



## **SECRET FILES, SURVEILLANCE, SPYING, AND INFILTRATION**

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*LAPD Special Order 17, the iWATCH program and Intelligence Gathering Guidelines criminalize innocent behavior, breakdown trust, invade privacy, promote racial profiling, waste of resources, and provoke violence*

**[www.stoplapdspying.org](http://www.stoplapdspying.org)**

# Guiding Principles

- Not a moment in time but a continuation of history
  - CointelPro, Red Squads, Public Disorder Intelligence Division
- Creation of the “Other”
- De-sensationalize the rhetoric of national security.
- Anchored in Human Rights

# **SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING (SAR) PROGRAM**

- **2004 Congress passes Intelligence Reform Terrorism Prevention Act – mandating the President to create the “Information Sharing Environment” (ISE).**
- **January 2008 – National Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative begins**

# **THE ARCHITECTURE OF LAPD SURVEILLANCE**

- **Primary Tactic: Intelligence Led Policing (ILP) - “speculative policing.”** The process involves planning the outcomes an agency wants to achieve:
  - **Collection of information;**
  - **Processing and analysis of information;**
  - **Sharing and dissemination of information to other agencies.**

# AND HOW IS SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY DEFINED?

- Suspicious Activity
  - “observed behavior reasonably indicative of pre-operational planning related to terrorism or other criminal activity”
- Behavioral Surveillance: Distinguishing between suspicious and non-suspicious acts through implicit bias
- Reasonable indication
  - an unprecedented, vague and meaningless standard

# SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING (SAR) PROGRAM (CONT)

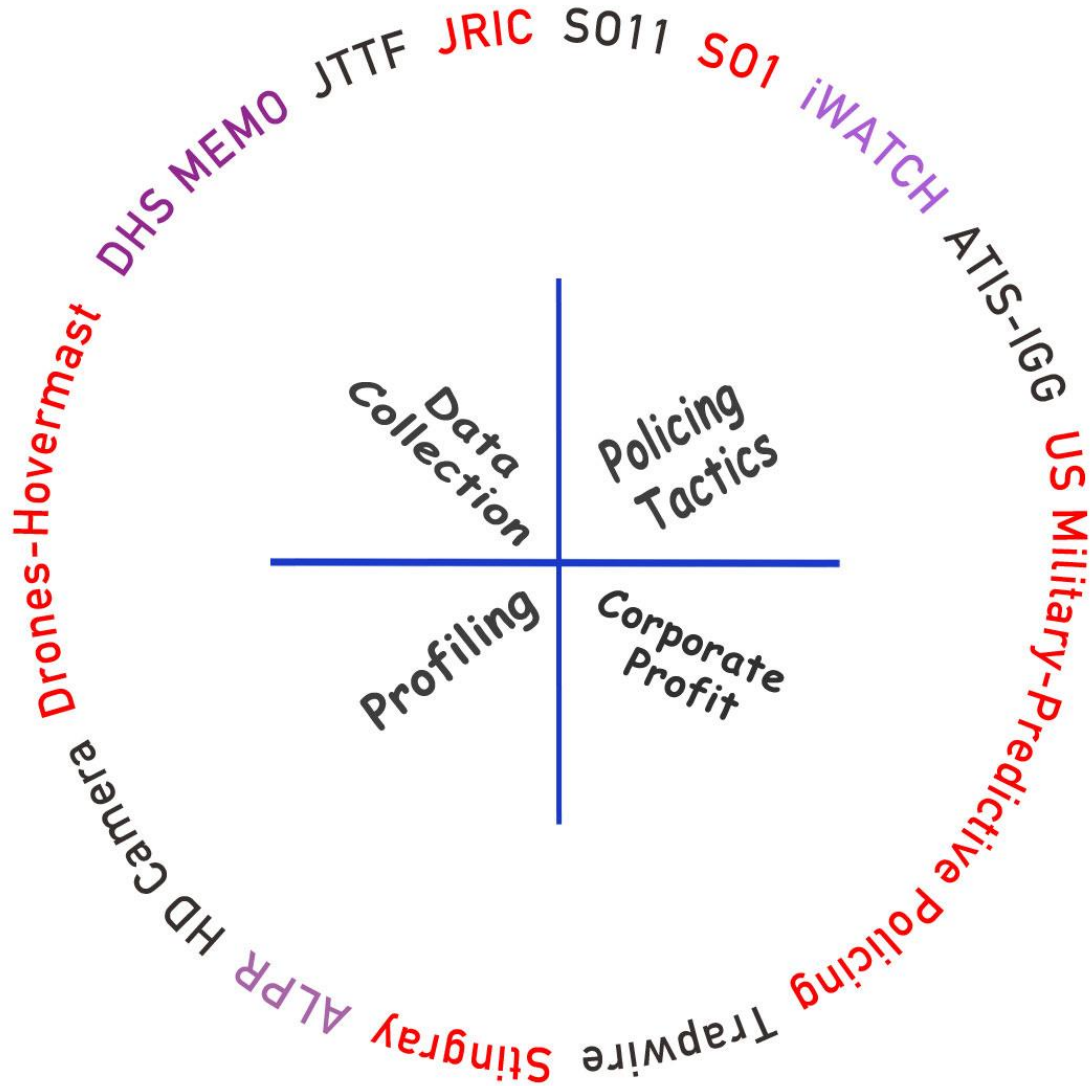
March 2008 – LAPD Chief Bill Bratton issues Special Order 11, which outlined the process for filing a Suspicious Activity Report (SAR), and specified types of activities/behaviors considered suspicious including:

