



# Stop LAPD Spying Coalition

March 23, 2015

Dear Commissioner Sandra Figueroa-Villa:

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 well-being 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.

As an Executive Director of a non-profit agency that primarily works with immigrant communities you have deep insight into the criminalization and demonization of immigrants. Families have been separated and displaced due to racist and discriminatory policies. You are also familiar with the partnership between federal immigration authorities and local law enforcement agencies that has resulted in record deportations. Yet when communities bring to your attention policies like LAPD Suspicious Activity Reporting, a federal/local partnership program that has resulted in criminalization of innocent individuals you remain silent, and allow and endorse such programs.

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<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>

Over the last several years border communities have been target of massive militarization and the pervasive use of destructive technology like Drones, yet you've remained completely silent when LAPD continues to arm itself with advanced military hardware and has now acquired Drones.

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  
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