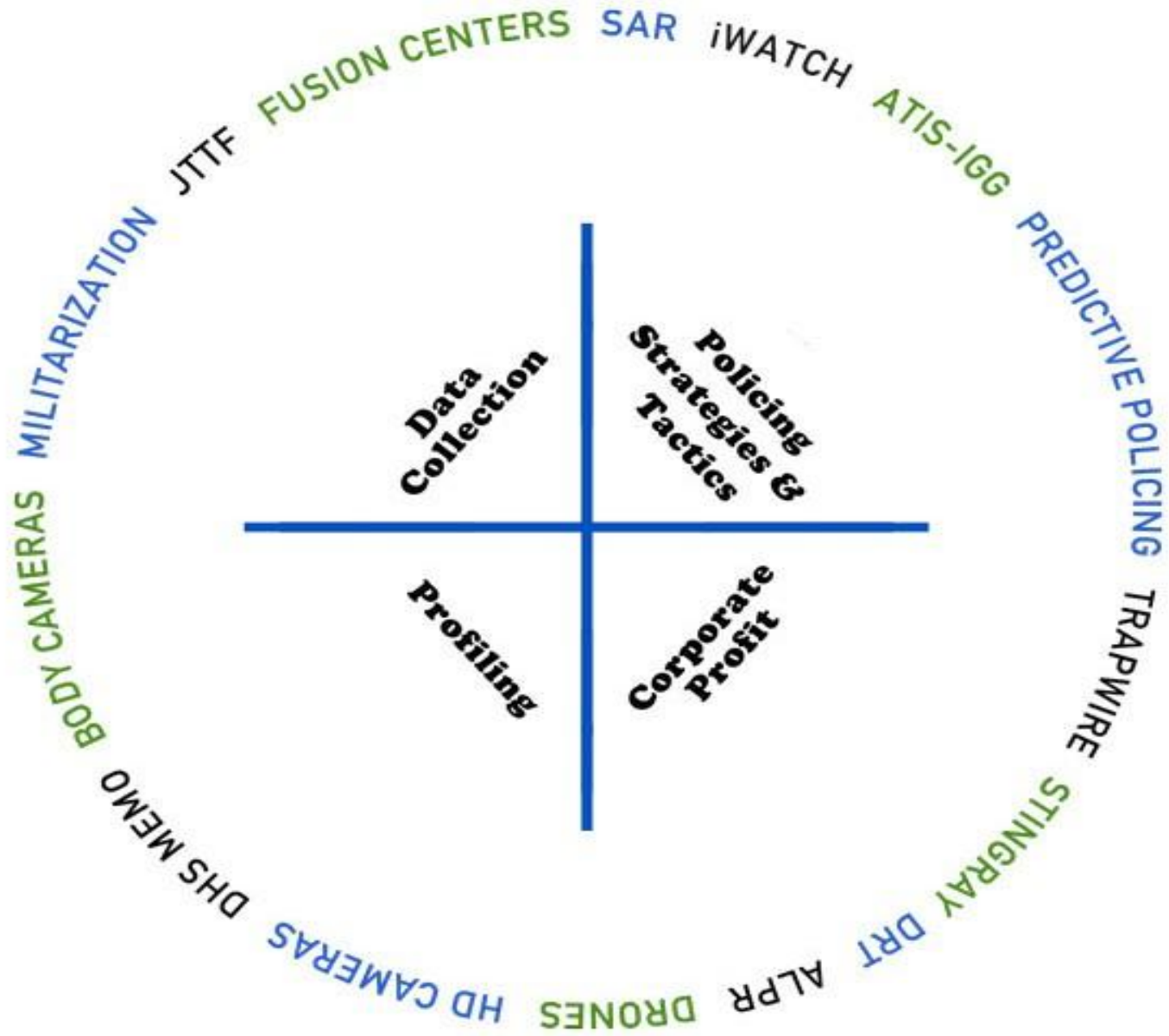




How to File a Public Records Request or
Freedom of Information Request



THE ARCHITECTURE OF LAPD SURVEILLANCE

Guiding Principles

- Not a moment in time but a continuation of history
- Creation of the “other”
- **De-sensationalize the rhetoric of national security**
- Anchored in human rights – the fight is to dismantle and not limited to constitutional or civil rights and civil liberties

