Train Cameras on High-Crime Area in Watts," Los Angeles Times, September 23, 2005.

<http://articles.latimes.com/2005/sep/23/local/me-cameras23>

³⁸ Winton, Richard (2006), "LAPD Adds 10 Camera to Curb Skid Row Crime," Los Angeles Times, September 15, 2006.

<http://articles.latimes.com/2006/sep/15/local/me-cameras15>

³⁹ http://laist.com/2009/02/04/lapd_cameras_go_live_in_sherman_oak.php

⁴⁰ <http://www.scpr.org/news/2010/06/24/16494/lapd-dramatically-increase-use-surveillance-camera/>

⁴¹ <http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2011/04/25/lapd-installs-9-surveillance-cameras-in-north-hills/>

⁴² <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/los-angeles-police-department-deploys-cineflex-hd-aerial-surveillance-camera-system-for-airborne-law-enforcement-55022972.html>