

LAPD'S BUDGET CREEP

2.4 billion
2014

3.15 billion
2021



OVER HALF OF L.A. CITY'S UNRESTRICTED MONEY IS SPENT ON POLICING, AN AMOUNT THAT INCREASED 48% DURING ERIC GARCETTI'S TERM AS MAYOR.

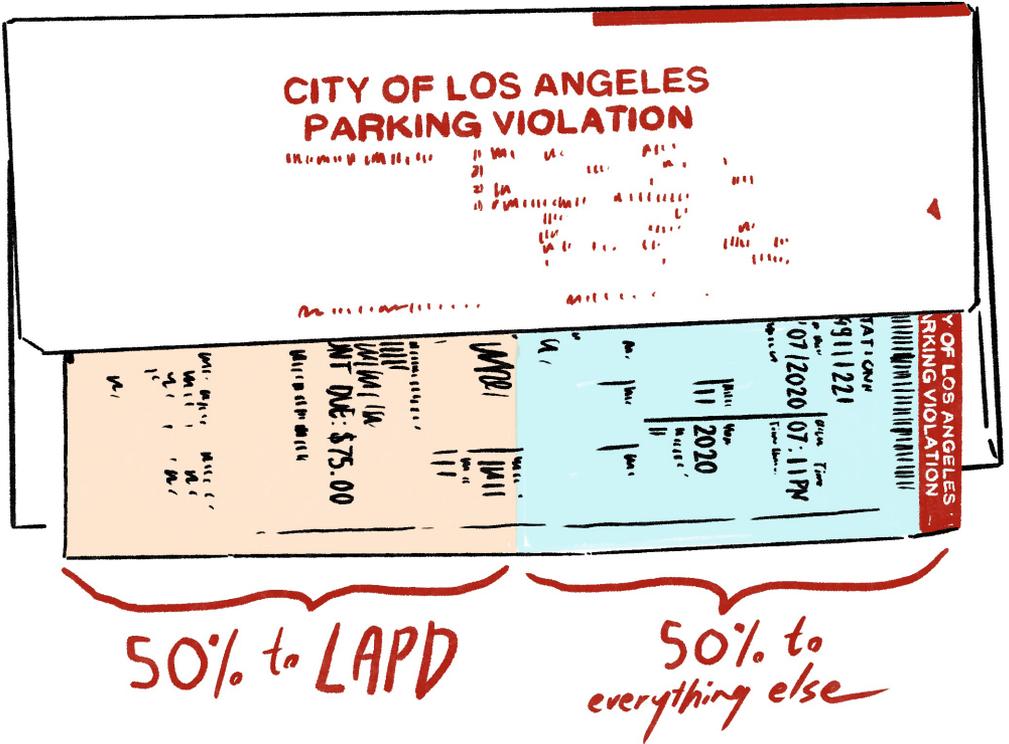
HOW?

A COMMUNITY GUIDE

*brought to you by Stop LAPD Spying
and Free Radicals*

INTRODUCTION

The Los Angeles Police Department spends over \$3.2 billion each year, taking over half the city's discretionary funding.

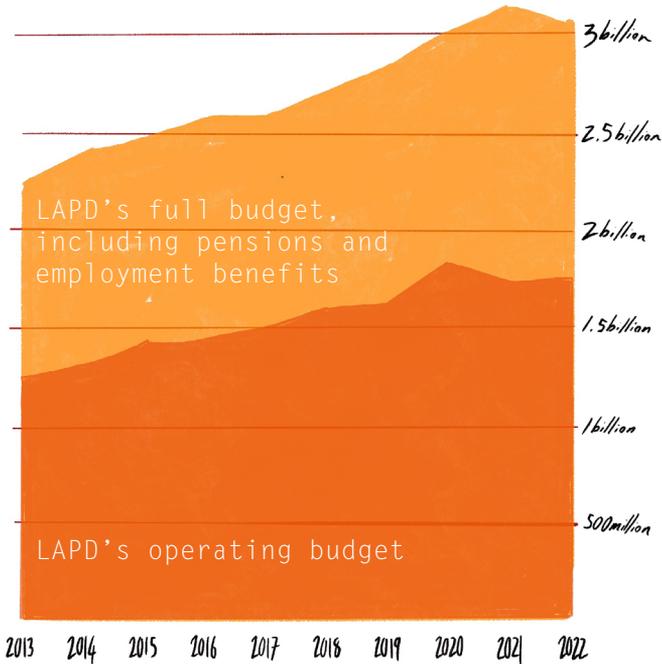


It's a blank check for LAPD, austerity for everyone else. During a global pandemic and a historic housing crisis, LA refuses to provide shelter and life affirming care for its residents and instead rewards its police with even more money to brutalize us.