- taking pictures
- taking videos
- using binoculars
- drawing diagrams
- taking notes
- walking into an office and asking about hours of operations
- .....and many more every day innocent activities



# **SO 11 GETS REVISED:**

- **January 2012, Special Order 11 is revised to Special Order (SO) 1. No significant change**
- **August 2012, the current Chief of LAPD Charlie Beck issues second revision as Special Order 17**
  - SO 17 still includes all of the non-criminal behavior as suspicious activity
- **October 2009 LAPD launches the iWATCH – “See Something, Say Something” program, promoting community and neighborhood involvement in reporting “suspicious activity” to LAPD**
  - Basically asking people to snitch on each other



***THE ARCHITECTURE OF LAPD SURVEILLANCE***



# THE PROCESS OF COLLECTING AND MONTORING (1)

1) A police officer observes “something suspicious” and fills out a **SAR – Suspicious Activity Report**. Under Special Order 1 this means reporting non-criminal activities such as taking a picture of a building, drawing or painting a landmark, drawing diagrams or taking notes in public, using binoculars or inquiring about a building’s hours of operation

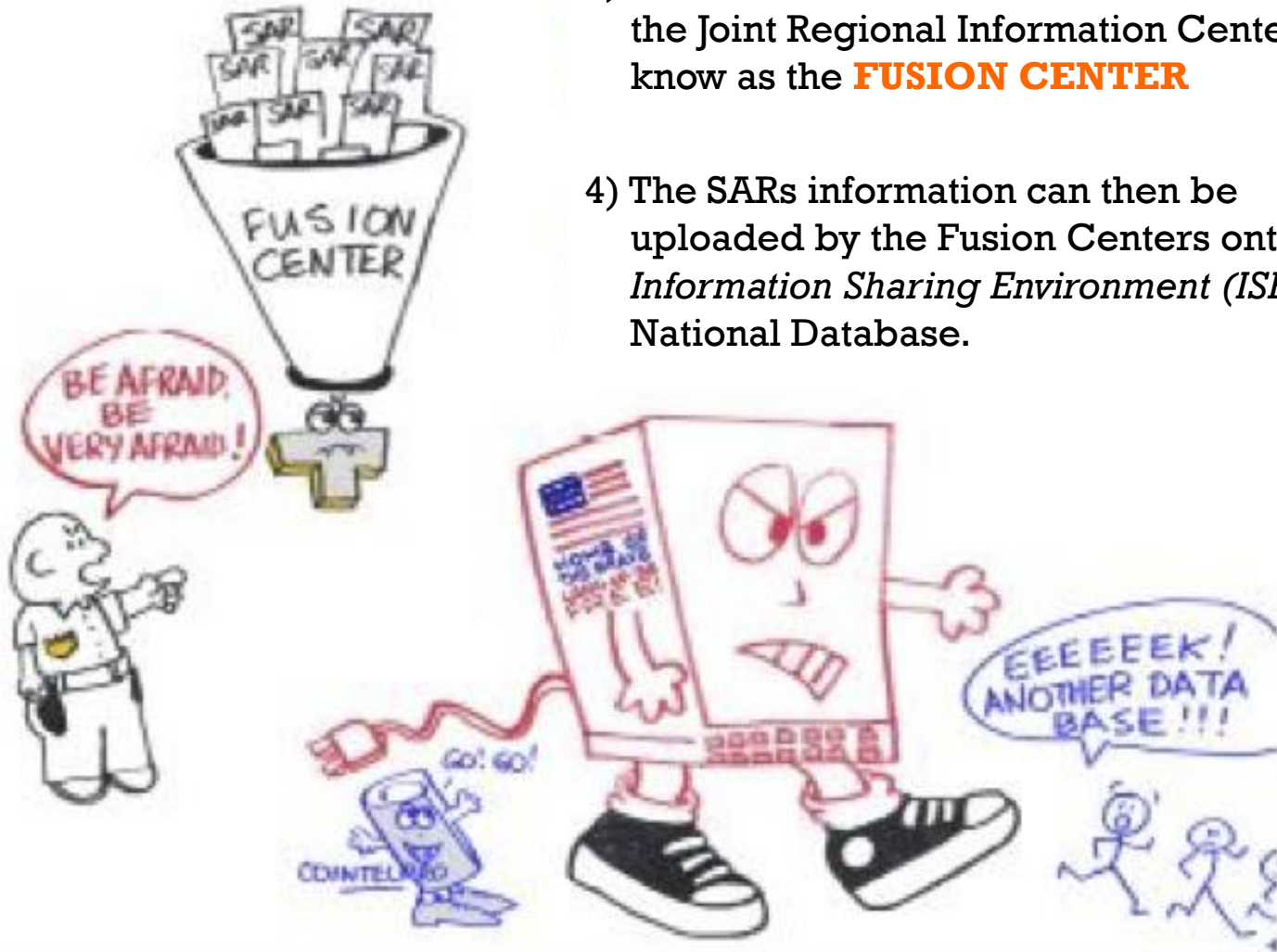
2) All SARs are sent to the Counter Terrorism Special Operations Bureau (CTSOB) of the LAPD’s Major Crimes Division (MCD).



# THE PROCESS OF COLLECTING AND MONITORING (2)

3) The SARs information is often shared with the Joint Regional Information Center also known as the **FUSION CENTER**

4) The SARs information can then be uploaded by the Fusion Centers onto the *Information Sharing Environment (ISE)*, a National Database.



# FUSION CENTERS

- Fusion Centers are hubs which tie local collectors and users of intelligence data into a National Information Sharing Environment (ISE).
