

OpenOversight:

Crowdsourcing surveillance of law enforcement

@redshiftzero

@b_meson

for @lucyparsonslabs



<https://openoversight.lucyparsonslabs.com/>

<https://lucyparsonslabs.com/>



Who are we?

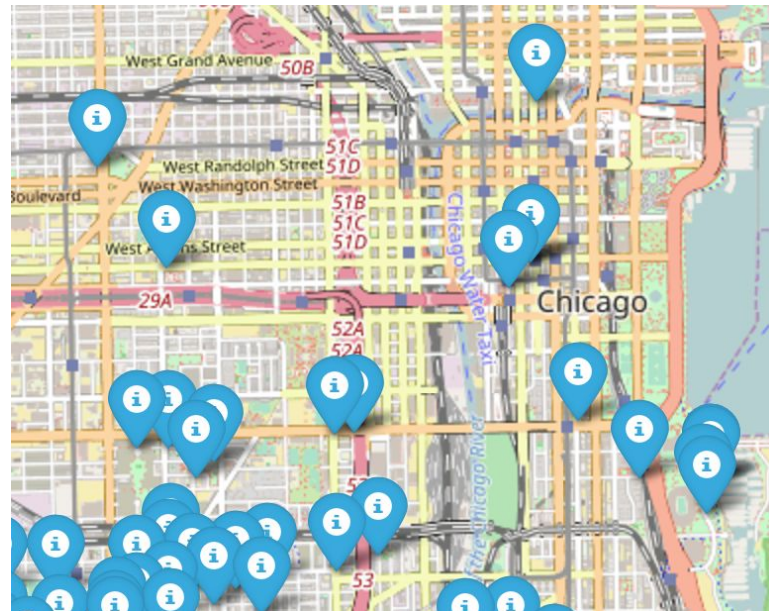
- @B_Meson: Director of Lucy Parsons Labs, Cloud Engineer at large tech company in Chicago
- @redshiftzero: CTO of Lucy Parsons Labs, Lead Developer on OpenOversight, Developer and researcher at Freedom of the Press Foundation

What is Lucy Parsons Labs?

- Lucy Parsons Labs is a Chicago-based collaboration between journalists, transparency activists, and technologists

Surveillance Work

- Revealed purchase and use of Stingrays by CPD
- ACLU created warrant requirement bill
- Created a surveillance primer of technology used in Chicago
- Lead digital security trainings for many groups



<https://redshiftzero.github.io/policesurveillance/>

POLICING
Rahm's violence-
prevention plan
ignores racism. 13

MUSIC
Saba brings the
west side to life
in rap. 29

Inside the Chicago Police Department's secret budget

Every year, Chicago police take millions of dollars from ordinary Chicagoans and spend it behind closed doors.

By JOEL HANDLEY, JENNIFER HELSBY, and FREDDY MARTINEZ 14

Chicago is one of the most heavily surveilled cities in the world.

- Extensive video surveillance network:
 - 26,000 cameras in a *public-private* partnership
 - Approximately 3,000 of which constitute “**Operation Virtual Shield**” - which also has facial recognition capabilities
- Extremely poor controls
 - “OEMC [Office of Emergency Management] could not, in most instances, determine which individuals accessed the camera system or how those individuals used the cameras” - audit of cameras [1]
- Shotspotter, Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPR), Stingray cell site simulators
- Most recently: Social media surveillance, body cameras

LEGAL

- There is no law that says you can't have a fake or covert Social Media account.
- Facebook, Twitter and Instagram have in their policies that if a fake or covert page is found it will be disabled immediately.
- Your agency should set up a policy that it follows to ensure legality.
- Social Media information can stand up in court and has in the past. <http://blogs.lawyers.com/2012/10/social-media-wins-and-loses-family-law-cases/>

• *LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

Cook County
Sheriff's Office
Social Media
Surveillance
Training
Documents

Acquired by
Lucy Parsons
Labs

Snippet of Open Source
Intelligence Gathering
document from Chicago
Police Department

Acquired by Lucy Parsons
Labs

CPD required to fill out
“First Amendment
worksheets” when
monitoring e.g. political
speech.