How did we get here?

LAPD Budget Growth Under Mayor Garcetti

LAPD's operating budget (the darker shade below) is the funding that the Mayor and City Council approve for police each year. It's grown over \$520 million from when Garcetti took office in 2013 to Garcetti's budget proposal for 2022. The full budget (the lighter shade below) also includes the funding that the city can't change each year, like pension obligations and employment benefits. It grew \$902 million from 2013 to 2021.



The city's budget process is budget theater, with the public getting almost no opportunities to confront police spending. Instead, police hide details of their overall budget, ask for millions more each year, and work their way through a parade of public officials eager to give police everything they want. This is the process LAPD used to grow its budget by ALMOST A BILLION DOLLARS since Eric Garcetti became mayor in 2013.

Demands to defund the police are extremely popular. A Loyola Marymount University study commissioned by LAPD from Fall 2020 showed that almost 2/3 of Angelenos want to redirect LAPD funding to community programs and over 1/3 want to COMPLETELY DISMANTLE the police. Yet politicians keep increasing the budget, through a process designed to give LAPD everything they want.

How many people in Los Angeles support proposals to “redirect some money currently going to the police budget to local programs”?

62.4%

How many people in Los Angeles support proposals to “completely dismantle police and give more financial support to local programs”?

36.7%

This represents around 1.5 million people in the city!

What was the 2021 budget process?

Following months of massive, widespread calls to defund police, LAPD released a demand for their largest budget ever in November 2020. The Police Commission (LAPD's rubber-stamp "civilian" "oversight" body) approved that 500 page budget **less than one business day** after it went public, giving the actual public only one day to read it and fight back.

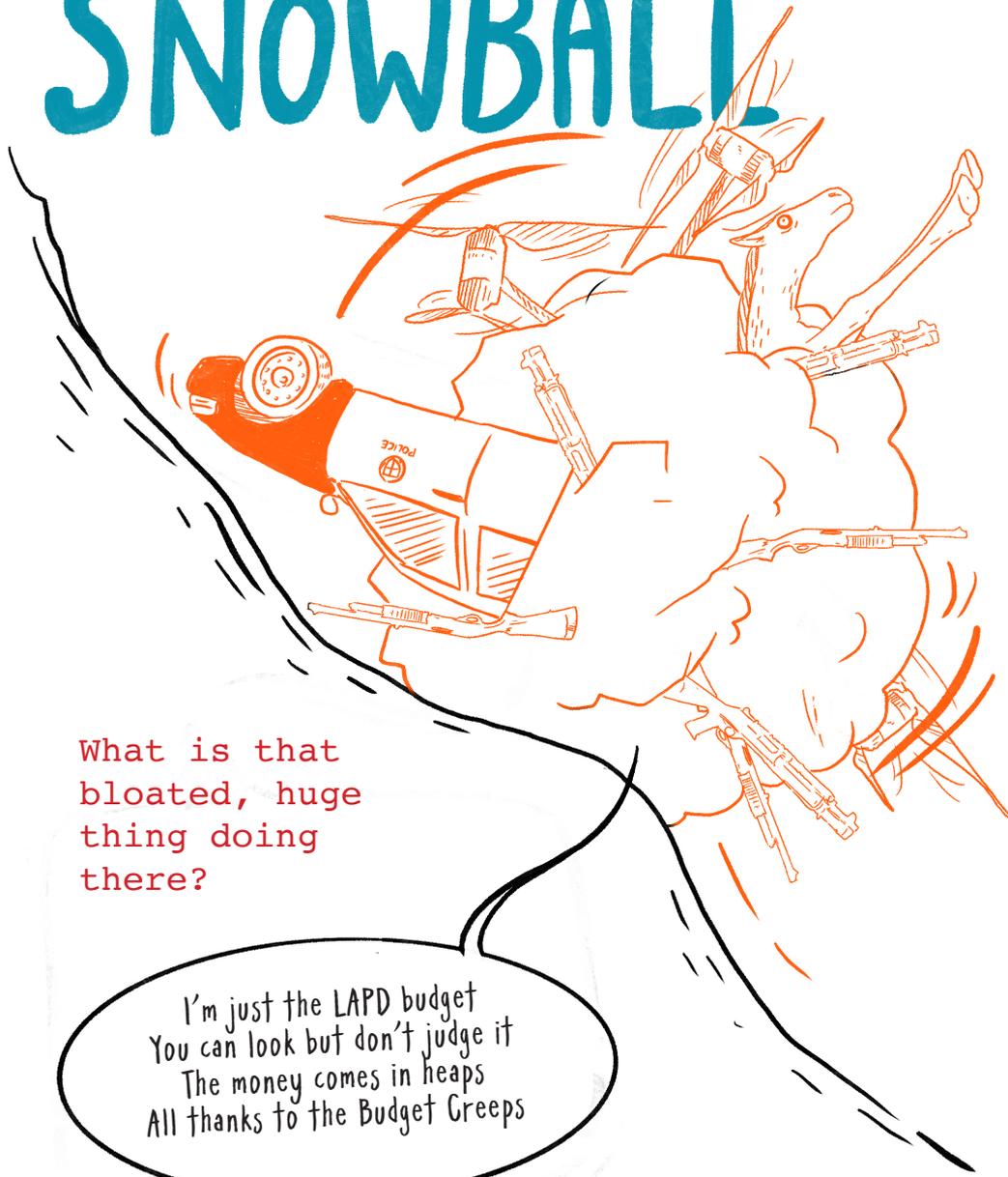
The mayor then sent his draft budget to City Council on April 20, 2021, also proposing a massive budget increase. After City Council took limited public comment in May - **nearly all of which was hundreds of community members calling to defund police and increase funding for other services** - they spat in our faces by *still* approving an over \$40 million increase to LAPD's budget.