- LA's Fusion Center is officially known as the Joint Regional Intelligence Center (JRIC)- located in Norwalk, CA
- There are an estimated 85 Fusion Centers around the country.
- Once a SAR has been uploaded by a Fusion Center on to the ISE, it becomes accessible to tens of thousands of agencies in the country
- For instance, the reports are shared with more than 18,000 agencies solely through eGuardian, the IT system associated with the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTFs)

# EVERY ONE IS A SUSPECT!

Excuse me,  
what time  
does this  
store close  
today?



SUSPECT!!

Everyday Shoppers Reported as "Suspicious" in Counterterrorism Databases

# COMMUNITY CONCERNS (1)

*Creates a culture of Fear and Suspicion*

- Leads to fear-mongering and strong potential for violence against those considered “suspicious;”
- Encourage neighbors and the community at large to report “suspicious activity,” thus promoting people to snitch on each other at will;
- Jan 2015 audit stated that 80% of SAR came from community informants -basically people were snitching on each other
- Reinforce social biases, and racial, ethnic and religious profiling;

# COMMUNITY CONCERNS (2)

## *Violation of our Civil and Human Rights*

- Vague and meaningless standards of “reasonable indication;”
- Allows the routine use of innocent activity (taking pictures or using binoculars in public) as suspicious- opening formal police investigations without one’s knowledge;
- Leads to the invasion of privacy rights- a report released by ACLU exposed countless SARs where police seized cameras and looked through private and personal family photos;
- **POLITICAL THINK TANK ANALYSIS:** In a 2010 report on SARs, Political Research Associates said that Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative “Invites Racial Profiling, Erodes Civil Liberties, and Undermines Security.”

