



F10 - # ArchivesForBlackLives: Archivists respond to Black Lives Matter

Before the session starts, please go to
→ <https://github.com/rappel110/A4BLiP> ←
and read our statement

Celia Caust-Ellenbogen, Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College
Faith Charlton, Princeton University Library
Megan Miller, Science History Institute

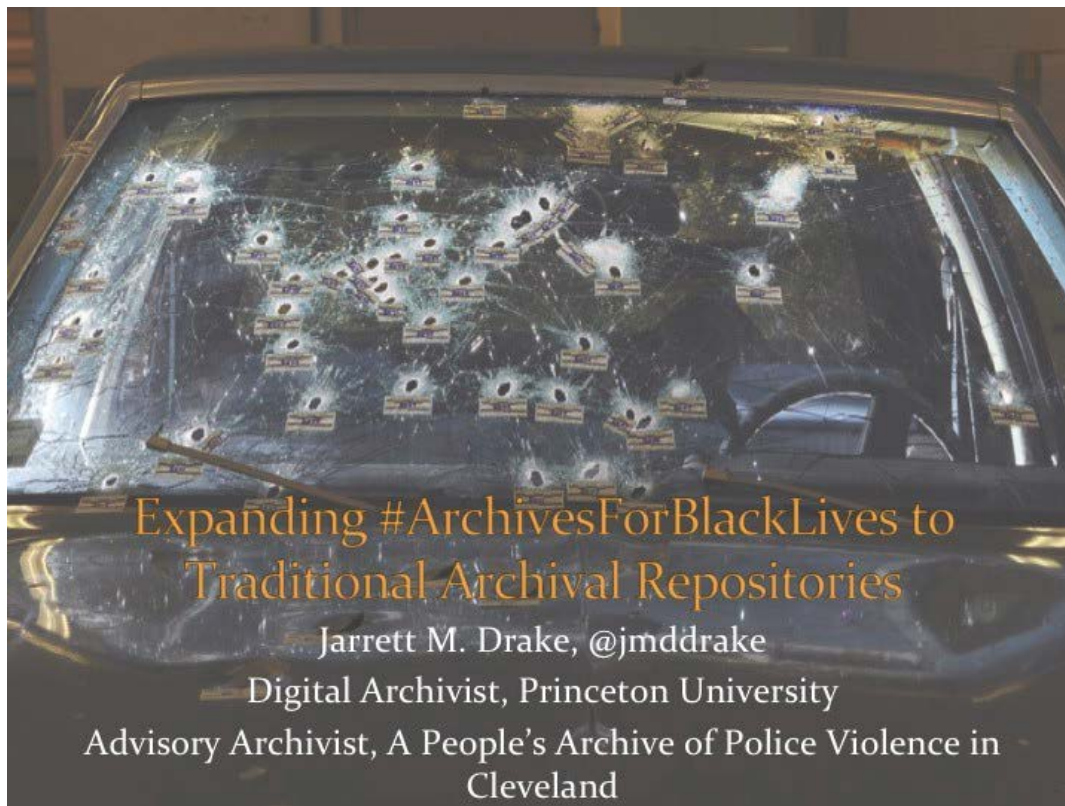


A4BLiP Background





Activism within the profession





[https://
issuesandadvocacy
.wordpress.com](https://issuesandadvocacy.wordpress.com)




[/tag/
archives_so_white](#)


[/tag/
police_body
cameras](#)

Archivist Activism in Philadelphia




 **aliza leventhal** @alizaleventhal · Mar 30
#ArchivesForBlackLives in Philadelphia is doing great work.


 **rappel110/A4BLiP**
A4BLiP - Archives for Black Lives in Philly was inspired by Jarrett Drake, Digital Archivist at Princeton University, and his work to end archives' erasure of Black lives. The github.com




  2 


 **DelValleyArchivists** @dvarchivists · Jan 9
New resource from a local group ([#ArchivesForBlackLives](#) in Philadelphia) on archivists and [#BlackLivesMatter](#) 🍌




delawarevalleyarchivists.org/2017/01/09/new...


