



40 Rector Street, 9th Floor
New York, New York 10006

www.StopSpying.org | (646) 602-5600

**STATEMENT OF
ALBERT FOX CAHN, ESQ.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY OVERSIGHT PROJECT, INC.**

**BEFORE THE
NEW YORK CITY MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO**

**FOR A HEARING CONCERNING,
CREATING COMPREHENSIVE REPORTING AND OVERSIGHT OF NYPD
SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGIES (POST ACT)**

**PRESENTED
July 7, 2020**

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. My name is Albert Fox Cahn, Executive Director of the Surveillance Technology Oversight Project (“STOP”) at the Urban Justice Center. I am speaking in support of the POST Act, which has been languishing for more than 3 years and, now, with overwhelming vote by the city council on the precipitous passing. And I urge you in the strongest possible terms to sign this bill.

It is a matter of protecting civil rights. It is a matter of protecting privacy. But this is also life-and-death because the NYPD surveillance fuels police stops, it fuels arrest, and it fuels encounters that all too often can be deadly for Black and Brown New Yorkers. The POST Act isn’t going to even push back on that surveillance. It is certainly going to give New Yorkers a window to empower the surveilled communities of color. It’s going to give us the tools to have this sort of public debate that has been blocked for so many years.

So it’s a step, a first step, but a vital first step, because until we understand how our communities are being surveilled, until we understand how our communities are being surveilled, until we understand how our tools like facial recognition, drones, predictive policing, and artificial intelligence are fueling bias – are augmenting the disparities in the overpoliced communities – we won’t be able to force these solutions we need to undo that harm.

We are at a moment where technology can help remedy some of the most heartbreaking inequities in NYC but can also make them so much worse. Transparency is the key first step. That’s why I and our coalition partners representing over a hundred organizations from around the country urge you in the strongest possible terms to sign the POST Act into law and help New York lead the way in undoing the apparatus of mass suspicionless, discriminatory surveillance.

Thank you, Mr. Mayor.