

Chispa

ADVOCACY FOR CHANGE: SANTA ANA'S 60-YEAR-LONG FIGHT FOR POLICE OVERSIGHT



CHILA 2023

Presenters



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Chispa

**We are a brave organizing,
political home for young
Latinxs in Orange County.**

We are a multi-issue, membership-based organization for and by Young Latinxs between the ages of 18 to 35.

We engage in policy advocacy campaigns at the intersections of Policing, Migrant Justice, and Economic Justice to uplift working class Latinx communities in Orange County.

Shared Definitions

Advocacy, Tactics, and Organizing.

We define advocacy as **organized** and **sustained** efforts aimed to educate and influence policies and laws to create an equitable society guided by those directly impacted by systems of oppression.

Tactics are specific, usually collective actions that take place on a particular date and location to influence a decision-maker.

"Organizing is the process of building organizations of people with similar interests who use their collective power to win immediate improvements in people's lives and alter the relations of power."

- SOUL School of Unity & Liberation

Grounding Principles

Organizing Digitally and On the Ground

- **We believe that winning the systemic, transformative change our communities deserve requires a multitude of strategies.**
- **Base building, policy, and storytelling are integral to advocacy. By creating an infrastructure for people to engage in policy campaigns, we build capacity within our community and shift the status quo.**
- **We center the power, experience, and expertise of directly-impacted community members.**

What is Police Oversight?

Municipal structure to establish democratic governance of law enforcement agencies - by the community.

GOALS AND OUTCOMES

1. Seeks accountability for misconduct
2. Promotes transparency with the public
3. Improves public safety



DIFFERENT MODELS

1. Investigative
2. Auditor-Monitor
3. Review





Police Oversight in Santa Ana

In 1965 Black and Brown residents of Santa Ana advocated for police accountability and oversight.

After the Watts riots in LA, the **Orange County Congress of Racial Equity (CORE)** named police oversight in one of its 5 demands to the Santa Ana City Council.

Decades later, this demand remained relevant to community members.



Police Oversight in Santa Ana

In 2020, young people of Santa Ana organized protests in honor of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and the numerous Black people killed by Police.

Community leaders called for police accountability and a holistic approach to public safety that invests in root causes of crime such as housing, jobs, health, and other social services.

Demands for police oversight reignited.





OUR CAMPAIGN

We launched our Police Oversight Campaign in 2020.

Our goal was to pass a robust police oversight ordinance.

By engaging the public, building popular support for police accountability and transparency, mobilizing our base, and working directly with council members.

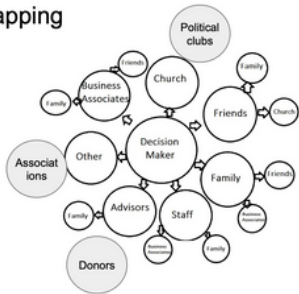
Power mapping: we identified and researched, mapped our allies, influencers, and opposition.

POWER MAPPING: UNDERSTANDING OUR TARGET

Power Mapping is a strategy to influence a decision maker.

- Determine who has the power to enact the change you want to see happen.
- Map influence of the decision maker
- Determine relational power lines
- Target priority relationships
- Make a plan

mapping



KEY ELEMENTS OF A ROBUST OVERSIGHT POLICY

- Independent of SAPD

- Investigative Power

- Transparent to Public

- Clear Authority and Process

- Community Driven

ADVOCACY LANDSCAPE

► OUR GOALS

Pass a robust police oversight ordinance.
Engage the public.
Build popular support for police accountability and transparency.

► OUR BASE

Initially, our base was young Latinxs in Santa Ana but support for police oversight grew quickly. Our demand resonated with parents, seniors, and people from different political parties.

► ALLIES

Community-based and legal organizations in Orange County, and residents in the city, including Neighborhood Association leaders.

► OPPONENTS

Supporters of a review model.

► MAIN TARGETS

Santa Ana City Council

► INFLUENCERS

City Attorney's Office
City Manager's Office
Police Department

POLICY COMMITTEE: WRITING A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN ORDINANCE.

WRITE THE ORDINANCE

- Policy language pulling from other CA jurisdictions
- Policy Memo
- Rough cost analysis



LOBBYING

- 1:1 Meetings with council members
- Meetings with City Attorney and City Manager's Office
- Collaboration with City Staff and Council Ad-Hoc Committee



OUTREACH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE: BUILDING A BASE

EDUCATE

- Demystified policy language
- History of Police Oversight
- Community presentations
- Police Oversight forums
- 1:1 check ins
- Social media content

MOBILIZE

- Empowering
- Story-telling
- Attend Council Meetings
- Attend Special Sessions
- Public Comment
- Energizers
- Share testimony
- Apply for Police Oversight Commission

TIMELINE

2020

Planning + Power Mapping

Meetings and planning began. We researched, power-mapped, and identified our goal, allies, and target!

Community Assessments

We met with community members and local orgs to gauge interest and support for police oversight.

Committees

Steering Committee formed - made up of community orgs, lawyers, and advocates.

2021

Education

We began giving presentations to residents and groups via Zoom, and hosting large forums.

Digital

We launched a letter campaign, social media graphics.

Ordinance

Research and writing!

Partnerships

We built partnership and maintain communication with the Santa Ana council.

2022

Meetings

Several meetings to discuss ordinance language, our non-negotiables, and finding compromises.

Mobilization

Empowered community members to take action by attending council meetings, giving public comment, and engaging in the process.

We hosted energizers, workshops, IG lives, 1:1 check-ins.

CHALLENGES

CHALLENGES

Finding agreement among decision-makers on key policy provisions.

OUR RESPONSE

Several meetings to discuss ordinance language, our non-negotiables, and finding compromises.



Santa Ana Police Oversight Commission est. 2022

Structure

Commissioners



Director



Management
Analyst



Santa Ana Police Oversight Commission est. 2022

Receive, hear, and review misconduct complaints, tort claims, or lawsuits made against SAPD Re:

- Police shootings or in-custody deaths
- Serious use of force
- Excessive force
- Prejudice or discrimination
- Dishonesty
- Sexual misconduct and assault
- Unlawful search or arrest
- Failure to intervene against another officer using unreasonable force
- Interfering with First Amendment assemblies

Santa Ana Police Oversight Commission est. 2022

More powers and duties:

- **Review and make recommendations** on SAPD policies, practices, and procedures.
- **Develop programs and strategies** to promote "positive police-community relations."
- **Review the MOU between the City and the Police Officers Association** and the Police Management Association and provide recommendations concerning negotiations.
- **Conduct public meetings to educate the community** on the P.O.C. and provide a forum for discussions about police policies, practices, and procedures.
- **Prepare an annual report.**
- **Other duties** as requested by City Council.

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a grey marker, writing on a document. The document has some faint, illegible text and a circular stamp. The image is partially covered by a light blue translucent overlay on the left side.

CURRENT STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION

- Commissioners are getting appointed.
- City will soon release an RFP for an Independent Oversight Director and Management Analyst.
- Commission will be up and running!

ACTIVITY:

CAMPAIGN SCENARIO WORKSHEET

Instructions:

- Read the case study out loud as a group to make sure everyone gets to take it in together
- Use the questions below to help identify advocacy landscape.
- After identifying your advocacy landscape, your group must report back to the larger group. The goal of the report is to convey:
 - What is the advocacy objective?
 - What tactics did you use to accomplish your objective?
 - Who is your base?
 - How did they use technology and digital tools?
 - What were the outcomes?
- You have 30 minutes to read, discuss, and report back

ACTIVITY QR CODE





STAY IN TOUCH!



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THANK YOU