OSIG monitoring:

**Chicopwatch
HandsUpUnited
Let Us Breathe
Occupy Chicago
National Day of Protest Against Police Brutality
Rekia Boyd
Candlelight vigil for Rekia
California and Ogden
Weekend of Resistance
Ferguson
FergusonOctober
StandWithFerguson
WontTurnDown
JusticeForMikeBrown
March for Ferguson - Chicago
WGC We Charge Genocide
Chicago Police Violence Against Youth of Color
Anonymous**

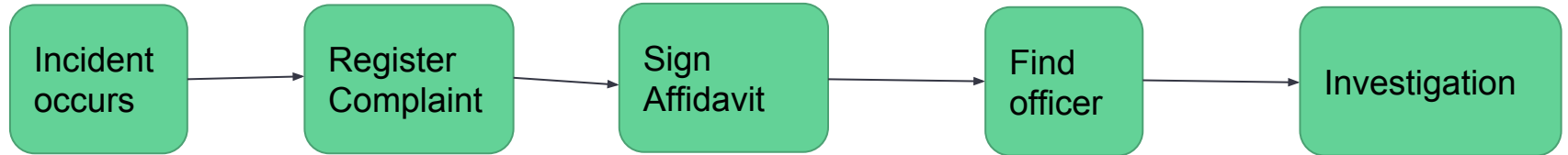
The Chicago Police Department is “A Little Extreme”

- Currently under investigation for civil rights violations by Department of Justice
- History of torture
 - Jon Burge police commander tortured to extract false confessions
 - Homan Square was used as a “black site” for suspects
 - Similarities between War on Drugs and War on Terror
- Chicago Police covered up the murder of Laquan McDonald
 - Many officers allowed to retire instead of being fired for lying on police reports
 - “Code of silence”

<https://thinkprogress.org/report-chicago-cops-ignored-recommendation-to-fire-officers-after-laquan-mcdonald-shooting-b3b04ae7a39#.9atqow77t>



Police Complaints



Thousands of Police Complaints are Thrown Away

Between March 2011 - March 2015, 28% of complaints (~4,000 total) were immediately dropped due to no officer identification

This means investigators could not determine the name or badge number associated with an officer

“I didn’t get their name or badge number. But if I ever saw their face again, I would recognize them.”

OpenOversight

Enter OpenOversight

- Enable users to find the officers that they want to complain on
- Users put in the information they know about the officer and see a gallery of potential matches
- If they find the offending officer and recognize them, they can file a complaint using the provided name and badge number
- Link: <https://openoversight.lucyparsonslabs.com>

OpenOversight

OpenOversight is a Lucy Parsons Labs project to improve police accountability using public and crowdsourced data. We maintain a database of police officers and provide a digital gallery that allows the public to identify the name and badge number of a police officer they would like to file a complaint about.

[Try it](#)

Note: OpenOversight is currently in public beta. Please submit any issues or suggestions you have for us on [GitHub](#), [Twitter](#), or by email to info@lucyparsonslabs.com. We are currently requesting pictures of Chicago Police Department officers in uniform with their name or badge number displayed for our database. We are also very interested in any data corrections or inaccuracies you would like to report and correct.

Find an Officer

Find an Officer

Fill in the information you know about a police officer you interacted with. Don't worry if you don't know or have answers to every question. OpenOversight takes what you provide and generates a digital gallery of Chicago police officers who may be a match.

Note that this form is designed for you to search for one officer at a time. If you want to file a complaints against multiple officers, you need to search for each one individually.

Agency Information

Department:

Don't see your department? Want to bring OpenOversight to your city? Email us at [OpenOversight](#).

Partial Name or Badge Number

Do you remember any part of the Officer's last name?

Do you remember any part of the Officer's badge number?

Rank

Rank:

Show rank shoulder patches as reference

Demographic Information

Race:

Gender:

Age: to

Ready to Submit?

Digital Gallery

Do you see the officer here?

[Go Back to Search](#)

>>

Page 1 of 2

Robert C. Cesario #10

[That's the officer!](#)

Anthony J. Escamilla #40

[That's the officer!](#)

Daniel J. Godsel #470

[That's the officer!](#)

File a Complaint Using these officer details

Now that you've found the offending officer, it's time to submit a complaint to the relevant oversight body. For complaints regarding Chicago Police Department officers, complaints are accepted through the link below. Clicking below will open a new browser tab where you can copy the officer details from this page into the complaint form when requested.

