

**POLICE**

# **SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY OVERSIGHT PROJECT**

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## **Launch Plan**

**CY 2019 & CY 2020 Overview**

[www.stopspying.org](http://www.stopspying.org)

**STOP**  
SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY  
OVERSIGHT PROJECT

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## Introduction

The Surveillance Technology Oversight Project (“STOP”) is a novel public interest advocacy and legal services organization, addressing state and local officials’ growing use of surveillance technologies in New York. Recent anti-surveillance mobilizations largely targeted federal agencies, ignoring the alarming growth in local and state surveillance.

Sadly, while things are bleak at the federal level, they are far worse here in New York State. The NYPD purchases the same hi-tech surveillance tools deployed by the federal government, while refusing to promulgate the same internal privacy and use policies required for federal agencies. In New York City, these systems provide information to federal agencies, endangering immigrant New Yorkers, and violating local officials’ promise that we will be a “sanctuary city.”

STOP aims to transform New York State into a model of surveillance oversight for the rest of the country, leading the way on these crucial state-level issues. As technology continues to evolve and expand, as surveillance continues to grow ever more prevalent, this work will become only more essential to how we balance privacy and security at the local and state level.

## Plan Structure

The following provides a high-level overview of STOP’s launch and growth plans for its first two years of operations. Benchmarks are provided for seven sets of deliverables after 6 month (July 1, 2019), 1 year (January 1, 2020), and 2 years (January 1, 2021) of operations. Some benchmarks include both a “base case”, which is the minimal successful end goal, and the “goal case”, which is the maximum attainable goal.

During this exciting growth period, STOP plans to rapidly expand so as to meet the scale of the challenges we confront. Furthermore, this plan addresses key goals and growth metrics for the organization, but it does not provide a comprehensive survey of all planned work. As a legal services provider, confidentiality limits discussion of some pending and ongoing litigation. Lastly, like any organization, STOP faces significant uncertainty in the business, legal, and political climate, and unforeseen changes may significantly alter operational priorities in the period under review in this plan.



## Phase 1: H1 2019



### Legislation

**Base Case:** Secure 25 City Council co-sponsors for Providing Oversight of Surveillance Technology (POST) Act. The POST Act is an existing City Council bill that would require the NYPD to provide an impact and use policy for every type of surveillance equipment it purchases. Such a policy would explain how tools are used, whether a warrant is required, and how the collection of information on innocent bystanders can be mitigated. Currently, the City Council does not have any information on how such tools are used if they are precured with money from private or federal grants, circumventing city appropriations.

**Goal Case:** Secure 34 City Council co-sponsors (2/3 majority) for POST Act and hold hearing before the City Council's Public Safety Committee.

### Litigation

**Base Case:** Litigate at least 10 matters, including at least 1 class action and at least 1 impact case (seeking to end or alter NYC surveillance policy). Submit at least 1 *amicus* brief.

**Goal Case:** Litigate at least 15 matters, including at least 1 class action and at least 2 impact cases. Submit at least 2 *amicus* briefs.

### Education

**Base Case:** Hold at least 5 “know your rights” workshops and produce at least 3 “know your rights” publications for stopspying.org.

**Goal Case:** Hold at least 10 “know your rights” workshops and produce at least 5 “know your rights” publications for stopspying.org.

### Media

**Base Case:** Appear in at least 20 media articles, place at least 2 op-eds, do at least 1 long-form organizational profile.

**Goal Case:** Appear in at least 50 media articles, place at least 5 op-eds, do at least 3 long-form organizational profile.



## Staff

**Base Case:** Hire a part time operations coordinator and a part time legal director; secure 10 law firms as co-counsel and 1 intern per semester.

**Goal Case:** Hire a full-time operations coordinator and a full-time legal director; secure 10 law firms as co-counsel and 2 law student interns per semester.



## Board

**Base Case:** Recruit five members of the board of directors and 10 members of community advisory board.

**Goal Case:** Recruit ten members of the board of directors and twenty members of the community advisory board.

## Phase 2: CY 2019 (inclusive of phase 1)



### Legislation

**Base Case:** Secure 34 City Council co-sponsors for POST Act and hold hearing before Public Safety Committee.

**Goal Case:** Secure passage of POST Act by City Council, overriding mayoral veto if needed.

### Litigation

**Base Case:** Litigate at least 15 matters, including at least 1 class action and at least 2 impact cases. Submit at least 2 *amicus* briefs.

