



Stop LAPD Spying Coalition

March 23, 2015

Dear Commissioner President Steve Soboroff:

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

After your appointment and election as president to the LA Board of Police Commissioners in 2013, communities felt encouraged by your diverse set of experience as a "civic and business leader"⁶ in Los Angeles. Over the last several months, 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 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 experience with Big Brothers of Greater Los Angeles should be a guide to how young people of color and their families are being adversely impacted by LAPD. Your participation with the Weingart Foundation, a philanthropic institution serving the needs of southern California, provides an opportunity

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://stevesoboroff.com/>

to critically investigate and intervene in LAPD's actions and programs that continue to stunt and negatively affect the physical health and emotional well-being of Angelenos.

Your positions as Senior advisor to the California Science center, Chairman of the ParksSave campaign, senior fellow at the UCLA school of public affairs, member of the board of councilors at the USC school of planning and public policy, President of the Los Angeles recreation and parks commission, and many other positions of "civic and business leadership" offer you tremendous insight to better understand barriers and challenges communities face when their fundamental human and civil rights are being denied by an institution like the LAPD and people are forcefully silenced.

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