LAPD doesn't even share full details of its budget in this process. It doesn't share them with the public. It doesn't share with City Council. It doesn't even share them with the Police Commission. The Stop LAPD Spying Coalition filed a public records lawsuit against LAPD in February 2021 to demand records on LAPD's full budget, after months of being given the run-around.

You can follow the case at <https://defundsurveillance.org/public-records-lawsuit>.

CHAPTER ONE

CITY BUDGET SNOWBALL



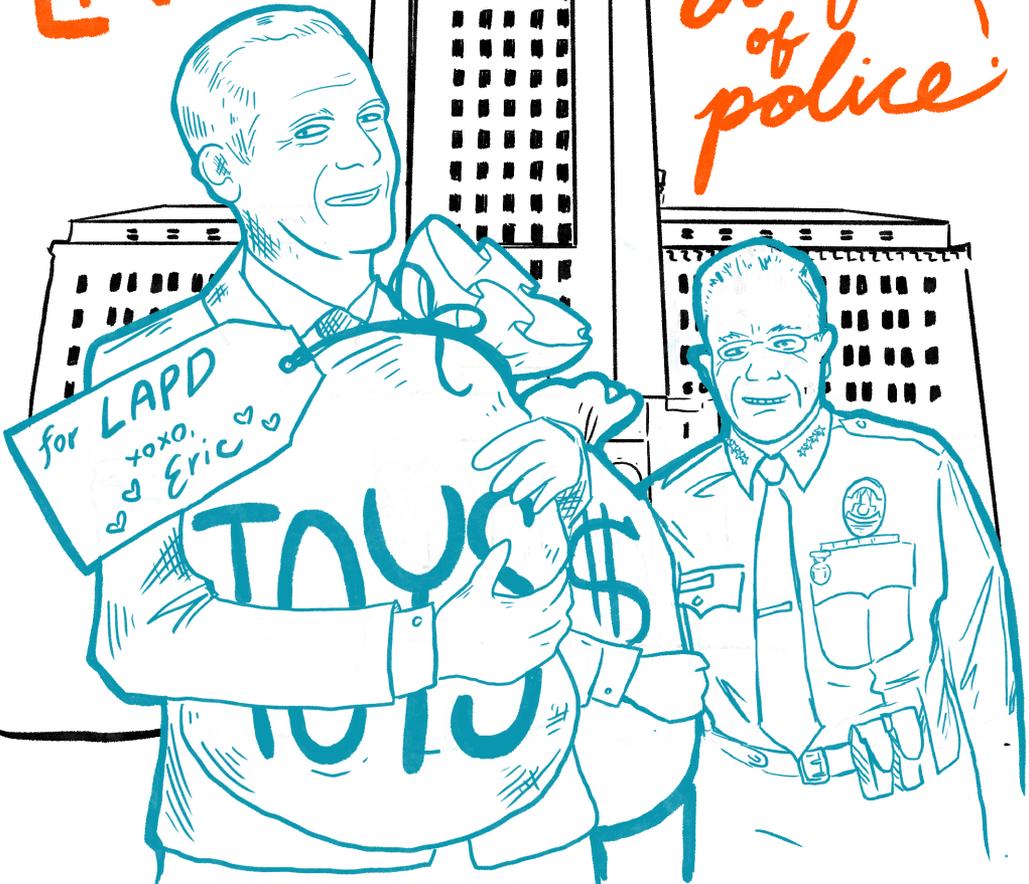
What is that
bloated, huge
thing doing
there?

