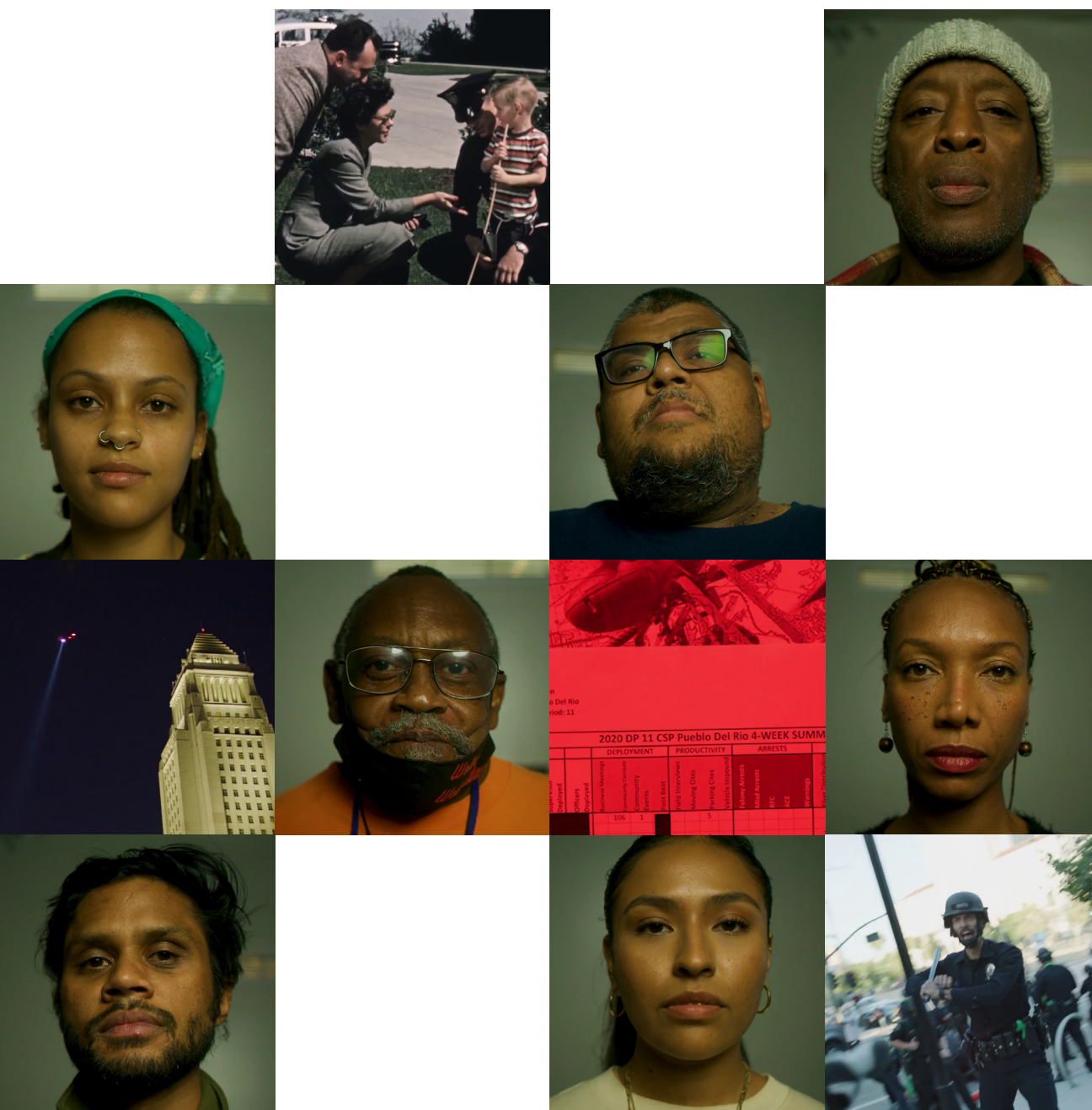


No Community Safety in ~~Policing~~

VIEWER'S GUIDE

MARCH 2022



BELONGING.BERKELEY.EDU

“A safe community is a community that is resourced, a community that has access to necessary resources, not just for survival, but in order to thrive.”