  5  5


 **Barnard Archives** @BarnardArchives · Jan 9
<3 archives for black lives in philly group'sstatement <3
github.com/rappel110/A4BL... [#archivesforblacklives](#)





   2


 **Concerned Archivists** @Concerned_Arch · May 1
What are y'all doing to center archives work on black lives?
[#ArchivesforBlackLives](#)


   1

 Krista Oldham and 3 others Retweeted





 **rachel a** @frecklewars · 11 Nov 2016
philly ppl, interested in doing something local? join archives for black lives in philly: groups.google.com/forum/?hl=en#... [#archivesforblacklives](#)

 1  12  6 

 **Concerned Archivists** @Concerned_Arch · May 3
Telling Untold Histories (untoldhistories.wordpress.com) is May 11th! Anyone going? [#ArchivesforBlackLives](#)


"Telling untold histories is about survival."

Telling Untold Histories
everyone has a history. tell yours.
untoldhistories.wordpress.com

Drafting Statement

Archives for Black Lives in Philly was inspired by Jarrett Drake, Digital Archivist at Princeton University, and his work to end archives' erasure of Black lives. The group has been working on a statement about issues raised by the #BlackLivesMatter movement and our role as archives professionals since August of this year. The goal of the statem...

5 commits 1 branch 0 releases 2 contributors

Branch: master New pull request Find file Clone or download

rappel110 committed on GitHub Update readme.md Latest commit 834ab3b 15 days ago

20160109	Create 20160109	7 months ago
readme.md	Update readme.md	15 days ago

readme.md

#ArchivesForBlackLives in Philadelphia

Version released January 9, 2016. 40+ archivists, librarians, and information professionals in the Delaware Valley contributed to the creation of this document. Join the conversation at <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/a4blinphilly>

Three years after the #BlackLivesMatter movement began, we continue to be appalled by recurring incidents where killing of and police violence against Black citizens occur with impunity. In a talk at the 2016 American Library Association conference, our colleague Jarrett Drake called on archivists to engage the issues surrounding the #BlackLivesMatter movement and to do better to promote #ArchivesForBlackLives. As a community of Philadelphia-area archivists, we come together to discuss these critical concerns and identify areas for action.



Statement

Three years after the #BlackLivesMatter movement began, we continue to be appalled by recurring incidents where killing of and police violence against Black citizens occur with impunity. In a talk at the 2016 American Library Association conference, our colleague Jarrett Drake called on archivists to engage the issues surrounding the #BlackLivesMatter movement and to do better to promote #ArchivesForBlackLives. As a community of Philadelphia-area archivists, we come together to discuss these critical concerns and identify areas for action.

Archivists appraise, collect, preserve, organize, and provide access to archives in adherence to international standards and a professional code of ethics.

Because we have the privilege of choosing what goes into the historical record, we also bear the responsibility to safeguard accurate representations of contemporaneous events. We believe archives exist to hold power to account; to speak truth to power. Because records serve as evidence for factual claims, it is archivists' responsibility, as stewards of records, to stand against their exploitation or abuse.



Statement

As archivists, we are committed to anti-oppression values:

- We condemn racist violence against Black people and other people of color.
- We provide documentary evidence and context to counteract discourses which selectively use history to justify racism and racist violence.
- We advocate for intersectional justice that recognizes overlapping or intersecting social identities and the related systems of oppression, domination, or discrimination.



Statement

We recognize that archives are located within systems of white supremacy, also known as structural racism, in the sense that:

- Archives are often situated within institutions of power that historically have reinforced systemic oppression.
- Archives have historically been inaccessible or unwelcoming to marginalized groups.
- Archivists are an overwhelmingly white profession (approximately 93% white as of the 2004 A*CENSUS survey)
- Archival collecting has enshrined dominant narratives of rich, white, heterosexual, cisgender men as the most deserving of attention and preservation, while ignoring or erasing narratives of marginalized communities.
- Archival theory is rooted in concepts like provenance that promote social hierarchy and privilege document-creators (those who have the means to create and preserve records) over subjects.
- We commit to critically examine archival theory and practice, to educate ourselves about the active relationship between archives and social justice, and to engage collaboratively with marginalized communities, bringing an open mindedness to learning and sharing authority.
- We support and reaffirm the strength of Black colleagues in the Philadelphia area and beyond the region.