Warning! The following link will open an external site in a new browser tab:

[File Complaint Online](#)



Officer name: Elias Voulgaris

Officer badge number: #43



Data Collection

Officer-level demographic information

- Name
- Gender
- Race
- Age

Officer-level duty details

- Rank
- Assignment
- Badge number
- Date they joined the police

- Clear image of officer face
- Name and/or badge number in frame for volunteers to verify

Officer images

Data Collection

Officer-level demographic information

- Name
- Gender
- Race
- Age

Officer-level duty details

- Rank
- Assignment
- Badge number
- Date they joined the force

Acquired through public records requests

- Clear image of officer face
- Name and/or badge number in frame for volunteers to verify

Officer images

Acquired through social media scraping and through soliciting images from the public

“The Obama Administration has repeatedly maintained that the public has no privacy in public places”

- Ars Technica

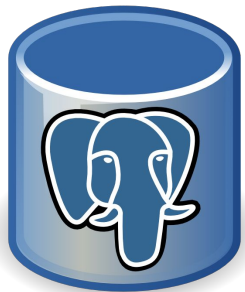
Community

Held a community meeting in November with other activists groups to solicit feedback and encourage them to submit photographs to us.

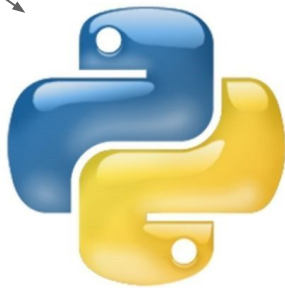




Image Storage



SQL Database



OpenOversight App

Use Cases

Potential
Complainant

Activist
submitting
image(s) of
officers

LPL volunteer
tagging images

Find an Officer

[Get Started](#)

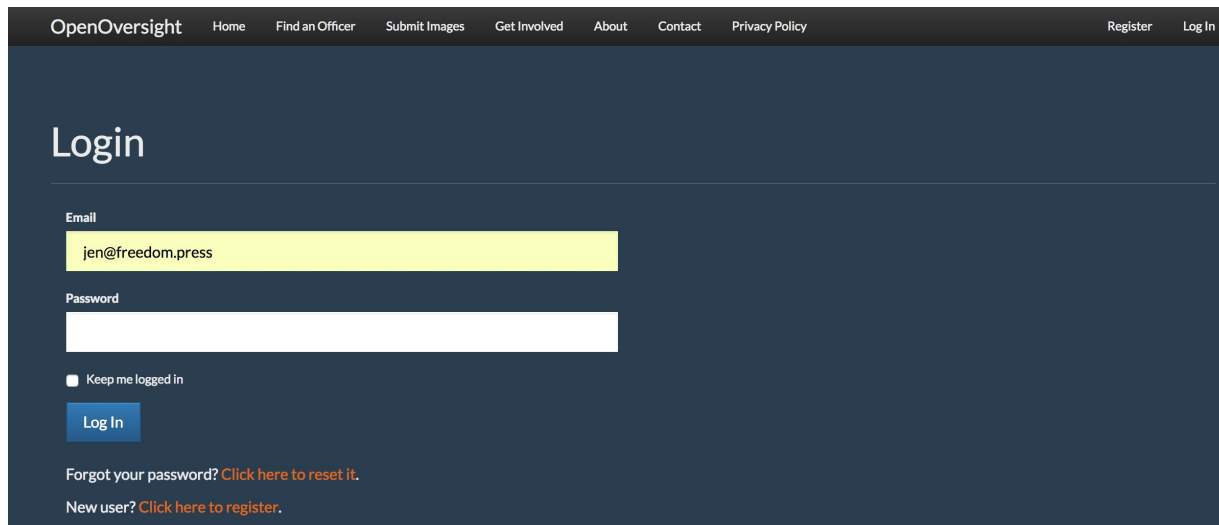
Contribute Images or Get Involved

[Submit Images](#)

[Put me to Work!](#)

0.2 Release

Volunteers make accounts and do their tagging in the application



The screenshot shows the OpenOversight website's login interface. At the top is a dark navigation bar with the site name and various links. The main content area has a dark blue background with the word 'Login' in large white text. Below this, there are input fields for 'Email' and 'Password'. The email field contains the text 'jen@freedom.press'. There is a checkbox for 'Keep me logged in' and a blue 'Log In' button. At the bottom, there are links for users who forgot their password or are new users.

