























Use Your Voice









The Long Beach Surveillance State: How LBPD's Use of Technology **Expands Police Power and Immigration Enforcement**

Introduction

Over the past decade, 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; it only expands and accelerates incarceration and deportation in already over-policed communities. The LBPD has received \$247 million from Long Beach's \$559 million 2021 General Fund. This equates to 44% of the General Fund, the largest portion out of any other city department. Of LBPD's approximately \$14 million in vendor spending from June 2020 to May 2021, at least \$7,332,631 million was spent on surveillance. Instead of providing continued funding, we urge the City Council to end its use of the surveillance technologies discussed below, and to reinvest tax dollars in community priorities.iii

This fact sheet highlights invasive surveillance technology used by the LBPD, including automated license plate readers (ALPRs), cell phone surveillance, and facial recognition. It also explains the harms of this surveillance and recommends limiting law enforcement's acquisition and use of this technology.

Specific Surveillance Technology

1. Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs)

ALPRs are high-speed cameras that capture license plate information from passing cars. They record the location, date, and time of every capture, and sometimes include images of passengers. In December 2020, the Long Beach Public Works Department signed a \$381,050 contract for 17 new license plate reader cameras. This equipment was purchased with the express intent of being interoperable with LBPD's existing ALPR system from Vigilant Solutions, for which LBPD has paid \$622,194 since 2015, meaning that the city has spent at least \$1,003,244 on the tool. The Public Works Department has invested in ALPRs affixed to patrol vehicles for the stated purpose of parking enforcement, but City Council documents note that Vigilant Solutions was chosen because it is absolutely necessary that it be compatible with the police department's existing system. Vigilant Solutions offers a nationwide database for police departments to access other agencies' data and Vigilant's own network of private ALPRs. Agencies can share "hot lists", which include the plate numbers for stolen cars or cars that are implicated in ongoing investigations.

ALPRs dramatically increase the scale of police surveillance. From 2018 to 2019, **LBPD** scanned over 44 million license plates, only 0.09% of which matched a car on a hot list. Given the racialized deployment of ALPRs, these hot lists are likely to overrepresent Black and Brown people, who then face frequent enforcement and traumatizing encounters.

With data on the daily travel of every person in Long Beach, the LBPD could create an intimate and invasive account of people's activities. ALPRs enable the police to scrutinize visits to sensitive locations, such as immigration clinics, abortion clinics, and places of worship.* LBPD was sharing ALPR data directly with ICE for at least 10 months against local law.*i LBPD reportedly claimed in December 2020 that the department had revoked ICE's access to the database,*ii but records from April 2021 suggest that LBPD continues to share information with certain divisions of ICE. As of April 6, 2021, Vigilant Solutions reported that LBPD received the "HSI Master" hot list via another police department.*iii HSI, or Homeland Security Investigations, is the division of ICE responsible for executing workplace raids and criminal immigration cases. Furthermore, as of April 2021, LBPD was sharing license plate detection data with the HSI Bulk Cash Smuggling Center, also a division of ICE, as well as Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and California's Joint Regional Intelligence Center (JRIC), a Fusion Center with ICE participation.**iv Technology company Palantir developed several applications for JRIC between 2012 and 2014 that allow the Fusion Center to search for ALPR data by location, license plate number, and camera.**v Once license plate data is in the hands of any of these federal immigration agencies, it is easily accessible to other ICE agents.**vi

Perhaps even more alarming, the private contractor that oversees the city's ALPR system is the police department's liaison to the regional Fusion Center, with which LBPD shares license plate data.xvii Fusion Centers are designed to facilitate information sharing between local law enforcement and DHS agencies including ICE. LBPD holds a \$695,000 contract with SRA International (acquired by military contractor General Dynamics in 2018) for the services of three

intelligence analysts, funded by a grant from DHS. LBPD has put SRA International in charge of their Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) system, which has been used to criminalize and track BIPOC and undocumented immigrants. *viii The three privately contracted intelligence analysts in Long Beach are respectively charged with "criminal intelligence gathering" at the JRIC; "criminal suspect location and identification" at the Gangs and Violent Crimes & Division; and oversight of the city's LBCOP surveillance camera system, *ix to which the city's ALPR system feeds images. It is cause for grave concern that the firm that oversees LBPD's license plate recognition system is the police department's liaison to the regional DHS-run Fusion Center, with which LBPD shares license plate data, and that the funding for their salary is provided by DHS.

