

From: Dennis Kortheuer <dkortheu@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2022 4:50 PM
To: Teresa Gomez <Teresa.Gomez@longbeach.gov>
Subject: Please end use of automated surveillance systems in Long Beach

-EXTERNAL-

Dear Ms. Gomez,

While I am unable to attend this evening's meeting of the Long Beach Equity and Human Relations Commission I do want to express some comments and concerns.

The new techniques of surveillance being adopted by various agencies in Long Beach and elsewhere are serious threats to the human rights we hold dear and which are enshrined in our Constitution, rights like the right to privacy and free speech. Not only that, they are frequently inaccurate and lead to mis-identifications which can lead to false arrest and even false imprisonment. As just one example, the Detroit Chief of Police has admitted that the LACRIS platform, which is currently being used by the LA County Sheriff's Department, wrongly identifies some 96% of uploaded photos. Such faulty analyses have led to two wrongful prosecutions of Black men. I ask that the LBDP end all participation in LACRIS, prohibit direct data sharing with federal immigrations authorities and prohibit indirect data sharing with federal and local authorities and private companies that collaborate with federal immigration authorities.

The introduction of this and other surveillance systems endangers our citizens and, at least in this case, doesn't appear to help law enforcement at all. Our Constitution protects our rights to privacy and free speech. In the wrong hands these systems can and will be used to suppress speech that certain government leaders will object to because it challenges their authority and power. To press what is unfortunately a cliché this promises an Orwellian world. Our country was built on just such questioning of our rulers and it is important that this right be protected.

Please end all use of such surveillance technologies by the City of Long Beach.

Thank you for your consideration,

dennis kortheuer Ph. D.

Long Beach Ca. 90804

In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dennis Kortheuer
dkortheu@gmail.com

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