



# Stop LAPD Spying Coalition

March 23, 2015

Dear Commissioner Kathleen Kim:

On behalf of the Stop LAPD Spying Coalition, we are deeply disappointed about your disregard and failure to meaningfully respond to community concerns regarding the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). Concerns that were thoroughly highlighted and substantiated in the coalition's February 24, 2015 letter<sup>1</sup> to the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners.

The aforementioned coalition letter included some of the recent examples of LAPD's programs and actions that will have severe negative impact on the long term health and wellbeing of Angelenos. On March 3, 2015 the commission responded<sup>2</sup> with total lack of sensitivity and any proactive measures, and instead affirmed full support to LAPD's actions and programs. As a reminder following are some of communities' concerns highlighted in the letter:

1. Denial of racial profiling evidenced by the recent Inspector General audit<sup>3</sup> of LAPD Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) program.
2. Sham "community hearings" on Body Cameras.
3. Increased militarization with acquisition of Drones. Repeatedly Chief Charlie Beck and the commission were publicly exposed misrepresenting and lying.<sup>4</sup>
4. Sabotaging "corrective actions" taken by the department in response to the federal consent decree.<sup>5</sup>

Since your appointment to the LA Board of Police Commissioners in 2013, communities across Los Angeles have implored, demanded, petitioned, and presented evidence of several instances of violation of community members' human and civil rights by the LAPD. Furthermore communities have also approached and reminded you of your obligation to take meaningful and corrective action as a representative of the community, but unfortunately you have and continue to be unresponsive and dismissive of the community.

Your scholarship as a Law Professor<sup>6</sup> investigating the intersection of immigration law, workplace rights, civil rights, and the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment offer you deep insight into the impact on marginalized communities resulting from laws that criminalize and deem people suspect in perpetuity, yet when communities raise concerns about LAPD criminalizing simple acts of taking photographs or using video cameras in public

<sup>1</sup> <http://stoplapdspying.org/letter-to-l-a-police-commission/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://stoplapdspying.org/commission-response-to-the-letter/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://stoplapdspying.org/review-of-suspicious-activity-reports-fiscal-year-20132014/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/readersreact/la-le-1122-saturday-aclu-drones-20141122-story.html>

<sup>5</sup> <http://articles.latimes.com/2014/apr/07/local/la-me-lapd-tamper-20140408>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.ils.edu/aboutus/facultyadministration/faculty/facultylisth-k/kimkathleen/>

resulting from the Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) program, you fail to investigate these concerns and applaud LAPD on their violation of our basic human and civil rights.

Your pioneering civil litigation efforts on behalf of human trafficking survivors are commendable but when evidence of LAPD policies are presented to you that trace, track and police our bodies, such as sharing of secret files on individuals who are completely unaware of such actions against them, you give complete deference to LAPD without questioning and investigating the long term impact of these policies on Angelenos.

In closing we would again like to remind you of the caution highlighted in the coalition's February 24<sup>th</sup> letter – *The country and the city of Los Angeles are at a critical juncture in history. Increasingly people are feeling frustrated, angry, and disillusioned by the façade of civilian oversight and bodies such as the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners.*

We sincerely hope that you pay heed to the concerns and issues we raise. We look forward to hearing back from you and request a meeting between you and members of the Stop LAPD Spying Coalition at your earliest availability.

Should you have any questions please feel free to email at [stoplapdspying@gmail.com](mailto:stoplapdspying@gmail.com) or call at (562) 230-4578.

Sincerely,



Hamid Khan

Cc:

Richard Tefank – Executive Director, Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners

Eric Garcetti – Mayor, City of Los Angeles

Ana Guerrero – Chief of Staff, Mayor of Los Angeles