



NEW SOCIAL JUSTICE COALITION ISSUES FOUR DEMANDS TO MAYOR GARCETTI AND LAPD CHIEF MOORE AFTER RELEASE OF APPALLING RACIAL PROFILING DATA FROM THE LA TIMES

The 15-Organization Coalition & Grassroots Base Expects Immediate Action & Timely Responses, Especially on the Withdrawal of LAPD's Metro Division from South LA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOS ANGELES -- Wednesday, October 9th -- Today, a new coalition of 15 social justice organizations across Los Angeles called [PUSH LA "Reimagine Protect and Serve"](#) sent a letter with demands to **Mayor Eric Garcetti** and **LAPD Chief Michel Moore** on police reform. It comes after appalling data in a [feature by the Los Angeles Times](#) yesterday revealed that the LAPD is searching Black & Latinx drivers at rates of 4 to 1 and 3 to 1, respectively, compared to white drivers, but that they're finding less contraband. Of the 385,000 stops analyzed over a 10 month period, nearly three quarters of those stopped were Black & Latinx drivers and many of these searches happened after stops for minor equipment violations. This is the first time in a decade such analysis was done and the data had to be acquired through a records request.

These stark disparities are clear evidence of racial profiling and they're happening across all divisions of the LAPD. The data analysis also dispels long-running police claims that all stop disparities happen because of higher crime rates in certain communities.

Standing for Promoting Unity Safety & Health and spanning across base building, labor, advocacy, and interfaith organizations, PUSH LA is expecting immediate action and timely responses by Mayor Garcetti & Chief Moore to the demands outlined below. The coalition is also encouraging residents to join the campaign by going to the "Sign Up" page on www.pushla.org.

Demands for Mayor Garcetti and Chief Moore

- We demand an end to these stops. Specifically, we demand an immediate moratorium on these pretextual stops that are used to initiate a search and racially profile the city's Black and Brown residents. As part of this request, we demand an immediate withdrawal of the Metro Division from South Los Angeles.
 - *The LA Times revealed in January that Metro is pulling over Black drivers at a rate more than 5 times their share of the city's population.*

- We demand that the LAPD officially and publicly admits to racial profiling and issues an apology to all residents of South LA and elsewhere in the city who've been unjustly stopped and searched.
- We demand reparations for these unlawful stops and searches.
- Officers who engage in unwarranted pretextual stops, who have patterns demonstrative of racial profiling, or who engage in misconduct and abuse must be disciplined and removed from our communities.

The impact and harm of these unjust stops spans from emotional to material, leaving innocent community residents feeling terrified of the police, potentially separated from their families, and entangled in a world of fines and fees. Bryant Mangum, a father of three, a warehouse foreman, an activist, and an artist, is also a South LA resident who's had his vehicle searched three times in the last two years by the LAPD.

*"I want to feel at home in the city that I love," said **Mangum, who's 37 years old**. "Yet I can't because I'm seen as a suspect because of my skin color. The stops I experienced should've only been citations, but they were instead used as leverage to search my car, violate my rights, profile me because I'm Black, and humiliate me as my neighbors and community members drove by the scene."*

The article's findings were totally unsurprising to communities of color, particularly Black people who make up 9% of the city's population yet were roughly 27% of the people pulled over in these stops.

*"The report from the LA Times further affirms what Black folks already know -- that we're targeted and criminalized unjustly at every turn," said **Melina Abdullah, co-founder of Black Lives Matter LA and a longtime activist on police reform campaigns**. "Worse, though, is the LAPD's complete unwillingness to recognize that they have a race problem and to take steps to remedy it. We demand immediate and sweeping changes."*

One of the major initiatives for PUSH LA "Reimagine Protect and Serve" will be redefining the very outdated narrative of what constitutes public safety away from a police centered frame and toward a resource investment frame.

*"We know that police alone don't create public safety as resource investment is critical," said **April Verrett, President of SEIU Local 2015, the nation's largest long-term care union**. "Communities of color like South LA, Boyle Heights, and unfortunately many others have experienced decades of disinvestment. When we invest in our communities, we're talking about restorative justice and proactive and preventative programs. That's public health resources. That's after school programs for children with parents who are working two or three jobs. That's*

parks and green spaces. We have to make it a priority as we get economic justice when we have racial justice and we get racial justice when we don't have stop and frisk."

It's especially troubling to see that a significant portion of the searches are happening after stops for minor equipment violations, like a broken taillight (20% of stops for Black & Latinx drivers compared with only 11% for white drivers). It suggests racist system wide practices that are up for immediate reform.

*"It's institutional, not just individual bias that's at play here and it's happening across the entire LAPD," said **Alberto Retana, President & CEO of Community Coalition, a nonprofit social justice organization in South LA.** "There are fishing and broad net policies that systematically target Black & Brown people who are going about their everyday business. It's criminalizing poor folks who aren't a threat to the community, entangling them in a whole system of fines and fees and continued profiling."*

ABOUT PUSH LA

PUSH LA "Reimagine Protect and Serve" is a cross-sector coalition of 15 base building, advocacy, labor, and interfaith organizations accountable to a grassroots base of Black & Brown people, the most overpoliced people in LA. **Promoting Unity Safety & Health**, PUSH LA is pushing for investment in neglected communities like South LA and divestment from criminalization and punishment for Black & Brown citizens. While it's now officially launched under PUSH LA, the work has been going on for years. The coalition encourages residents to join the campaign by signing up at www.pushla.org.

PUSH LA includes the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California (ACLU SoCal); Advancement Project CA; Black Lives Matter Los Angeles; Brotherhood Crusade; Brothers, Sons, Selves; Children's Defense Fund California; Community Coalition; Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA); LA Voice; Labor Community Strategy Center; Million Dollar Hoods; SEIU 2015; SEIU Local 99; Social Justice Learning Institute; and Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Southern California.

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