# COMMUNITY CONCERNS (3)

## *Waste of precious public resources*

- While critical services are being cut back, homelessness is on the rise and education is being gutted
- An October 2012, US Senate audit of intelligence gathering at Fusion Centers exposed that information listed on SARs received from police departments like LAPD was often:
  - Flawed, irrelevant or useless;
  - Inappropriate or unrelated to terrorism;
  - Had nothing of value;
  - Could have violated privacy act protections;
  - Outdated, duplicative and uninformative.

# COMMUNITY CONCERNS (4)

*This is not an Evidence Based Practice*

- SO1 and iWATCH is based on: “data mining” and “behavioral surveillance.”
- The National Academy of Science- 2008 report concluded on behavioral surveillance “although research and development on certain aspects of this topic are warranted, there is no scientific consensus on whether these techniques are ready for operational use at all in counterterrorism”
- In regards to data mining NAS concluded that “although these methods have been useful in the private sector for spotting consumer fraud, they are less helpful for counterterrorism because so little is known about what patterns indicate terrorist activity.”



# COMMUNITY CONCERNS (5)

## *Racial Profiling*

- A January 2015 LAPD Inspector General (IG) Audit of SARs exposed 30% of SARs that went to fusion center were opened on the Black community. In gender count 50% of these SARs were open on Black women
- A March 2013 LAPD Inspector General (IG) Audit of SARs exposed, out of a 4 month sample of race/descent data, over 82% of SARs were filed on individuals identified as non-white. The largest number of SARs were filed on Black community

# COMMUNITY CONCERNS (6<sub>A</sub>)

## *Expansiveness and Scale*

- The Government Accountability Office (GAO) published in March 2013 revealed National SARs rapid growth
- Launched by LAPD in March 2008, SAR is now a massive surveillance program operated by local law enforcement around the country
- **46** States, **2** US territories and the District of Columbia
- **14,200** local law enforcement agencies now have the capability to share SARs;
- **53** federal agencies are participating in the National SAR Initiative.

# COMMUNITY CONCERNS (6<sub>B</sub>)

## *Expansiveness and Scale (cont.)*

- **290,000** line officers around the country are already trained out of the estimated **800,000** line officers to be finally trained in SARs program;
- ISE/SAR shared space (fusion centers, FBI e-Guardian etc) filings nationally increased **750%** in two years
  - from **3,256** in January 2010 to **27,855** in October 2012
- The FBI case management/support system – ACS and Sentinel, and the National Archives Records Administration (NARA) retains our records for 30 years even after there's been “no nexus to terrorism” found

# COMMUNITY CONCERNS (7<sub>A</sub>)

## *Corporate Profit*

According to the Washington Post Report from 2010 –  
*Top Secret America*

- **1,931** private companies work on programs related to counterterrorism, homeland security and intelligence in about **10,000** locations across the United States.
- An estimated **854,000** people hold top-secret security clearances, nearly 1.5 times the population of Washington, D.C.
- In Washington and the surrounding area, **33** building complexes for top-secret intelligence work are under construction or have been built since September 2001. Together they occupy the equivalent of almost three Pentagons or **22** U.S. Capitol buildings – about **17 million square feet** of space.

