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LFI week 2
6/22/18

Option 2: Organizing a democratic information session about surveillance tech in my community

While I work in Baltimore County, many of our patrons live in the city – and both jurisdictions have known (and likely unknown) surveillance practices that warrant discussion. So this session would focus on the county and city.

I would want to organize a panel followed by a discussion/question and answer period, and would take the following steps to bring this together:

- Invite panelists representing multiple viewpoints and interests, including:
 - Representatives/community leaders from neighborhoods most affected by surveillance, crime, and police misconduct (often the same neighborhoods)
 - Local activist groups, possibly including [Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle](#), [Baltimore Bloc](#), [Baltimore Equity Toolkit](#), [Baltimore United for Change](#), or [Baltimore Racial Justice Action](#)
 - Local researchers/academics who study surveillance and/or policing tactics
 - Representative from the ACLU of Maryland
 - Co-authors of [The Perpetual Lineup](#), report on facial recognition programs for the Center on Privacy & Technology
 - Representatives from the Baltimore City and County police departments
- Publicize the event through standard library channels as well as with local organizations likely to be interested (including list above), local colleges/universities, and highly impacted neighborhoods
- Create one-sheet for promotion with resource list so that people could learn more about the relevant issues before the event (see next pages)
- Prepare discussion questions for the panel
- Prepare handout of relevant regulations and recommended reading list to distribute at event

- (Additional step: convince library that this isn't antagonistic toward police)

I would want this event to be scheduled for at least two hours event to allow adequate time for questions and discussion.

The following pages (formatted to be more eye-catching!) would promote the event and provide resources for people who wanted to learn more about the relevant issues.

Surveillance in Baltimore – Panel and Discussion

People in Baltimore City and County are subjected to multiple forms of surveillance on a daily basis. Did you know:

- Baltimore City is monitored 365/24/7 by 700+ Citiwatch cameras¹
- Drones capture activity in the city²
- Baltimore County and City have contracts with Geofeedia, a social media monitoring service³
- The state of Maryland provides drivers license photos to the FBI, which are then scanned by facial recognition software⁴
- City police capture cell phone location information using Stingray technology⁵
- Students and staff in Baltimore County schools are monitored by surveillance cameras⁶

How effective is this surveillance at preventing criminal activity, or at solving crimes that are committed? What privacy protections are in place? What policies exist to prevent abuse? What are the relevant laws? What input does the community have in how and where this technology is used? And how does the use of this technology relate to the findings of the Department of Justice's 2016 investigation⁷ into the Baltimore Police Department's practices?

Join us on [date] for an panel and discussion on surveillance in our communities. A panel will discuss the state of surveillance in Baltimore County and City, to be followed by a discussion and question-and-answer period.

This event is for anyone who wants to learn more or is concerned about surveillance in our communities.

1 <http://baltimore.cbslocal.com/2018/01/17/baltimore-citiwatch-cameras/>

2 <https://www.bloomberg.com/features/2016-baltimore-secret-surveillance/>

3 <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/investigations/bs-md-geofeedia-police-20160902-story.html>

4 <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/crime/bs-md-facial-recognition-20161017-story.html>

5 <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2015/08/23/baltimore-police-stingray-cell-surveillance/31994181/>

6 <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/education/blog/bs-md-co-school-security-update-20141014-story.html>

7 <https://www.justice.gov/opa/file/883366/download>

Learn more about surveillance issues in Baltimore County and City:

CitiWatch

- Walking tour of Baltimore tech, including CitiWatch: <https://technical.ly/baltimore/2012/11/05/tech-crawl-gb-tc-sponsored-walking-tour-takes-techies-to-mta-citiwatch-bromo-seltzer-clockworks/>
- CitiWatch homepage: https://citiwatch.baltimorecity.gov/_layouts/CitiWatch/Default.aspx
- CBS Baltimore/WJZ report about CitiWatch cameras: <http://baltimore.cbslocal.com/2018/01/17/baltimore-citiwatch-cameras/>

Geofeedia

- WBAL report on Geofeedia: <http://www.wbalv.com/article/aclu-report-baltimore-police-used-social-media-aggregator-during-unrest/7148628>
- Geofeedia case study about Baltimore: http://www.aclunc.org/docs/20161011_geofeedia_baltimore_case_study.pdf
- Baltimore Sun article about Geofeedia: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/investigations/bs-md-geofeedia-police-20160902-story.html>

Drones

- Investigative report on Persistent Surveillance Systems' drones in Baltimore from Bloomberg: <https://www.bloomberg.com/features/2016-baltimore-secret-surveillance/>
- Persistent Surveillance Systems' Community Support Program: <https://www.communitysupport.info/>

Facial recognition

- Perpetual Lineup (report from the Center on Privacy & Technology) – Maryland findings: <http://www.perpetuallineup.org/jurisdiction/maryland> (or PDF: http://www.perpetuallineup.org/sites/default/files/2016-10/12_MD.pdf)
- Maryland House Bill 1148 (Face Recognition Act): <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?id=HB1148&stab=01&pid=billpage&tab=subject3&ys=2017rs>
- Baltimore Sun article about facial recognition software in Maryland: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/crime/bs-md-facial-recognition-20161017-story.html>

Additional information

- Overview of surveillance in Baltimore from Rolling Stone: <https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/features/how-baltimore-police-use-military-technology-to-track-you-w458136>
- USA Today article about Stingray (cell phone surveillance) use by Baltimore Police: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2015/08/23/baltimore-police-stingray-cell-surveillance/31994181/>
- Baltimore Sun article about cameras in Baltimore County Public Schools: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/education/blog/bs-md-co-school-security-update-20141014-story.html>
- Additional surveillance/policing technology in Baltimore: <https://baltimorefishbowl.com/stories/bloomberg-to-pay-for-5m-worth-of-citiwatch-cams-license-plate-readers-gunshot-detection-tech-for-police/>
- Investigation of the Baltimore City Police Department by the US Department of Justice – full report: <https://www.justice.gov/opa/file/883366/download>