2. Cell Phone Surveillance

Stingrays/Cell-Site Simulators/IMSI Catchers**: Cell-site simulators make phones within a certain radius connect with the simulator instead of a legitimate cell-phone tower. Depending on the type of cell-site simulator, law enforcement can collect identifiable information, the phone's precise location, metadata about calls (who and when you're calling), the content of SMS and voice calls, and data usage.** In 2020, LBPD spent \$35,000 with the Harris Corporation for services on a Stingray (also known as a cell-site simulator or IMSI catcher) that the department purchased in 2013. LBPD has spent approximately \$550,000 since 2013 on this type of surveillance. LBPD used Stingray devices for over two years without any internal rules until SB 174 required all departments with cell-site simulators to create a public policy by 2016. ICE has also purchased many Stingrays and has used them to facilitate arrests.** Cell-site simulators thus provide an avenue for collaboration between local police and immigration authorities. In 2021, LBPD purchase a Jugular 4 Field Kit from KeyW Corporation (owned by the publicly-traded Jacobs Engineering). This is a portable device that complements Stingrays by allowing police to go into a big building to identify which floor and room a target phone is located in, since Stingray devices in cars cannot provide that degree of precision.

Pen Registers: The LBPD continues to work with Pen-Link LTD, a vendor that provides phone and internet surveillance services exclusively to law enforcement. LBPD spent \$24,999 for maintenance work in 2021, and has spent approximately \$360,000 with Pen-Link since 2013. By mapping the phones, email addresses, and computers that communicate or exchange information, police departments can recreate a person's social network and criminalize them for association with other people under investigation. Pen-Link software is also used by ICE as part of the case management system developed for that agency by Palantir. **xiiii*

Cell Phone Hacking: In 2021, the LBPD spent \$80,017 for cellphone hacking service from Cellebrite. It has spent some \$380,000 with Cellebrite since 2013. Cellebrite's hardware and software allow law enforcement to bypass cell phone passcodes and extract private information, as well as deleted information. Recent reporting suggests that security flaws with Cellebrite allow for the manipulation of past datasets and the generation of false data in future extractions. Eaw enforcement can use the extensive and highly private information from a phone to create a distorted picture of a person and make the case for deportation. ICE also has a contract with

Cellebrite, xxvi and CBP has been shown to conduct thousands of warrantless phone searches at the border every year, using technology including Cellebrite. xxvii

3. Facial Recognition + Other Biometric Analysis

Since 2019, LBPD has used extended free trial versions of **Clearview AI** and **Vigilant Solutions Face Search**.**xxxii Free trials are granted for evaluation purposes, but officers often use the software for ongoing investigations, without proper documentation, oversight, or training. LBPD had no official facial recognition policy until a September 2020 department Watch Report.**xxxiii The Department has since ended their extended free trials of FaceSearch and Clearview AI software.**xxxiv LACRIS remains an authorized facial recognition system for Los Angeles County in spite of DataWorks Plus's sordid reputation.

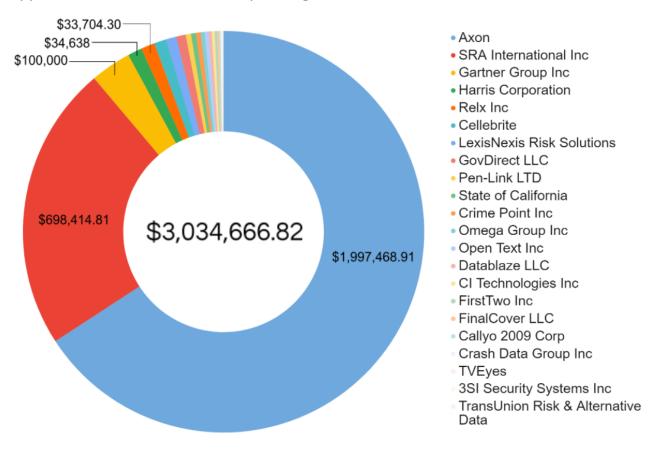
Recommendations

As part of the ultimate goal of defunding the LBPD, we demand that the Long Beach City Council **end** police department funding for these invasive technologies that create a mass surveillance state and drain money from our city. **The City Council must**:

