



Stop LAPD Spying Coalition

March 23, 2015

Dear Commissioner Robert Saltzman:

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 letter¹ 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 responded² 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 audit³ 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.⁴
4. Sabotaging "corrective actions" taken by the department in response to the federal consent decree.⁵

Since your appointment to the LA Board of Police Commissioners in 2007, 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 knowledge as a Law Professor⁶ engaged in the study of legal and professional ethics should clearly instruct you to pay close attention to unprofessional conduct and ethical violations at LAPD, yet when LAPD officers violate and sabotage corrective actions in response to the federal consent decree, you failed to engage and demand thorough investigation on the deeper impact of these ethical violations.

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

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

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

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

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

⁶ <http://weblaw.usc.edu/contact/contactInfo.cfm?detailID=301>

Furthermore your prior experience as Vice President of the City Ethics Commission should raise alarm when evidence of misrepresentation by LAPD Chief Charlie Beck and the police commission itself are brought to your attention. Chief Beck repeatedly lied⁷ about his “staff meeting with the ACLU to develop policies” on the use of Drones.

Your public acknowledgement of your sexual orientation is inspiring and exemplary, yet when communities’ have brought LAPD’s disproportionate and racist impact on communities of color and other marginalized communities, you remain silent and fail to take into account the human impact and violence wrought upon these communities by policies such as Safer Cities Initiative and Suspicious Activity Reporting.

In closing we would again like to remind you of the caution highlighted in the coalition’s February 24th 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 or call at (562) 230-4578.

Sincerely,



Hamid Khan
Stop LAPD Spying Coalition

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

⁷ <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/la-oe-newton-column-lapd-drones-20141117-column.html>