

FIGHTING LOCAL SURVEILLANCE

A CHECKLIST

1. FOCUS ON THE HARMS OF SURVEILLANCE

Your focus should be on the threat that surveillance technology poses, not only to our rights and liberties but also our ability to live safe lives and organize for social and political change.

Part 1 seeks to frame the harms of surveillance technology in terms of its real life impacts. For more information, please see our companion report, *Making Smart Decisions About Surveillance* (aclunc.org/smartaboutsurance) and the **Appendix**.

2. LEARN ABOUT SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY IN YOUR COMMUNITY

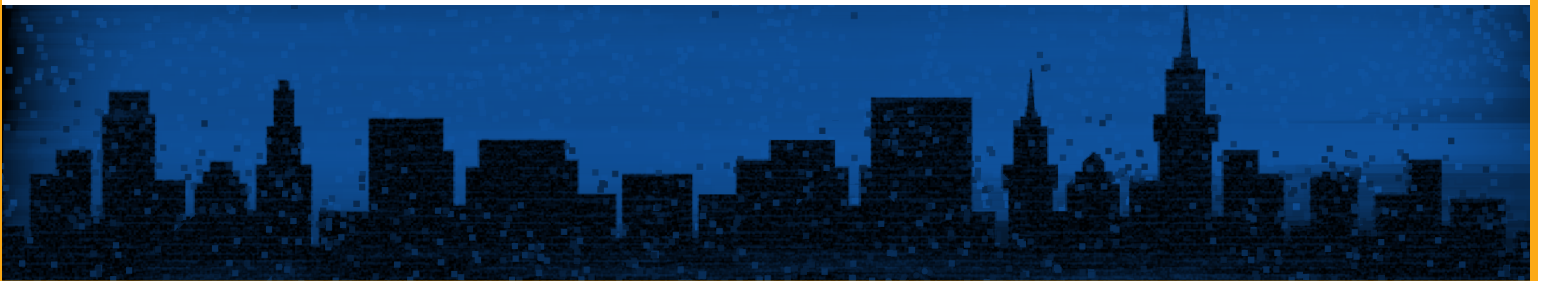
There are several ways to uncover government surveillance in your neighborhood. **Part 2** summarizes steps you can take to learn about the surveillance technologies being used by local authorities. Strategies explained include monitoring public agendas posted by local government, close scrutiny of local news, questions to elected officials or government agencies, and public records requests. You can find a sample, customizable public records request in the **Appendix**.

3. BUILD A DIVERSE COALITION FOR CHANGE

A coalition helps you build political power, persuade elected leaders, and achieve durable social change. **Part 3** explains how to build an effective coalition that centers on the people most directly impacted by government surveillance. In building a coalition, seek input, inclusion, and leadership from people of color, immigrant communities, low-income or homeless individuals, people on parole, and other local activists.

4. CHOOSE A STRATEGIC GOAL TO PURSUE

There is no one-size-fits-all solution for challenging surveillance in your community. **Part 4** discusses various legislative and policy solutions you might consider, including a surveillance technology oversight ordinance, a ban on a particular technology (such as facial recognition), a privacy advisory commission, or opposition to a specific proposed purchase of surveillance technology. You can find drafts of model legislation in the **Appendix**.



5. IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES TO INFLUENCE LOCAL SURVEILLANCE DECISIONS

Identifying the right decisionmakers, including elected leaders and other officials, helps you to know where to focus your advocacy. **Part 5** explains how decisions about surveillance are generally made at the city and county level, including the governing bodies and stakeholders you should be aware of as you craft and execute a public campaign.

6. DEVELOP YOUR NARRATIVE AND MESSAGING

Public support is key to building consensus around your strategic goal. **Part 6** explains how to start a public conversation about the importance of your issue and create a communications strategy that will help people and policymakers understand surveillance technology, its real life impacts, and the reasons why people should support your coalition's proposed solution. Look to the **Appendix** for a guide to build a messaging strategy, as well as sample coalition letters of support and op-eds.

7. MEET WITH DECISIONMAKERS TO MAKE YOUR CASE

An in-person meeting with local decisionmakers gives you an opportunity to explain the issues, why they matter and their impact on community members, and to ask for support for your coalition's preferred strategic goal. To make your meeting a success, it is important to prepare and follow through. **Part 7** explains how to request and prepare for a meeting, what to bring, and how to ask for support for your solution.

8. PUBLICLY ADVOCATE FOR YOUR STRATEGIC GOAL

Public support is key to building consensus around your goal. **Part 8** explains how to start a public conversation about your coalition's strategic goal and present it to decisionmakers at a public meeting. Look to the **Appendix** for sample public comments, op-eds, and other public advocacy materials.

9. OVERCOME CHALLENGES, BUILD ON YOUR PROGRESS

You will encounter challenges, but you can overcome them. And when you win, celebrate your victory. Build on the progress you achieve, using it as an opportunity to reiterate your coalition's values and vision for social change. **Part 9** discusses how to overcome challenges, achieve your strategic goal, and build on victory for larger social change.