- End the use of Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPR): terminate the contract with SRA International/General Dynamics and Vigilant Solutions.
- 2. End cell phone surveillance: terminate the Stingray contract with Harris Corporation and the cell phone hacking contract with Cellebrite.
- 3. Prohibit any government use of ALPR, cell phone surveillance, or facial recognition technology, whether in the form of a trial, contract, or purchase of third party data.
- 4. Remove the LBPD from participation in LACRIS, prohibit direct data sharing with federal immigration authorities, and prohibit indirect data sharing with federal and local authorities and private companies that collaborate with federal immigration authorities.
- 5. End all other civilian surveillance programs.
- 6. Prohibit future purchases or use of other surveillance technology.
- 7. Make public all records of surveillance in use.

Appendices

Appendix A. LBPD Surveillance Spending in 2020*



^{*}Representative of spending through July 2020

^{**}The most invasive technologies are not always the most expensive. For example, LBPD has used facial recognition for years through free trial agreements. It is important to note how much of city dollars fund surveillance, but also the negative community consequences.

Appendix B. List of Surveillance Technology By Vendor

Vendor	Type of Technology Purchased by LBPD in 2020
Axon	Body worn cameras (BWC) and Evidence.com (BWC footage storage cloud)
SRA International Inc.	IT intelligence analysts
Gartner Group Inc.	IT research and strategic consulting services
Harris Corporation	StingRay cell tower (cell phone data interception technology)
Relx Inc.	LexisNexis Accurint subscription (personal information database)
Cellebrite	Locked cell phone data extraction software
LexisNexis Risk Solutions	Data broker
GovDirect LLC	Camera technology for drones, BWC, cars, etc.
Pen-Link LTD	Cell phone tracking and data interception technology
State of California	LiveScan fingerprinting devices
Crime Point Inc.	HermitCam HD Camera (covert video surveillance equipment)
Omega Group Inc.	Geographic information systems software
Open Text LLC	Cloud-based information management software
Datablaze LLC	GPS tracking for vehicles and cell phones
CI Technologies Inc.	IA Pro case management software and BlueTeam field support services app
FirstTwo Inc.	Personal information, location-based visual intelligence software
FinalCover LLC	CaseGuard facial recognition redaction and enhancement software
Callyo 2009 Corp	Cloud-based mobile app that includes virtual investigation phones, tip lines, social media intelligence platforms, and undercover police bugs
Crash Data Group Inc.	Vehicle crash data retrieval platform
TVEyes	TV and radio coverage search engine
3SI Security Systems Inc.	GPS tracking and cash tracing technologies
TransUnion Risk & Alternative Data	Data broker

