



Stop LAPD Spying Coalition

June 4, 2019

Commissioner President Steven Soboroff
Commissioner Vice President Eileen Decker
Commissioner Sandra Figueroa-Villa
Commissioner Shane Murphy Goldsmith
Commissioner Dale Bonner

Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners
100 West First Street, Suite 134
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Commissioners:

We write to you to follow up on the dismantlement and discontinuation of Operation LASER and the Chronic Offender Bulletin program. The community remains concerned about several outstanding matters related to these programs, detailed below. We demand that the commission instruct LAPD on these concerns in a clear and timely manner, and report back with thorough documentation once completed:

We demand:

1. Department-wide notification of the dismantlement and discontinuation of Operation LASER, including all operational and enforcement actions and related elements, including LASER Zones and Chronic Offender Bulletins, lists, and databases and Anchor Points.
2. Operation LASER required LAPD officers to surveil LASER Zones, Chronic Offenders, Anchor points, and also gather information in the form of Field Interview (FI) cards, automatic license plates readers, social network analysis and other forms of surveillance and tracking. We demand to know the status of and plan for the data collected during the start up, implementation, enforcement, and dismantlement phases of Operation LASER and the Chronic Offender program including:
 - To what extent was or is the data obtained through the LASER program being utilized by researchers?
 - How the source of this data and the nature with which it was obtained is being considered by researchers and by the academic community? and
 - What is the plan to cease the use of the data gathered under the implementation of Operation LASER?

3. We demand to know the status of contract with Palantir Corporation and related funding.
4. Justice & Security Strategies (JSS) was the research partner to LAPD and was to serve as the evaluator and the provider of technical assistance for the implementation of Operation LASER, according to documents on the Smart Policing Grant to implement Operation LASER. Given that the LASER program was audited only once in approximately 7 years of operation and was shut down shortly thereafter, we demand to know:
 - a. The status of the contract with JSS as it relates to LASER and Chronic Offender Bulletin programs, including implementation, operational assessment, reporting, monetary compensation and any other related programmatic relationships with JSS;
 - b. How has the performance of JSS as the principle program evaluator of Operation LASER been investigated and documented?
 - c. What other LAPD programs are currently being implemented and overseen by JSS, and how are they being evaluated?
5. According the Smart Policing Grant documents, JSS CEO Dr. Craig D. Uchida served as the principal investigator of Operation LASER, and was responsible for analysis and assessment, for overseeing consultants, for the development of materials, for the design and directing of the gathering, tabulation and interpretation of required data, and of writing reports and professional papers. We demand to know:
 - a. How have the actions of Craig Uchida and his role in the approval, expansion, and claims of success of Operation LASER are being assessed?
 - b. What is the status and role of Dr. Craig Uchida currently with any other LAPD program?
6. Status of remaining funding for LASER and Chronic Offender programs in the current fiscal year.
7. List of consultants hired to do work in association with Operation LASER, their specific roles, and their current status with the department (LAPD).
8. Any and all communications regarding the dismantlement and findings of the OIG audit with Bureau of Justice Assistance and/or any other local, regional, federal, corporate, public, private sector agencies that have and/or committed current and/or future funding for Operation LASER and Chronic Offender program.
9. Any and all communications regarding the dismantlement and findings of the OIG audit with other local, regional, federal, corporate, public, private sector agencies that have and/or committed support/partnerships in the implementation, operation, analysis, and/or assessment for Operation LASER and Chronic Offender program; including but not limited to the following:
 - a. Los Angeles City Attorney
 - b. Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners

- b. Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners
- c. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
- d. Chicago Police Department,
- e. The Bureau of Justice Assistance
- f. The National Public Safety Partnership
- g. University of Chicago Crime Lab
- h. Los Angeles Department of Building & Safety
- i. Los Angeles Department of Housing and Community Investment
- j. Los Angeles Department of City Planning

10. List of agencies and organizations not named in the preceding point, to which LAPD exported elements of Operation LASER, and how they have been notified of the program's status for example West Memphis, Arkansas.
11. Release of information reviewed by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) during the office's review of LAPD's Predictive Policing Programs, specifically with regard to which LAPD divisions and officers were committing acts named in the report, including using informal references from officers in categorizing folks as Chronic Offenders, removing the language approved by the City Attorney from the top of the Chronic Offender Bulletins, and other such actions that would further endanger and violate the rights of community members.
12. The status of the LAPD's use of Social Network Analysis, which officers were trained in using the funding from the Smart Policing Grant, to be used in association with Operation LASER. What did the training entail and who was targeted by this component of the program?

We look forward to hearing back from you within two weeks with a clear action plan that addresses the demands outlined in this letter. 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:

Michel Moore – Chief, Los Angeles Police Department
Richard Tefank - Executive Director, Los Angeles Police Commission
Mark Smith – Inspector General, Los Angeles

Eric Garcetti – Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Ana Guerrero – Chief of Staff, Mayor of Los Angeles
Mike Feuer – City Attorney, City of Los Angeles