For centuries, the powerful – from corporations to the state – have stolen and accumulated land and capital to structure our understanding of who belongs, who gets to fully participate in the bounty of our earth, and whose needs are met. In modern-day, corporations are dictating the terms of both our public and private spaces – from hoarding and privatizing public land for development to smuggling themselves into the private sphere telling us that “corporations are people.” When this happens, real people – disproportionately Black and Brown people – are quarantined into spaces of extreme marginalization.¹ The tools of the day – predictive analytics, machine learning, algorithms – are sustaining racist and elitist ideologies that came long before us.² It’s up to us to decide if they will exist after us.

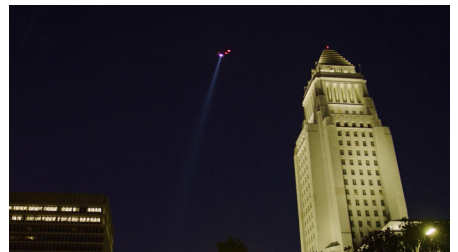
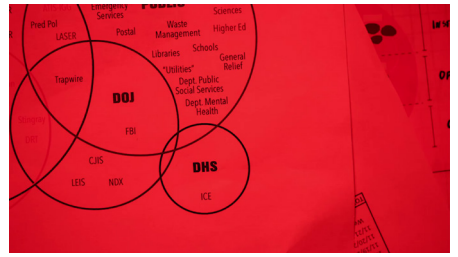
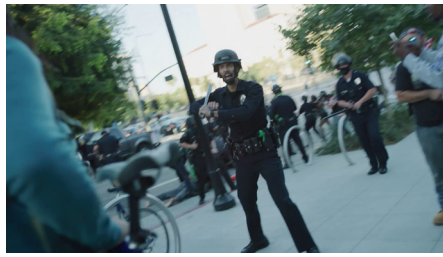
We invite you to learn from the case of the Los Angeles Police Department’s community policing program. Community policing is a police strategy that expands surveillance and social control of communities rather than investing in true community needs. One example of this strategy is the LAPD’s Community Safety Partnership program, which initially targeted public housing residents, who are placed in a space of extreme marginalization by design. As we heard, “when you’re a public housing resident, everything that you are and that you do is under surveillance.” This is a case study on the close ties between the government, land developers, data and technology companies, and the police. Some of the program’s original funding came from real estate developers and the program is now being expanded and institutionalized to counter the growing movement to defund the police.

We created this video in service of popular education on **how policing and surveillance entrench systems of othering and on the importance of power-building towards community care and true belonging**. The key audience for this video is Los Angeles community members. As the turn to community policing is a self-proclaimed “blueprint for the future of law enforcement,”³ we hope this video activates discussion and learning beyond Los Angeles as well.



Click here to watch
“No Community
Safety in Policing”

- 1 Othering and Belonging Institute. [The Circle of Human Concern](#). January 2020.
- 2 Stop LAPD Spying Coalition and Free Radicals. [The Algorithmic Ecology: An Abolitionist Tool for Organizing Against Algorithms](#). March 2020.
- 3 LAPD FY 2021-2022 Proposed Budget. http://www.lapdpolicy.com.lacity.org/112420/BPC_20-0180.pdf, Page 151.



Stills from “No Community Safety in Policing.”

Discussion Questions

- 1** Over the last several years, cities that were intentionally neglected economically and socially for decades are now seeing politicians try to attract rich businesses and residents. It's called gentrification. How has this trend affected your neighborhood? How have you seen policing change as your neighborhood has changed?
- 2** Do you know if your city's law enforcement agencies are using surveillance technologies? Try [this tool](#) from the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) to find out.
- 3** Do you know your city's budget for policing? Try [this tool](#) from the Action Center on Race and the Economy (ACRE) to find out.
- 4** Have you ever experienced human or electronic surveillance by the police?
- 5** How do you define a "safe" community? What do you picture? What resources, especially resources that are missing today, would make it possible?
- 6** What do you think are the barriers to having reliable alternatives outside of the police for public safety? What resources (financial, physical, any kind) would help?