Appendix C. Summary of Surveillance Contracts Maintained by LBPD

Technology	Company	Contracts
ALPRs	SRA International, Inc.	Almost \$2M spent on technology and services since 2013 and almost \$700,000 spent in 2020.
	Vigilant Solutions	Currently, Public Works has a \$381,050.45 contract for 17 new license plate reader cameras in December of 2020.xxxv This system will be interoperable with LBPD's existing ALPR system from Vigilant Solutions, for which LBPD has paid 622,194 since 2015.xxxvi
Cell phone Tracking	Harris Corporation	LBPD has spent over \$550,000 on Harris Corporation technology since 2013.
	Cellebrite ^{xxxvii}	From 2013 to 2020, LBPD has purchased almost \$300,000 worth of Cellebrite services. LBPD spent nearly \$30,000 in 2020 to renew their access to the Cellebrite software, which helps different government agencies extract private digital data from locked cell phones.
		Additionally, in 2019, Cellebrite was awarded a contract of up to \$35 million with ICE , under which ICE will utilize and obtain "universal forensic extraction devices (UFEDs), accessories licenses, training and support services."
	Pen-Link Ltd.xxxix	Pen-Link has received an estimated \$334,047 from LBPD since 2014. Pen-Link was awarded \$1 to 2 million, the largest PPP award of all LBPD's vendors.xl
Biometric Identification & Facial Recognition	Vigilant Solutions & Clearview Al	Vigilant Solutions FaceSearch and Clearview Al have provided free trials to LBPD for facial recognition technology. Clearview Al also has a \$224,000 contract with ICE.xli
Body-worn Cameras	Axon	Since 2013, the Long Beach Police Department has spent nearly \$3 million on Axon surveillance technology, with nearly \$2 million worth of surveillance technology bought from the company in 2020 alone. LBPD is expected to pay Axon a grand total of over \$4 million by 2023.xiii
	Los Angeles County Regional Identification System (LACRIS)	Since 2018, the LA Sheriff's Department has run LACRIS through a contract with DataWorks using algorithms from NEC Corporation, a biometric technology company that is interoperable with DHS's biometric identification systems and has also provided technology for ICE.xliii
	RELX's LexisNexis Accurint Database	LBPD has spent over \$360,000 on RELX services since 2013. In 2020, LBPD spent over \$33,000 to access RELX's LexisNexis Accurint Database.

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iv City of Long Beach. Contract No. 35762.

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^v City of Long Beach purchase data obtained by CheckLBPD.org.. Contract No. 35762. https://citydocs.longbeach.gov/CityContracts/DocView.aspx?id=3790815&dbid=0&repo=Laserfiche-CityofLongBeach&searchid=ec2315cf-2da4-4894-beb0-b060acf8c153&cr=1

vi Kevin Flores, City Council to Decide Whether to Buy Controversial License Plate Readers, FORTHE (November 17, 2020), https://forthe.org/journalism/license-plate-readers/

vii Dave Maass, *Data Driven 2: California Dragnet—New Data Set Shows Scale of Vehicle Surveillance in the Golden State*, Electronic Frontier Foundation (April 22, 2021), https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2021/04/data-driven-2-california-dragnet-new-dataset-shows-scale-vehicle-surveillance

viii Rachel S. Fleischer, *Bias in, Bias out: Why Legislation Placing Requirements on the Procurement of Commercialized Facial Recognition Technology Must Be Passed to Protect People of Color*, American Bar Association (December 18, 2020), <a href="https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_contract_law/publications/public_contract_law_jrnl/50-1/bias-bias-out-why-legislation-placing-requirements-the-procurement-commercialized-facial-recognition-technology/#ref94
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xi Suhana Hussain and Johana Buiyan, *Police in Pasadena, Long Beach pledged not to send license plate data to ICE. They shared it anyway*, Los Angeles Times (December 21, 2020),

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xiii Stephen Downing. "ACLU Alleges LBPD Use of License Plate Reader Data Illegal." March 22, 2021. https://beachcomber.news/content/aclu-alleges-lbpd-use-license-plate-reader-data-illegal

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- xvi For further information on information sharing between DHS agencies, see: Mijente, Who's Behind ICE? The Tech and Data Companies Fueling Deportations, Mijente (Oct 2018), https://mijente.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/WHO%E2%80%99S-BEHIND-ICE -The-Tech-and-Data-Companies-Fueling-Deportations-

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xxxvii Cellebrite has been subject to different lawsuits, such as the lawsuit from the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) against their "warrantless searches of mobile devices."# Contracting documents obtained through discovery in this lawsuit revealed Cellebrite's ability to access information like emails, voicemails, web browsing information, previous locations and more, all from bypassing cell phone passcodes.

xxxviii U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Special Notice No. 192119VHQ4CCC1234.

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xxxix Pen-Link Ltd. is a small company whose technology is exclusively sold to law enforcement agencies, including ICE, to track cell phones and intercept audio, emails, text messages, and app data. Their funding continues to expand with the help of the Paycheck Protection Program, a government loan created to help small businesses during the COVID-19 Pandemic that has been awarded to many of LBPD's vendors.

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