Donald Trump and his administration have proposed to use the power of the federal government to encourage police violence against our communities. His proposals threaten to further empower police to racially profile, surveil, and break up black and brown families. Persistent advocacy will be essential to blocking Congressional legislation to expand the power of the agencies and departments responsible for implementing these proposals, including the FBI, DEA, NSA, Department of Homeland Security, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

However, much of Trump’s agenda may be able to be enacted without needing new legislation. As such, state and local lawmakers are positioned to play a critical role in resisting Trump’s agenda and protecting communities from harm. This agenda outlines legislation that can be passed at the state and local levels to stop Trump’s administration from escalating police violence in our communities.

END BROKEN WINDOWS POLICING

Trump’s administration has encouraged law enforcement to use profiling and stop-and-frisk tactics in “inner cities” and to partner with immigration authorities to arrest, detain, and deport 2-3 million undocumented immigrants through the 287(g) and Secure Communities programs. Undocumented immigrants will be particularly vulnerable in jurisdictions that emphasize “broken windows policing,” because they face the risk of being arrested for even the most minor offenses. In response, state and local governments should:

- Prohibit the use of funds or resources to assist in the enforcement of federal immigration law or to collect or disseminate information regarding the immigration status of individuals. As part of this legislation, police should be explicitly prohibited from stopping, questioning, arresting, or detaining any individual because of their national origin or suspected immigration status. (SF ordinance, California bill, Mijente Sanctuary policy)

- Prohibit police officers from being placed under the supervision of federal agencies or deputized as special federal officers or special federal deputies. (California bill)

- Establish enforceable bans on racial profiling and stop-and-frisk for law enforcement under their jurisdiction and decline to participate in any federal program that encourages these tactics. (NYC Racial Profiling ban and Stop-and-Frisk reform)

- Decriminalize low-level offenses and establish alternative responses including mental health response teams, community intervention workers, and restorative justice programs. (LAPD Mental Evaluation Team, Texas bill)

- Establish emergency alert systems, 24-hour crisis hotlines and legal protection funds to protect immigrants and other communities from federal actions. (Chicago Legal Protection Fund)

- Raise taxes on the wealthiest residents and corporations to offset any cuts to social programs imposed by a Trump administration as a result of non-compliance with federal enforcement efforts. (Portland CEO tax, NY millionaire’s tax)
**END FOR-PROFIT POLICING**

Trump has proposed to **expand the use of private prisons** and Attorney General Jeff Sessions might **decline to conduct** civil rights investigations that can stop municipalities from preying on low-income residents to raise revenue through fines and fees (as the DOJ consent decree **required** in Ferguson, MO). Sessions has **deemed** consent decrees as an “constitute an end run around the democratic process.”

- Prohibit the use of private prisons. *(King County, WA bill)*
- Establish a cap on the amount of revenue that can be raised through municipal fines and fees. *(Missouri law)*
- Prohibit police from seizing cash and property from civilians who haven’t been convicted of a crime and prohibit police from participating in the federal “Equitable Sharing” program to seize these assets. *(New Mexico law)*

**LIMIT USE OF FORCE**

Trump has stated he plans to give more “**strength and power**” to police and **does not** believe the federal government should require police departments to report data on use of force. As such, his administration might discontinue efforts to update police use of force guidelines and collect more comprehensive data on police violence.

- Restrict deadly force to be authorized only when strictly necessary after all other reasonable means are exhausted, including the use of de-escalation techniques. *(Tennessee deadly force law; UN deadly force standard)*
- Require police departments to report all uses of force, including deadly force, as well as any disciplinary consequences for officers resulting from investigations into these incidents. *(Maryland use of force reporting law)*

**DEMILITARIZATION**

Trump plans to **rescind Obama’s executive order** and reinstate the transfer of military weapons to local police agencies including military aircraft, grenade launchers, and tanks.

- Prohibit police departments from receiving military equipment from the federal government and from using federal funds to purchase military equipment. At minimum, city council approval should be required prior to obtaining this equipment. *(Montana law)*
- Prohibit warrantless surveillance, require police to report how they use surveillance tools, and require city council approval prior to purchasing them. *(California law)*

“**TRUMP PLANS TO RESCIND OBAMA’S EXECUTIVE ORDER AND REINSTATE THE TRANSFER OF MILITARY WEAPONS TO LOCAL POLICE AGENCIES**”
**INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS**

Trump plans to cut funding from the DOJ Civil Rights Division, which investigates police officers and departments. Jeff Sessions could decline to conduct these investigations altogether.

- Require independent investigations and prosecutions of police officers. ([Connecticut law](#))
- Authorize and fund the state Department of Justice to investigate police departments for a pattern or practice of unconstitutional policing and require departments to reform, if necessary. ([California law](#))
- Establish automatic civil rights investigations of police departments that demonstrate high rates of use of force, as indicated by the state’s use of force data collection system.

**TRAINING**

Trump plans to cut funding from the DOJ COPS office which, among other things, provides training for police departments on issues of constitutional policing, anti-bias training, and other subjects.

- Decline to participate in any federal programs that encourage unconstitutional or harmful policing approaches and pass legislation expanding training in police de-escalation, limiting use of force, anti-bias, and crisis intervention. ([Utah law](#), [Maryland law](#)).

**BODY CAMERAS/FILM THE POLICE**

Trump has proposed to fund, but not require, body cameras for law enforcement. Such technology, without the proper oversight, can be used to increase surveillance of communities of color.

- Establish policies governing the use of body cameras that ensure public access to footage, prevents storage of non-essential footage, includes specific disciplinary consequences for violations, and prohibits the cameras from being used with biometric scanning and other surveillance technologies. ([ACLU model body camera policy](#))
- Strengthen the right to film the police and provide legal assistance for individuals to sue law enforcement agencies if they take or destroy recording devices. ([Colorado law](#))

**COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION**

Trump’s plans to cut funding from the DOJ Civil Rights Division, which has supported law enforcement agencies to increase diversity within their police force.

- Require police departments to establish clear plans for prioritizing hiring among underrepresented communities. ([Connecticut law](#))
EMPOWERED COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT

Community oversight of police departments has not been mentioned by Trump’s administration and has not received funding from the federal government. Empowered community oversight structures will play an outsized role in holding individual officers accountable and pushing for systemic changes within police departments in the absence of federal intervention.

- Establish empowered community oversight structures to hold police accountable and set police department policy. (San Francisco Charter Policies on Police Commission and Office of Citizen Complaints)

FAIR POLICE UNION CONTRACTS

Trump’s administration is supported by police unions and has not proposed policies that promote accountability within police union contracts or state police bill of rights laws.

- Remove provisions within state police bill of rights laws and local police union contracts that impose barriers to accountability including provisions that:
  - Disqualify misconduct complaints
  - Restrict or delay interrogations of officers
  - Give officers unfair information prior to interrogations
  - Limit officer discipline or community oversight
  - Require cities to pay for misconduct, or;
  - Erase or otherwise limit public access to police misconduct records. (Illinois bill)

“EMPOWERED COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT STRUCTURES WILL PLAY AN OUTSIZED ROLE IN HOLDING INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS ACCOUNTABLE AND PUSHING FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGES WITHIN POLICE DEPARTMENTS IN THE ABSENCE OF FEDERAL INTERVENTION.”