# COMMUNITY CONCERNS (7<sub>B</sub>)

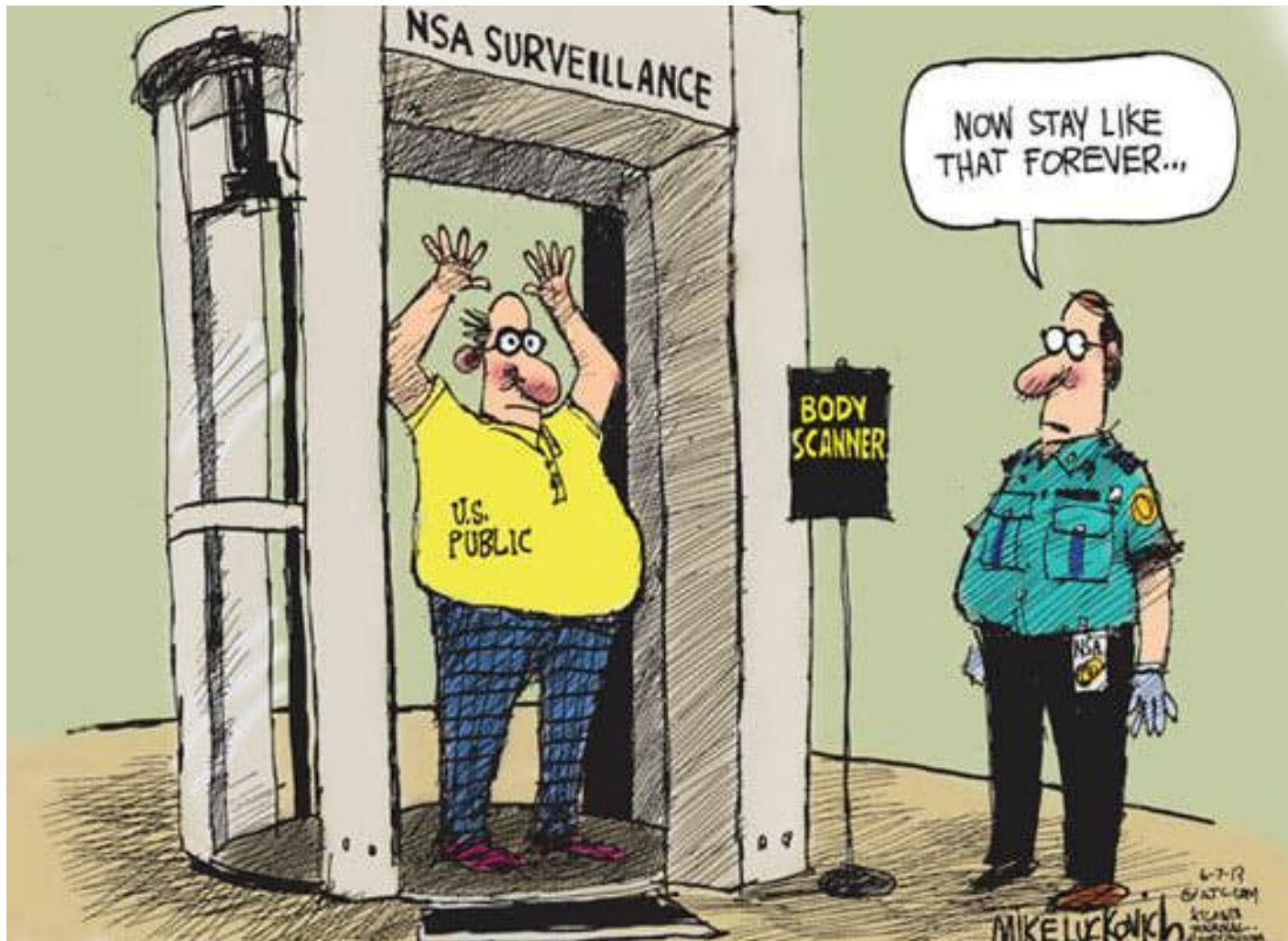
## *Corporate Profit*

According to the Washington Post Report from 2010 –  
*Top Secret America*

- This investigation reveals a secret world of government surveillance and corporate profit-making that exists as an “alternative geography” of the United States.
- The **billions of dollars** “black budget” for intelligence spending has never been subject to public scrutiny.

<http://projects.washingtonpost.com/top-secret-america/map/>

# WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?



# **A POLICY OF SOCIAL CONTROL:**

## **THIS IS WHAT THE POLICE STATE LOOKS LIKE**

- The architecture of Surveillance outlined here reveals a complex, mechanized, and global policy of social control.
- The current state security apparatus is not a moment in time, but a continuation of history. Like in the past, the structure is in place to maintain a social order of class and racial castes.
- This structure invades our private lives, promotes racial profiling, is based on meaningless and vague standards for suspicion, wastes public resources, and creates a dangerous culture of suspicion and fear with no basis in evidence of efficacy.
- We are all suspects to be spied upon!