What is a PRA or FOIA

- **Public Records Request Act** - The California State Legislature adopted the Public Records Act in 1968. It is designed to give the public access to information in the possession of public agencies
- **Freedom of Information Act**- Federal legislation adopted on July 4, 1965 that grants public access to documents or other data in the possession of a government agency or public authority

Why File a PRA or FOIA

- Build Community Power and Skills
- Build a Culture of Resistance and Self Reliance
- Expose Policing Tactics
- **Transparency as a tactic and not the goal of Abolition**

Steps in a Process

- What can I publicly find out about this issue? What is the existing research (academic articles, media, judicial actions) Who has done work on this before?
- Have I shared this idea with the community or larger group I am working with? What do we collectively know about this program, agency, problem?
- What do we want to know? Have I asked folks why we need to know this information or why it is important to them?



Role of Community & Lawyers

- Community submits PRA and communicates to Police Department
- Community updates
- Community works through the documents
- Lawyers are not always necessary to move this work.

•

•

•

May 2017 PRA about Operation LASER



II. THE RESPONSE

Once the scanning and analysis phases were complete, the Los Angeles SP1 team designed and implemented their response, called the Los Angeles' Strategic Extraction and Restoration Program, or Operation LASER. Operation LASER has five primary goals:

- Extract offenders from specific neighborhoods and areas.
- Restore peace to neighborhoods and communities.
- Remove the anonymity of gun offenders.
- Remove the anonymity of gang members.
- Reduce gun- and gang-related crime in the Newton Division.

Operation LASER is grounded in situational and environmental theories of crime. The basic premise is to target with laser-like precision the violent repeat offenders in gang

The program is analogous to laser surgery, where a trained medical doctor uses modern technology to remove tumors or improve

Who are the offenders, and where and when are they involved in criminal activity? Plans are then developed to remove offenders from an area with minimal invasiveness and minimal harm to the people and areas around them. Extraction of offenders takes place in a "non-invasive" manner (no task forces or saturation patrol activities), and the result produces less disruption in neighborhoods. Continuing with the medical analogy, by extracting offenders surgically, recovery time of the neighborhood is faster.

Offender- and Location-Based Strategies

Operation LASER, which is a data-driven, offender- and location-based program, was implemented in Newton. It is the centerpiece of the program. It involved the creation of a Community Detail (CID), composed of officers and one sergeant, which was added to the Newton Division's mission to provide available resources, intelligence, briefings, and training.¹ The CID is deployed on each patrol shift in Newton, as from the Bicycle Patrol Unit, the Compliance Unit (PCU) at Newton. CID also conducts daily reviews of all Field Identification Cards (FI), Citations, Release from Custody Forms (RFC), Crime Reports, and Incident Reports from Newton police entities, and then selects potential chronic offenders based on pre-determined criteria. Once CID has identified probable offenders, the Detail conducts more in-depth analyses of those individuals to confirm that they have been appropriately identified (e.g., review of each individual's criminal history, gang affiliation, previous detentions, and other factors).² If an individual meets the criteria, CID prepares a Chronic Offender Bulletin. The bulletin contains pertinent information on each individual, such as description, physical idiosyncrasies (tattoos), gang affiliation, prior

¹The Los Angeles City Attorney has approved the creation, use, and dissemination of the bulletins.

²The Patroler platform that LAPD uses allows law enforcement personnel to search multiple databases in one place. The program can map information, make associations among suspects, and provide of interest, and aggregate data across divisions, bureaus, and the whole department. Patroler is described in greater detail in the last section of this file's Spotlight.

The program is analogous to laser surgery, where a trained medical doctor uses modern technology to remove tumors or improve

Operation LASER

What can I do about it?

- Educate yourself and spread the information!
- Promote community safety that doesn't involve these invasive, abusive agencies.
- Get involved!
 - Website: www.stoplapdspying.org
 - Email: stoplapdspying@gmail.com
 - Phone: (424) 209-7450
 - Follow on Social Media:
 - facebook.com/stoplapdspying
 - twitter.com/stoplapdspying
 - instagram.com/stoplapdspying