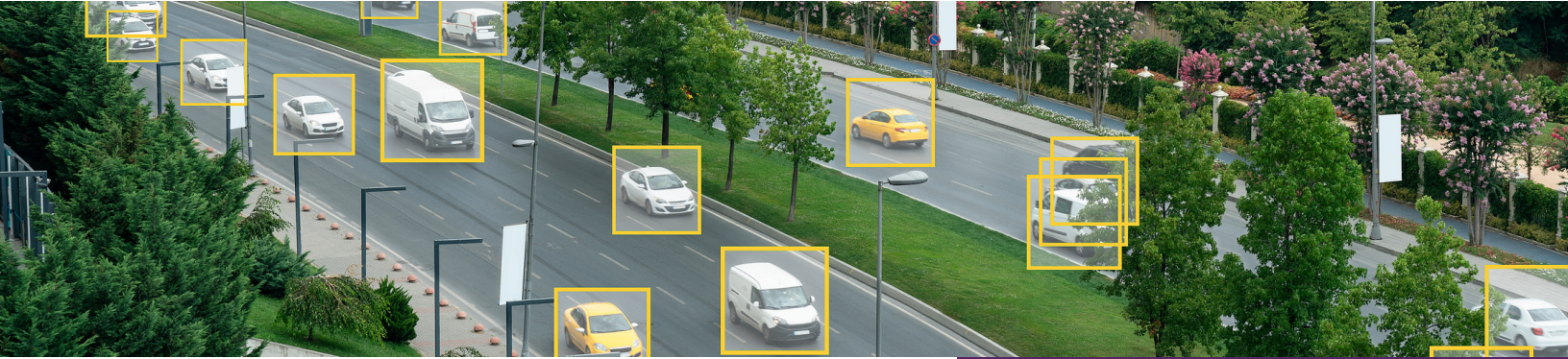


TAKE CONTROL OVER UNCHECKED SURVEILLANCE IN THE DISTRICT



IT'S TIME FOR US TO TAKE CONTROL WITH COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT OF SURVEILLANCE

Across Washington, D.C., government agencies use sophisticated surveillance technology with no public accountability. This poses a direct threat to the rights and privacy of all District residents and disproportionately harms Black and brown communities, immigrants, low-income communities and communities organizing across the city.

BACKGROUND

For decades the federal government has provided funding for local police to purchase and operate surveillance technologies with the provenly false hope of improving public safety.

This power has gone unchecked and is now unrecognizable from its original purpose. Surveillance technologies are frequently acquired and used in secret. Even our local elected officials have no idea what technologies are being used or newly acquired.

OUR SOLUTION

We need to pass legislation that allows the public and the D.C. Council to understand the technology's anticipated impact on communities, protect the civil rights and civil liberties of District residents and control how the police, public housing, and other government agencies use surveillance technology.

THE THREAT TO US

Black and brown residents have been subjected to disproportionate levels of surveillance as they live their lives and fight for liberation. It is harmful and racist. As the residents push for police reform and abolishment, we can't let police departments shift from racist human policing to racist digital surveillance.

The overuse of surveillance technologies has turned many neighborhoods into fishbowls, and some into virtual prisons, where residents' public behavior is monitored and scrutinized 24 hours a day.

UNCHECKED SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY



Closed-Circuit Television Cameras:

An investigation by the Capital News Service found that D.C. has 2.5 times more CCTV cameras in majority people-of-color neighborhoods. D.C. has 345 fixed CCTV cameras and 21 mobile cameras scattered throughout the District. This kind of racial disparity in surveillance by police fuels community distrust of police and greatly increases unnecessary encounters between police and the public.



Gunshot Detection Software (aka Shotspotter):

Gunshot detection software is a network of microphones planted throughout a city designed to detect the sound of gunshots and provide police with the location where the gunshot roughly has used Shot spotter since 2006. Shotspotter claims a 97% accuracy rate, but a May 2021 study of Shotspotter in Chicago by Northwestern University found that over a 21-month period, "89% [of police deployments] turned up no gun-related crime and 86% led to no report of any crime at all."



Mobile Device Forensic Tools (MDFT):

The Metropolitan Police Department uses Cellebrite, a portable machine that can download exact copies of a smartphone's entire memory. From an October 2020 report on the use of MDFTs nationwide, COS-DC coalition member, Upturn, submitted more than 110 public records requests to law enforcement agencies nationwide; MPD neither supplied the requested information on how or how often MPD uses its Cellebrite devices, nor did it disclose the policies that govern MPD's use of Cellebrite— or if any such policies exist.

Community Oversight of Surveillance (COS)- DC is a broad coalition of local groups and activists working to end the unchecked surveillance of D.C. communities by local agencies and law enforcement.

Learn more about the COS-DC campaign: takectrldc.org

Sign up to be a volunteer on this campaign: volunteer@acludc.org

Send us your questions: vmosqueda@acludc.org