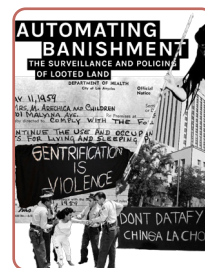
Diving Deeper

The history of community policing and the relationship between real estate developers, tech companies, and governments runs deep. Check out these additional resources to learn more.

“They worked together to displace and gentrify Black and Brown communities while helping to secure white wealth.”

Stop LAPD Spying Coalition’s Automating Banishment

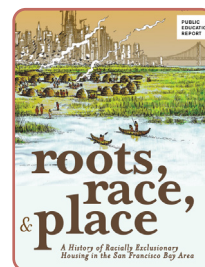
Data-driven policing helps link enforcement of criminal and property laws, especially through programs where policing is used for evictions and land grabs. While the tactics are as old as policing itself, the term “community policing” began to be used in the 1970s to address the police’s “public relations problem” after violent repression of the anti-war and civil rights movements.



[Read the report here](#)

Roots, Race, & Place: A History of Racially Exclusionary Housing in the San Francisco Bay Area

Throughout the Bay Area’s history, the interests of white property owners, government officials, and developers aligned over the protection of property values and accumulation of wealth based on racial exclusion.



[Read the report here](#)

“Tech companies that supply surveillance hardware and software ... are all accomplices in this dirty deed.”

How ICE uses tech to target immigrants

“Instead of aiding this process of being able to rely less on policing, invest more in communities, what [tech companies] are actually doing is reinforcing the system of needing to watch people who are deemed as criminals, which we know are our Black and Brown communities, our immigrant communities, our poor communities.”



[Listen to the conversation here](#)

The Surveillance State, Social Safety, and Building Power

Surveillance technology is connected to a long history of “othering” of many different communities of color and immigrant communities. In this livestream, panelists discuss how surveillance technology has aided in ICE raids, detentions, deportations, the arrests of Black activists, and the exploitation of warehouse and rideshare workers.



Watch the conversation here

“The strategy of community policing is a form of combat operation tested by the US military in Iraq and Afghanistan. It’s called counter-insurgency.”

Transnational Institute — Abolish National Security

Projects of racist policing, mass incarceration, border militarization, and counter-terrorism are directed at managing this ‘surplus’ humanity under neoliberalism – from the dramatic expansion in border regimes, with their huge death tolls in the deserts south of the United States, and their warehousing of millions of refugees in camps conveniently far from the West, to the global infrastructures of counter-insurgency, such as the War on Terror and War on Drugs, each causing the deaths of hundreds of thousands.



Read the report here

“We fight for a community free of police surveillance, police violence, and harm. We reclaim the resources we deserve to heal and thrive. Together.”

Cultures of Care

People care for each other and the planet in ways that our current systems cannot and will not. What is the radical potential of care for the future of people, planet and all living things?



Explore the project here

Video Transcript with sources

The legacy of community policing in Los Angeles is one of racism and social control.

We know the dark history of police partnering with government and real estate developers to maintain and strengthen state and corporate power.