**Goal Case:** Litigate at least 20 matters, including at least 2 class actions and at least 3 impact cases. Submit at least 5 *amicus* briefs.

### Education

**Base Case:** Hold at least 10 “know your rights” workshops and produce at least 5 “know your rights” publications.

**Goal Case:** Hold at least 20 “know your rights” workshops, produce at least 8 “know your rights” publications, produce at least one know your rights video project.

### Media

**Base Case:** Appear in at least 50 media articles, place at least 5 op-eds, do at least 3 long-form organizational profiles.

**Goal Case:** Appear in at least 100 media articles, place at least 8 op-eds, do at least 5 long-form organizational profiles.

### Staff

**Base Case:** Hire a full-time operations coordinator and a full-legal director; secure 10 law firms as co-counsel and 2 law student interns per semester.

**Goal Case:** Hire a full-time operations coordinator, a full-time legal director, and a full-time development director. Secure 15 law firms as co-counsel, a volunteer technologist, 3 law student interns per semester, and 1 other intern.



## Board

**Base Case:** Recruit ten members of the board of directors and twenty members of the community advisory board.

**Goal Case:** Secure \$10,000 give/get requirement for board of directors, and hold at least twelve meetings, with at least four in-person. Have at least 75% participation at each community board meeting.



## Phase 3: CY 2020 (inclusive of phase 2)



### Legislation

**Base Case:** Secure passage of POST act by City Council, overriding mayoral veto if needed.

**Goal Case:** Secure ballot measure on NYPD oversight, including POST Act 2.0. Whereas the POST Act requires the NYPD to disclose what tools it seeks to deploy, it doesn't empower the Council to block such procurement. This is far weaker than many other cities, which require civilian approval prior to such acquisitions. POST Act 2.0 would expand on the POST Act, by going even further, and requiring City Council approval for any NYPD surveillance technology. Because of City objections re "curtailment" (the legal theory that a city council bill is unlawful, because it curtails the mayor's power to control the conduct of a city agency), POST Act 2.0 would require approval via a city-wide ballot initiative.

### Litigation

**Base Case:** Litigate at least 20 matters, including at least 2 class actions and at least 3 impact cases. Submit at least 5 *amicus* briefs.

**Goal Case:** Litigate at least 40 matters, including at least 4 class actions and at least 5 impact cases. Submit at least 10 *amicus* briefs.

### Education

**Base Case:** Hold at least 20 "know your rights" workshops, produce at least 8 "know your rights" publications, produce at least one know your rights video project.

**Goal Case:** Hold at least 30 "know your rights" workshops, produce at least 10 "know your rights" publications, produce at least 3 know your rights video projects.

### Media

**Base Case:** Appear in at least 100 media articles, place at least 8 op-eds, do at least 5 long-form organizational profile.

**Goal Case:** Appear in at least 200 media articles, place at least 20 op-eds, do at least 10 long-form organizational profile.

### Staff

**Base Case:** Hire a full-time operations coordinator, a full-time legal director, and a full-time development director. Secure 15 law firms as co-counsel, a volunteer technologist, 3 law student interns per semester, and 1 other intern.



**Goal Case:** Hire a full-time operations coordinator, a full-time legal director, a full-time development coordinator, a full-time outreach coordinator, and a full-time technologist. Secure 20 law firms as co-counsel, 3 law student interns per semester, and 1 other intern.

## Board

**Base Case:** Secure \$10,000 give/get requirement for board of directors, and hold at least twelve meetings in year two, with at least four in-person meetings in year two. Have at least 75% participation at each community board meeting in year two.

**Goal Case:** significant board contribution in gala and other fundraising events. Community advisory board completes at least three deliverables (white paper, conference, etc.).

### CONTACT:

Albert Fox Cahn, Esq.  
STOP Executive Director  
[info@stopspying.org](mailto:info@stopspying.org)