# **WHAT IS THE STOP LAPD SPYING COALITION DOING ABOUT IT? HOW DO WE FIGHT BACK?!**

- **Building a Grass-Roots Intersectional Movement and Culture of Resistance**
  - It's time to organize around multiple issues, human rights, and social justice—this is not about statutes, or privacy alone but about human dignity and fighting for a just world.
- **Community Outreach and Education:**
  - Research
  - Teach-Ins
  - Town Hall Meetings
  - Street Outreach
  - Focus Groups
  - Surveys
  - Theatre
  - Varied Media

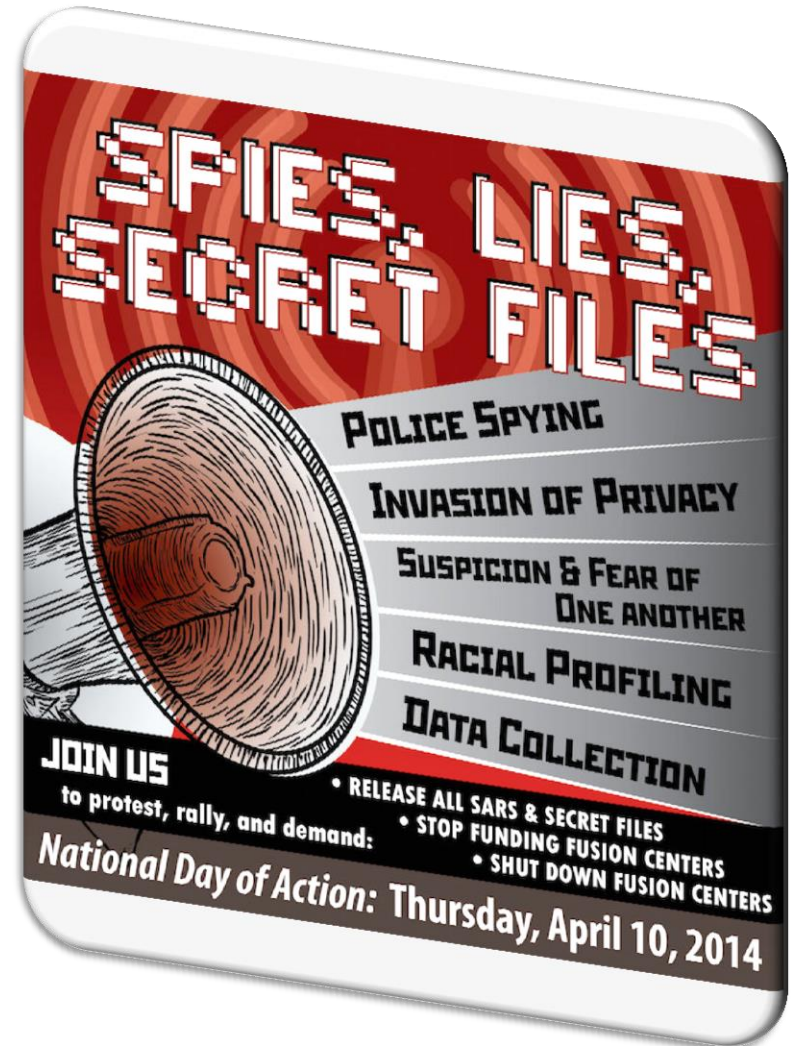


# **WHAT IS THE STOP LAPD SPYING COALITION DOING ABOUT IT? HOW DO WE FIGHT BACK?!**

- **Creating a Model for Organizing against the Police State:**
  - Through transparency, collective intelligence, solidarity, and struggle, we seek to create a model to share with others of simple hearts and minds to take on the police state and fight for a better future.
- **Grassroots Advocacy—  
Finding our Voice and Building Our Power**
  - Pressuring the City's Human Relations Commission to hold substantive public hearings on these policies for a collective democratic action.
  - Speaking truth to power at the Police Commission: Let them know we are watching, we are angry, and we are coming.
  - Building support amongst local Neighborhood Councils to oppose, confront, and dismantle these policies from below.

# Join the Fight!

- Let's de-sensationalize the rhetoric of National Security.
- We must debunk the myth of “the other” that is sold to us.
- Be a:
  - Thought Partner
  - Strategic Partner
  - Action Partner



# WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?

- Educate yourself and spread the information!
- Promote community safety that doesn't involve these invasive, abusive agencies
- Get involved!
  - Phone: (424) 209-7450
  - Website: [www.stoplapdspying.org](http://www.stoplapdspying.org)
  - Email: [stoplapdspying@gmail.com](mailto:stoplapdspying@gmail.com)
  - Follow on Social Media:
    - Facebook- <http://www.facebook.com/stoplapdspying>
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