Community policing began in the 1960s and 70s, with the presumed intent of “building trust between police and the community.”^{1,2}

A deeper look at community policing reveals a drastically different reality.³

The strategy of community policing is a form of combat operation and social control deployed by the US military in Iraq and Afghanistan. It’s called Counter-Insurgency.^{4,5}

It was the military that taught the LAPD how to become an occupying army to protect the status quo for future private development opportunities.⁶

This is another example of how police use the scam of “reform” to secure more resources and power.⁷

Tech companies that supply the surveillance hardware and software,⁸ and the university professors who provide justification for community policing are all accomplices in this dirty deed.⁹

In 2011, the LAPD and the City of LA’s Housing Authority, launched “Community Safety Partnerships” in four public housing projects in South Los Angeles.¹⁰

Now a growing¹¹ line item in LAPD’s budget, the program was originally set in motion through federal funding from the 1994 Crime Bill,^{12,13} along with money from philanthropy,¹⁴ real estate developers, and other wealthy elite.¹⁵

They worked together to displace and gentrify Black and Brown

- 1 [Philip V. McHarris. *Community Policing Is Not the Answer. The Appeal*. December 2, 2019.](#)
- 2 [Rebecca Onion. *Officer Friendly history: how the elementary school program foisted copaganda on kids. Slate*. August 27, 2020.](#)
- 3 [Charlotte Gill et al. *Community-oriented policing to reduce crime, disorder and fear and increase satisfaction and legitimacy among citizens: a systematic review. Journal of Experimental Criminology*. 2014.](#)
- 4 [Kristian Williams. *The other side of the COIN: counterinsurgency and community policing. Interface*. 2011.](#)
- 5 [Automating Banishment: ‘Reform’ of Data-Driven Policing and ‘Predictive Policing 2.0’. Stop LAPD Spying Coalition. January 2022.](#)
- 6 [Troops Shadow Cops to Learn Tactics. Los Angeles Police Protective League. July 23, 2010.](#)
- 7 [Letter from Margaret Totty, Former Project Manager at Jordan Downs Redevelopment Phase 1A. July 30, 2020.](#)
- 8 [Tech Companies’ Complicity in State Violence Runs Deep. Stop LAPD Spying Coalition. June 17, 2020](#)
- 9 [Community Response to Flaws in UCLA Public Affairs Evaluation of Community Safety Partnership. Stop LAPD Spying Coalition. October 2021.](#)
- 10 [LAPD’s Community Safety Partnership Program NR15021SF. LAPD Online. January 22, 2015.](#)
- 11 [Letter to Mayor and City Council on LAPD’s \\$213 million budget increase proposal. Stop LAPD Spying Coalition. February 23, 2022.](#)
- 12 [National Evaluation of the COPS Program - Title I of the 1994 Crime](#)

communities while helping to secure white wealth.^{16, 17}

Alongside the Housing Authority, the LAPD displaces and arrests residents on a massive scale, while collecting data accessible to agencies like ICE.¹⁸

This is how spying happens in LA.¹⁹

This is how the erosion of our human rights happens in LA.

This is how social control and gentrification happens in LA.

This is how police secure bigger budgets and more resources.

Despite repeated attempts to pacify and control us, we have always fought against this kind of policing, because a paramilitary, occupying force is not what makes our communities safe.

Together.

We question.

We fight back.

We organize.

We fight for a community free of police surveillance, police violence, and harm.

We reclaim the resources we deserve to heal and thrive. Together.

Join us.

[Act](#), Page 134. August 2000.

13 [COPS Office Grant Programs](#). FY22 Budget. June 2021.

14 [Mayor Garcetti announces new expansion of Community Safety Partnership](#). March 3, 2017.

15 Libby Denkmann. [The LAPD Is Doubling Down On A Community Policing Program. Why Some Activists Are Opposed](#). *LAist*. July 28, 2020.

16 Graziani, T., Montano, J., Roy, A., & Stephens, P. "Who Profits from Crisis? Housing Grabs in Time of Recovery." *UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality and Democracy*. 2020.

17 Brenden Beck. [The Role of Police in Gentrification](#). *The Appeal*. August 4, 2020.

18 Madison Parsley. [In the Conversation About Community Safety Partnerships and Public Housing, Where are the Residents?](#). *Knock LA*. February 27, 2021.

19 Johana Bhuiyan. [Rapper Nipsey Hussle and the problem of predictive policing](#). *The Guardian*. January 23, 2022.