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***“Californians For Privacy: How the War on Sex Work Is Stripping Your Privacy Rights”
Report Finds CA Law Enforcement Systematically and Pervasively
Violates Civil Liberties & Privacy Rights***

California - A report released today documents the disturbing invasive surveillance techniques deployed by law enforcement against Californians.

“The excessive use of force by law enforcement agencies is documented by horrifying recordings and images of beatings and murders,” said Maxine Doogan, Executive Director Erotic Service Provider Legal, Educational and Research Project (ESPLER), “But law enforcement’s excessive use of technology is deliberately obscure, this is why the Californians for Privacy report is so important.”

Among the key findings are:

- The criminalization of prostitution creates an unprotected population, suspected sex workers and their clients, that law enforcement can test invasive surveillance techniques on.
- Police Departments are collaborating with for-profit technology firms to access databases containing personal information without warrants.
- The law enforcement community has broadened the definition of trafficking to inflate their perceived efficacy and justify their budgets.
- Every step of the process of enforcing prostitution laws disproportionately targets and egregiously harms minority and gender non-conforming communities.

The report, “Citizens for Privacy: How the War on Sex Work Is Stripping Your Privacy Rights”, is based on responses to public records requests sent to District Attorneys, Probation & Sheriff’s Departments, and local Police Departments throughout California regarding the tactics used to secure prostitution and loitering citations and /or arrests.

“Since California law enforcement agencies only partially responded to public records requests, the true extent of the use of intrusive tactics by Police Departments and District Attorney & Sheriff Offices is not fully known,” said lead report researcher Terra Burns.

ESPLER is committed to continuing to uncover information about the egregious methods used by law enforcement agencies and working with state legislators to protect the privacy rights of all Californians. Among the policy recommendations of the report are:

- Commercial surveillance must be banned, and police databases regulated.
- Local law enforcement must be prevented from misusing human trafficking enforcement to violate civil liberties.
- Repealing the criminalization of prostitution would remove the pretext law enforcement uses to violate the public’s privacy and would restore basic and fundamental human rights denied to sex workers.

Full Report LINKED HERE

Executive Summary LINKED HERE

For more information, please visit www.CA4Privacy.org

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