OpenOversight Home Find an Officer Submit Images Get Involved About Contact Privacy Policy Register Log In

Login

Email
jen@freedom.press

Password

☐ Keep me logged in

Log In

Forgot your password? [Click here to reset it.](#)

New user? [Click here to register.](#)

See 0.2 milestone on GitHub for more details

Reactions



Peter [redacted]
[redacted]

 Follow

[@B_Meson](#) Is this legal?

7:02 AM - 18 Oct 2016



1



“It seems to me a little extreme.”

- Dean Angelo, President of Chicago Fraternal Order of Police

Law Enforcement blogs encourage police to submit false photos to us

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2016

Don't Pose for Cameras

Another reason to disengage:

- *A new open data project aims to make filing a complaint against Chicago Police — a fraught endeavor, since it's often hard to name the cop in question — significantly easier.*

According to data tracked by Mapping Police Violence, at least 54 people have been killed by police in Chicago since 2013, and the city has spent more than \$640 million since 2004 settling police brutality cases. But properly identifying a Chicago Police officer for a formal complaint is a difficult process. False complaints can be met with a class 3 felony perjury charge. A successful complaint needs to be as detailed as possible, and lack of proper identification is an endemic problem in Chicago: One study found that more than a quarter of all complaints against CPD officers — 28 percent between March 2011 and March 2015 — were dropped for lack of officer identification, and only about 2 percent of complaints lead to disciplinary action.

So to be helpful, they've come up with a website, and they're trolling social media, award ceremonies, newspaper and television reports, even crime scenes and social media pages to get pictures of you to post so that a complainant can identify you. They've already got the names of every Department member thanks to the payroll databases the city released.

Of course, anyone can access this database and start stalking you at the grocery store, at your kid's ballgame, at church, at dinner, or anywhere, with a nice picture supplied by these ... whatever they are. And we don't have to remind everyone how easy it is to Google or Zaba someone.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2016

Be Helpful

Yesterday, we posted about a website that is hoping to identify cops by trolling media reports, social media, etc to "facilitate" complaints against the police.

Someone took the time to read the site and discovered they're accepting pictures the public has managed to acquire for their use. That same someone also suggested we could helpfully upload some pictures:



<https://secondcitycop.blogspot.com/2016/10/dont-pose-for-cameras.html>

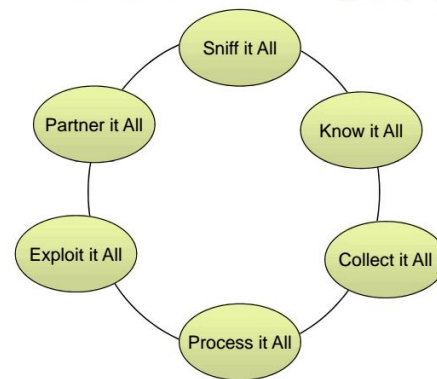
<https://secondcitycop.blogspot.com/2016/10/be-helpful.html>

Next Steps

Field Site Responsibilities

New Collection Posture

- Collect It All
 - Automate social media scraping and use more sources (currently just Twitter and Flickr)
 - Need high resolution photos to make out officer badge numbers and names
- Face detection *not* facial recognition
 - Illinois Biometric Privacy Act prevents us from conducting facial recognition on law enforcement
 - Same legal constraints do not exist in other states



How you can help us if you're a developer

- Know Python/SQL/Frontend? Help us with our web application!
 - Take a look at our GitHub issues:
<https://github.com/lucyparsons/OpenOversight/issues>
 - Getting started with our dev environment for Springfield Police Department:
<https://github.com/lucyparsons/OpenOversight/blob/develop/CONTRIBUTING.md>
 - Or just come talk to us afterwards!



How you can help us

- Want something like this in your own city? Bring this to your city
- Host a mirror
- We have a public Slack
- Know how to do public records requests? Help us with public records requests to keep our data fresh

Thanks to: @r4v5, @JoshuaOpolko, @scurda, @ageis, Dan Massoglia and Mariana Karampela at MK Law