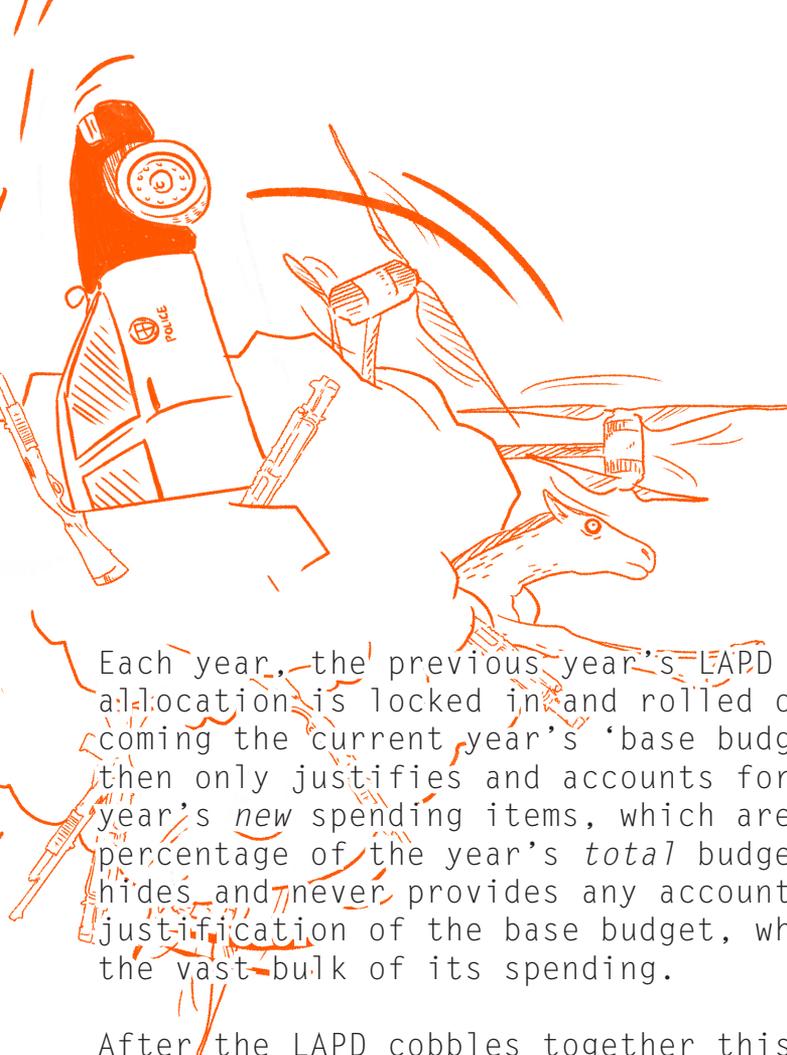
I'm just the LAPD budget
You can look but don't judge it
The money comes in heaps
All thanks to the Budget Greeps

INTRODUCING the
BUDGET CREEPS...

**GARCETTI!!
LAPC!!**

**CITY
COUNCIL!
chief
of
police!**





Each year, the previous year's LAPD budget allocation is locked in and rolled over, becoming the current year's 'base budget.' LAPD then only justifies and accounts for the year's *new* spending items, which are a tiny percentage of the year's *total* budget. LAPD hides, and never provides any accounting or justification of the base budget, which is the vast bulk of its spending.

After the LAPD cobbles together this black hole of a budget proposal, it gets sent to the LA Police Commission to "review." Why? Even they don't know, as Police Commissioners revealed during 2021 budget process. After dozens of public comments demanding that the LAPD budget not be approved, Commissioner Eileen Decker said the quiet part loud and stated that the role of the Police Commission is not actually to be an oversight body. In response, Commissioner Bonner asked, effectively, what IS our role?

