

## **SURVEILLANCE TOOLKIT: SAMPLE COALITION LETTER SUPPORTING SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY ORDINANCE**

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*As explained in Part 3 of the Surveillance Toolkit, a coalition letter is an opportunity to state your case – and demonstrate the political power of your coalition – in a single place for decisionmakers. A coalition support letter contains a few key elements: it explains who is in your coalition (you can include partner organizations’ logos in the header of the letter), the surveillance technology issue in your community and why it matters, and a short explanation of your strategic goal and why they should support it. Submit your letter to the relevant elected body at least one week prior to the meeting where they will discuss your surveillance issue. The blue text should be customized.*

Month ##, 2020

Mayor  
Councilmember  
Councilmember  
Councilmember  
Councilmember  
Your City Council  
Street address  
City, CA ZIP

Dear City Council,

### **Re: Support for the Surveillance and Community Safety Ordinance**

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council:

We are a [local coalition](#) dedicated to protecting civil rights and civil liberties, including the right to be free from intrusive, discriminatory, and dangerous government surveillance. We write to urge the City Council to adopt the proposed Surveillance and Community Safety Ordinance (“Surveillance Ordinance”). This legislation gives residents and elected leaders an important voice in decisions about surveillance technology, and its adoption would make our City a leader in protecting local residents from unaccountable and secretive police surveillance.

This Surveillance Ordinance is the result of a robust and open debate among the City’s residents, civic organizations, and government stakeholders. The Ordinance is straightforward: it requires essential transparency, accountability, and oversight for all surveillance technology proposals, and it ensures that the public is informed of the civil rights and civil liberties impact before such tools are acquired and after they are used.

As the federal government turns its surveillance and enforcement powers on immigrants and Muslim Americans, and as a health crisis impacts the most vulnerable members of our society, this elected body has a special responsibility to enact strong measures that protect those very residents from harmful suspicionless monitoring, secretive technologies, and information-collection that can be exploited for discriminatory ends. This Ordinance is needed now to help protect the civil liberties and civil rights of all residents.

We urge this Committee to recommend that the City Council adopt it without delay.

Sincerely,