WHAT TO DO ?

This zine was created by the **Niles Coalition** as the result of years of research through a coalition of activists, artists, and technologists, in the Chicagoland area.

**Background image is an ALPR search audit log we uncovered.*

niles COALITION
nilescoalition.org

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Only you can answer that! What makes sense for your community?

Some ideas:

- Document the cameras in your community. Deflock.org can help.
- Watch the watchers and document your cops on OpenOversight.
- Self-publish your stories and distribute them locally (like zines). We can't rely on media.
- Cut back on social media and resist the algorithms.
- Build new social structures that rely less on the violent state. Experiment, have fun!
- Be human with one another.

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THIS IS EMPIRE

This zine intentionally avoided technical details for a reason. Surveillance systems are already well-studied. ***The evidence is in*** on how bad it is. Police everywhere know it, the state enables it, and tech bros get rich off of it.

Here is the most important point:

THEY'RE STILL DOING IT ANYWAY.

This is who police are.

Systems of empire cannot be reformed. ***The purpose of a system is what it does.*** No company can build an ethical surveillance weapon. No policy or election can curtail it. This is not empire failing, this is empire working as intended.

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CHICAGOLAND ALPR OUTPOSTS OF EMPIRE

NAMING THE MACHINERY

"POLICY"

Policy reform manufactures consent. More surveillance gets adopted under the promise that guardrails will protect us.

"LEGIBILITY"

Being 'legible' means visible and sortable, flattened into data the state can act upon.

"TRANSPARENCY"

The state and its capitalist accomplices can't be trusted to tell on themselves.

"ENCLOSURE"

Enclosure took land people used in common and made it property. ALPR vendors do this to your movement through public space.

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ALPR IS A WEAPON

An ALPR records everything that passes by and logs where and when. This is weapons technology with a violent beginning. The British state invented it in **1976**, aimed first at striking miners, then at Irish resistance. ***A colonizer's weapon.***

Now police are installing this surveillance weapon throughout the empire. They even use military jargon like ***"force multiplier"*** to describe it.

A camera spying for local cops is bad enough. It gets exponentially more dangerous as the ***network effect***, collecting data not just for all cops (including federal goons), but for private data brokers who profit off it.

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WORDS THAT MISDIRECT

"SAFETY"

People are safe when they have housing, food, and each other. ALPR doesn't bring safety, it compounds harm in the community.

"CRIME"

Crime measures what cops choose to enforce. If it measured harm, surveillance would be the crime.

"PRIVACY"

Surveillance harm is collective. An individualistic approach suggests reform is possible.

"MASS SURVEILLANCE"

Calling it 'mass' implies targeted surveillance is acceptable. But targeted surveillance is what hits marginalized communities hardest.

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IT'S NOT COMPLICATED

ALPR is really just a camera on a pole, and nearly any camera can be an ALPR.

They sell this as tech beyond our understanding, gatekept by "experts." Cops and salespeople: ***experts in violence and profit.***

THE ACTUAL EXPERTS ARE THE PEOPLE LIVING UNDER SURVEILLANCE.

ALPR is ***pseudoscience***. No scientific study concluded that a better community required cameras on a pole.

Old-fashioned ***snake oil*** dressed up in boomer-ass COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY.

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