Quote from a LAPC meeting; a Commissioner Bonner question about the budget:

"So my first question to the staff there really is what is the effect, you know, practical or otherwise of any decision this commission may make today?"

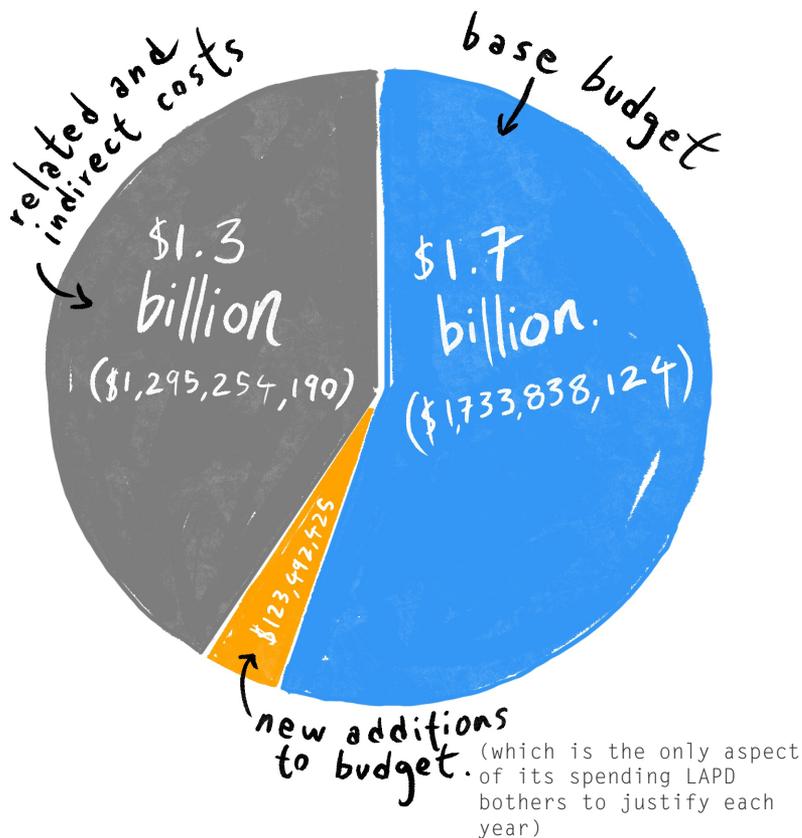
After the Mayor-appointed Police Commission rubber stamps LAPD's budget proposal, the Mayor receives and reviews all the departmental budgets and puts them together to send for approval to City Council.



WHAT IS ACTUALLY IN THE BUDGET?

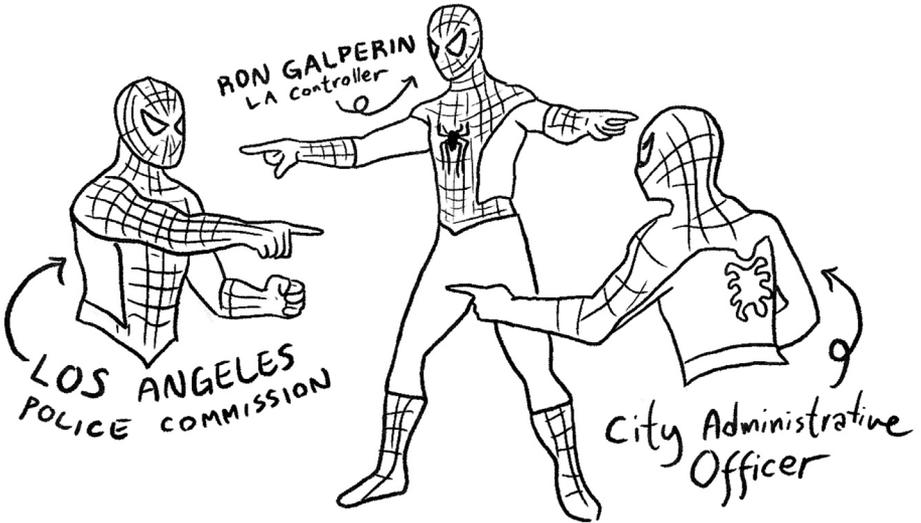
This process gets repeated year after year, the snowball getting bigger and bigger. But what did we actually just approve?

