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CLEVELAND, Ohio -- Members of Greater Cleveland's [Puncture the Silence](#) have teamed up with several community organizations and professional archivists to document local accounts of abuse at the hands of police. To that end, organizers launched [A People's Archive of Police Violence in Cleveland](#) and are inviting the public to share their stories at an April 8 gathering at the Martin Luther King Jr. branch of the Cleveland Public Library.

"We've had some terrible experiences here with police killings and no justice around them," said Carol Steiner, who spoke on behalf of Puncture the Silence -- Stop Mass Incarceration and sits on its steering committee. "We consider (the archives) part of the activism around that struggle for justice."

Steiner hopes the [April 8 event](#) will give residents an opportunity to share -- and preserve for the future - - their encounters with police abuse in Cleveland.

"If people have these experiences and they are just swept under the rug, they can keep on going on," Steiner said. Attendees will have an opportunity to record their experiences on video, either anonymously or with their names attached. They can also share photographs, fliers or other materials that will then be uploaded to the group's online archive.

Puncture the Silence is inviting people to tell their own stories of abuse, but also give testimony on the effects of police violence in their communities.

Professional archivists will be on-hand at the event to help document residents' stories, Steiner said. Sponsors of the event include Black on Black Crime, Inc., Books and Breakfast, Cleveland Clergy Alliance, Committee to Free the RNC16, Northeast Ohio American Friends Service Committee, Ohio City Theatre Project, #OrganizeCLE and other individuals, according to the initiative's Facebook page.

A People's Archive of Police Violence in Cleveland was first organized in the summer of 2015, according to its website. Steiner said group members set up shop at a handful of community centers and other locations around Cleveland, where they asked residents to share their experiences.

That initiative came on the heels of the Puncture the Silence's People's Tribunal on Police Brutality, which occurred in April 2015 with the same goals of archiving local instances police abuse.

The upcoming event is an expansion of those efforts. Residents can also opt to upload their testimonies or materials directly to the archive's website.

The gathering is scheduled from noon to 4 p.m. April 8 at the MLK branch library, located at 1962 Stokes Boulevard.