**OVERT
WHITE SUPREMACY
(Socially Unacceptable)**

Lynching

Hate Crimes Swastikas

KKK

Burning
Crosses

The N-Word

Racial Slurs

Racist Jokes

Neo-Nazis

**COVERT
WHITE SUPREMACY
(Socially Acceptable)**

"Make America Great
Again"

Hiring Discrimination

Police
murdering POC

School-to-Prison
Pipeline

Confederate
Flags

Discriminatory Lending

Racial Profiling

Not Believing
Experiences of POC

Mass Incarceration

Paternalism

Police Brutality

Assuming that Good
Intentions are Enough

Virtuous Victim
Narrative

Euro-centric Curriculum

Anti-Immigration
Policies/Practices

Denial of White
Privilege

English-only Initiatives

Housing
Discrimination

Fearing People of Color

Self-appointed
White Ally

Expecting POC to
Teach White People

Believing we are
"Post-Racial"

"Don't blame me, I
never owned slaves"

Celebration of
Columbus Day

Denial of
Racism

"But what about me?"

"But we're just one
human family"

Bootstrap Theory

Blaming the Victim

Cultural Appropriation

Tokenism

Racist Mascots

Claiming Reverse
Racism

Not Challenging
Racist Jokes

Colorblindness

"It is just a joke!"

White Savior Complex



Statement

As archivists, we acknowledge our responsibility to defend these values:

- We support policy recommendations and police contracts that retain records of past misconduct (both sustained and unsustained) from police disciplinary files for an adequate time period and ensure that disciplinary records may be released to the public via a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.
- We advocate for appropriate policies and practices surrounding police and correctional records.
- We support policy recommendations that promote entering police dashboard camera and body camera footage into the public record, with appropriate consideration given to documentation, retention, access, and citizens' privacy rights.
- We condemn the selective release of correctional records to smear victims of police violence.
- As archivists, we position ourselves in solidarity and allyship with individuals facing oppression. We support community-based documentation and archiving work. Where traditional repositories collect archives from historically oppressed communities, we approach the work critically. We use our privilege as archivists to promote records retention, archival selection, and preservation decisions that affirm the importance of Black lives in the historical record.
- We actively participate in trainings or facilitated dialogues on what a concept like transformative justice is, why it is important and relevant to what we do, how we can enact it in solidarity and allyship with our co-workers, colleagues, donors, patrons, and users.



Publicizing Statement and A4BLiP



Concerned Archivists @Concerned_Arch · May 1



Hi all! [#ArchivesforBlackLives](#) in Philly is taking over this week. For more info about us read our statement



rappel110/A4BLiP

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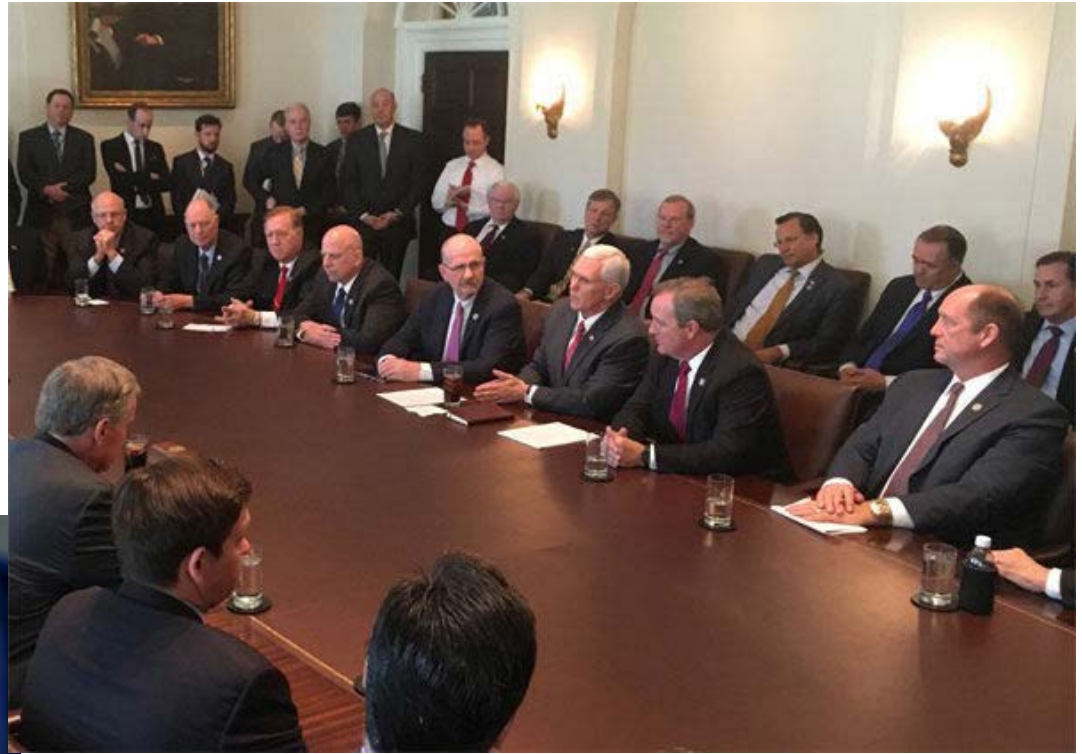