2021-2022 budget



And as the police budget creeps, the police state follows...

When we tried to ask about what was in the base budget, no city department had the document that provided this answer, and each time we were redirected to other departments (who also did not know).



Whether it's the Mayor, City Council, or the LA Police Commission, all of the Budget Creeps are happy to give a blank check to LAPD, and austerity to everyone else.

The **#DefundSurveillance** campaign wants to put an end to this endless snowball of bottomless police funding, racist violence, and disinvestment in our communities.

CHAPTER TWO

THE GIFT HORSES



How
"CHARITABLE
DONATIONS"
become line items
and liabilities

LAPD is funded not only using city revenue but also donations and grants. Harmful police programs often begin as experiments donated by private businesses, academic researchers, and “charitable” foundations. These “gift horses” later become budget line items that LAPD keeps re-purchasing or subscribing to with public money.

LAPD donations usually come through the Los Angeles Police Foundation, which made over \$20 million in gifts to LAPD from 1998 and 2015. These gifts were able to skip the normal approval process for purchases.

As Steve Soboroff, a real estate developer who Mayor Garcetti appointed to the Police Commission, said:

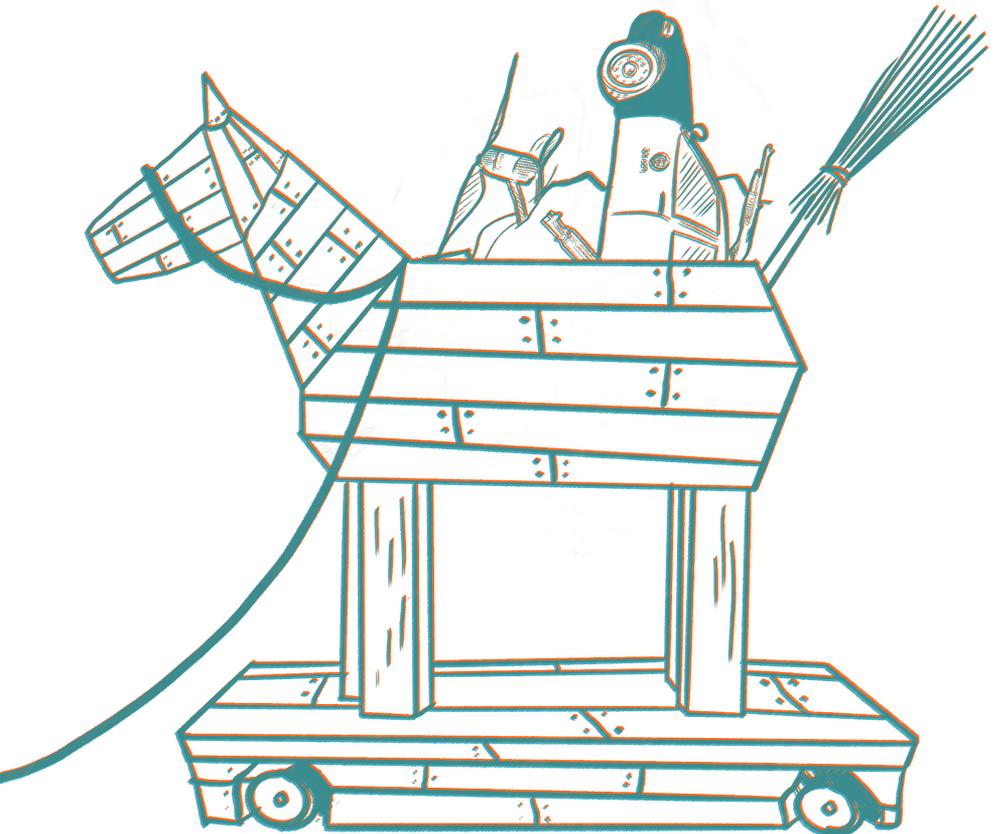
“A grant application to the foundation cuts all the red tape, or almost all of the red tape.”



Gift Horse #1: Bribing LAPD

Police Foundation “gifts” are used to win favor with police when bidding for LAPD contracts.

For example, when Motorola and defense contractor Raytheon were competing for a \$600 million LAPD technology contract, Motorola made a \$164,000 donation to the Police Foundations and Raytheon donated \$310,000 in equipment.



