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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 09, 2022 4:11 PM  
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**Subject:** Public comment on Item 7a - February 9, 2022

**-EXTERNAL-**

Dear Equity and Human Relations Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of Long Beach Forward to share our concerns regarding surveillance technology used by the Long Beach Police Department and additional city agencies in the past, present, and future.

The communities Long Beach Forward strives to engage and empower in civic dialogues have historically been and will continue to be negatively impacted by the use of surveillance technology. Over the past decade, it has been well documented that the Long Beach Police Department has steadily expanded its use of surveillance technology, with alarming implications for Black, immigrant, and people of color communities. This technology does not offer a benign alternative to abusive policing; instead it expands and accelerates incarceration and deportation in neighborhoods and communities that are already over-policed. It has been proven time and time again that these technologies do not keep our communities safe.

Long Beach Forward urges the Equity and Human Relations Commission to take a stand in stopping the use of surveillance tools that further drive racism and violence within our city. These practices go against our shared vision for a better Long Beach and the resiliency that we have all built within the communities we work alongside. This technology does not make our neighborhoods and our homes safe.

In solidarity,  
James

**James Suazo** (He/Him/His)  
*Executive Director*  
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