Moving forward--Challenges and Opportunities





Challenges





Troubling Developments in Philadelphia Area

Wolf to Sign Bill Limiting Public Access to Police Footage

The legislation, which passed the state Senate Tuesday, would allow police departments to refuse to release recordings.

BY **CLAIRE SASKO** | JUNE 28, 2017 AT 12:18 PM

SHARE 3.3K **TWEET** 17 **g+** 0 **Pin it** 0 **EMAIL** 4 **5 COMMENTS**

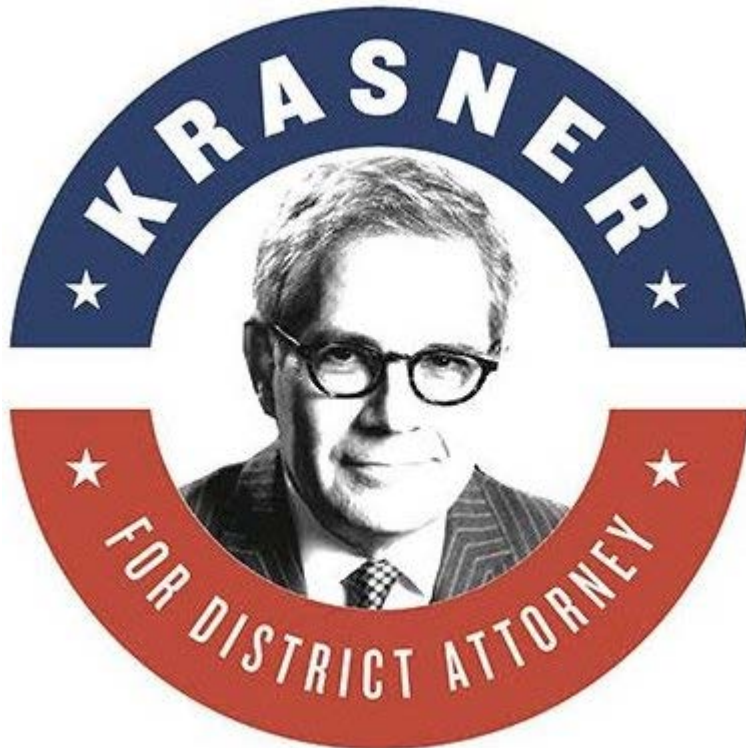


MATT ROURKE | AP

<https://www.aclupa.org/our-work/legislation/bills/sb-560/>



Positive Developments



Agenda Item II.C.1.

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
May 16–17, 2017
Chicago, Illinois**

Issue Brief: Police Mobile Camera Footage as a Public Record
(Prepared by SAA Committee on Public Policy)

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Police mobile camera footage presents unique challenges in the realm of records management and archives. Policies and regulations governing these records have struggled to keep pace with the growth of law enforcement use of mobile cameras, especially the increased use of body-worn cameras (BWC). Likewise, practices vary across the numerous jurisdictions in which mobile camera technology has been implemented. In the last two years, media coverage has exposed the complex issues raised by police mobile camera video as a source of evidence and accountability for police-civilian interactions, especially regarding violence against Black Americans. These issues are at the nexus of SAA's core principles, including the Society's

<http://bit.ly/2hazVQN> [pdf]



Discussion Questions





Archives for Black Lives in Philadelphia (A4BLiP)

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