Gift Horse #2: Getting Police Hooked on Dangerous Technology

Palantir is a surveillance and data-mining weapon built with CIA funding, used for US military counterinsurgency and assassination operations. It allows LAPD to mine huge amounts of surveillance data to track, monitor, and target people.

In 2007, LAPD chief Bill Bratton had the Police Foundation ask Target (like the stores) for \$200,000 to buy Palantir software. This “gift” allowed LAPD to avoid the typical approval processes. The next year Palantir also donated \$10,000 to the Police Foundation.

Once LAPD hooked Palantir up to its data and surveillance systems, it began showing up as a line item in the city budget in 2012, and LAPD went on to pay Palantir \$17 million between then and 2020. Palantir was instrumental in LAPD’s racist Operation LASER “predictive” policing program, which was shut down by community pressure in 2019.

Gift Horse #3: Building a “community policing” surveillance program.

Built with help from foundations, developers and non-profits, Community Safety Partnerships are a counterinsurgency surveillance and infiltration program of the LAPD, which embeds police in housing projects and other targeted communities and offers social services as a veneer for more surveillance and policing.

In 2011, the first CSP sites were launched with donations from the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA). In 2015, these HACLA donations were then rolled into the LAPD budget as the LAPD used a DOJ COPS Hiring Program grant to “backfill” the positions paid for with donations. This grant required the police to hire post 9/11 military veterans, transporting seasoned counterinsurgents from warzones abroad into Black and brown neighborhoods in LA.

In 2017, LAPD expanded the program with donations from the Ballmer Group to LAPD, via the Police Foundation. The donation explicitly required for public funds to pay for each CSP site after 3 years. These “gifts” are investments in grave harm and even more LAPD budget bloat.



Gift Horse #4: An actual horse.

Sometimes the gift horse is an actual horse!

In 2014, Chief Charlie Beck signed off on LAPD acquiring for a horse named George for its mounted platoon division. George was purchased using a \$6,000 donation to the Police Foundation from a Malibu real estate developer. It turned out George belonged to Beck's daughter, also an LAPD officer. LAPD got another horse, the Chief's daughter got \$6,000, and a real estate developer got cozier with police: just another day of corruption at the LAPD.

a field guide to BUDGET CREEPS

chapter three



a. housing authority of the city of LA - 3 million

b. metropolitan transportation authority - 246 million
320 officers

c. los angeles public library - 10.4 million
72 officers

d. LAHSA (homeless services) - 1.2 million

Budget Creeps can be found throughout the City of LA, in the form of money spent by non-LAPD departments that helps the LAPD expand their surveillance infrastructure, gather data, and even generate revenue. For example, the LA Public Library system spends \$10.4 million on LAPD officers annually - this is *additional money* spent on police that doesn't show up in the LAPD's budget at all!

In total, at least \$250 million of additional funding for LAPD is squirreled away in other departments! But these Budget Creeps can be well-hidden. How can we identify them in the wild?

Common things to look out for when creep watching:

- Officers hired by other departments.
- Purchases of technology and outsourcing surveillance.
- Joint departmental programs designed to "share funding" where the funding goes back into the LAPD's budget but isn't reflected in their proposed budget.

For an example, LAPD has been using bogus data science to focus their patrol - in order to do this they rely on land and business owners to give calls-for-service: HA-CLA puts ≈10 million dollars in their budget in order to ally itself with local businesses and incentivize them to comply with city ordinance + be friendly with LAPD!



**Housing Authority of the
City of Los
Angeles (HAC-LA)
\$3 million**

HAC-LA uses their own budget to purchase surveillance technology like CCTVs: data collected by this infrastructure is shared with LAPD. This is an example of LAPD getting stuff that's not reflected in their budget.

They also have their own Crime & Safety Unit (CSU) dedicated to assisting LAPD functions. That's not even mentioning the internal surveillance they do for LAPD of folks living in their public housing units!

**Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA)
\$246 million, 320 officers**

LAPD in 2017 launched a 5 year \$655M contract with the MTA. 'Safety partnerships' are excuses for huge development projects directly funneling money into the LAPDs pocket.

It also justifies 'police presence' in every walk of our lives - camera footage from DASH buses is remotely downloadable and used directly by LAPD, and with the contract nearly triples the number of officers they seek to have patrolling on and off board.



**City Library System, \$10.4 million,
72 officers**



LAPL's security budget in 2013 - \$1.1 million. Now, under Garcetti? \$10.4 million!

LAPD manages the security officer contracts for LAPL as well as offers their own overtime patrol in order to make public and community spaces unsafe for unhoused people with a heavy police presence.

Not to mention their spending on 'infrastructure' like cameras and street lights, which LAPD uses for its own surveillance initiatives.

**LAHSA (Homeless Services)
\$1.2 million**

LAPD's yearly budget increases expand their violent banishment of unhoused folks - and in so doing create work for LAHSA to fulfil basic needs which they are taking away from people out of their budget.

LAHSA itself, despite touting the 'decriminalization of the homeless' assists LAPD by identifying unhoused encampments and calling LAPD for service when they fail to cooperate (alternatively just seizing the land themselves).



Police keep beating and abusing us, and then they bill us when we sue.

\$40.6 million dollars in a year are spent on lawsuits after LAPD officers slaughter, stalk, harass, and harm people.

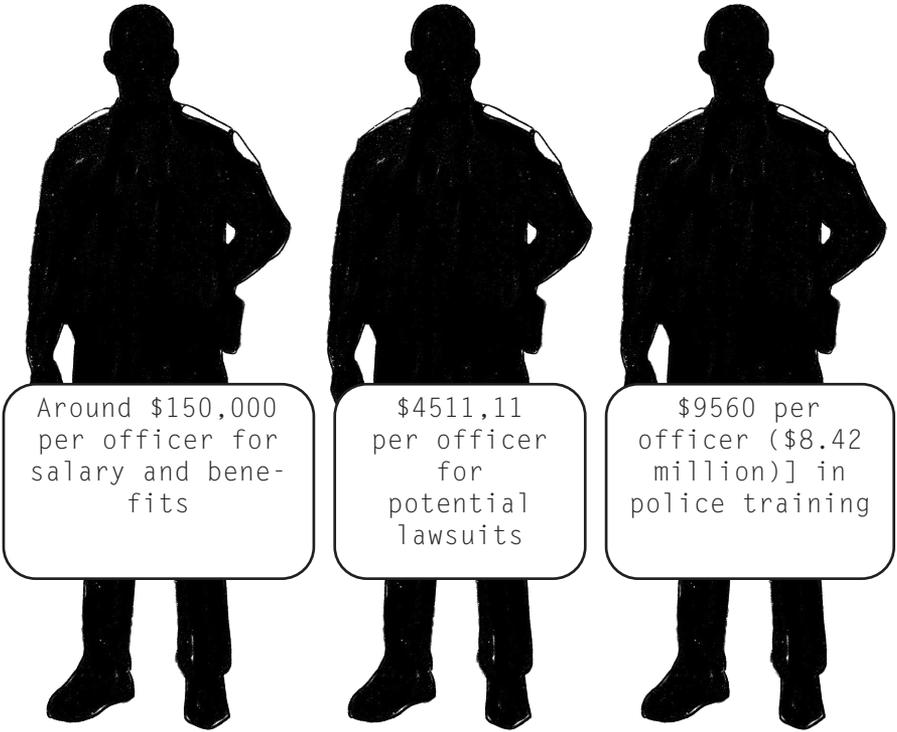
That money doesn't come out of their pocket - it comes out of ours!

Talk about injury on top of insult on top of injury. And it doesn't end there - the budget uses their open violence to justify expanding!

LAPD's current budget calls for \$1.5 million on new use of force and implicit bias trainings (and an additional \$3 million on Taser training).

But police training is a scam, always designed to win LAPD more resources and expand their capacity for violence.

LAPD's violence carries all kinds of collateral costs. To give an idea of how expensive their basic operations are in this budget:



CALL TO ACTION

Police have near unlimited resources, and what the community gets is more racial violence, more cages, more surveillance, and more austerity for the very real needs of our communities.

Why keep doubling down on this abusive relationship?

No more.

DEFUND LAPD
DEFUND SURVEILLANCE
ABOLISH THE POLICE
JOIN THE FIGHT!

Visit defundsurveillance.org or scan



GET INVOLVED!

HIT THE STREETS!

JOIN STOP LAPD SPYING COALITION!

STAY INVOLVED!

TALK TO YOUR NEIGHBORS!

FIND OUT WHO YOUR COUNCILMEMBER IS
AND GET READY TO MAKE YOUR VOICE
HEARD NEXT CYCLE BY LEARNING MORE
ABOUT THE BUDGET

defundsurveillance.com
stoplapdspying@gmail.com

