

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

AGN. NO.
July 29, 2025

Creating a County Ordinance Prohibiting Law Enforcement Officers from Concealing their Identities in Los Angeles County Unincorporated Areas

Law enforcement officers should never wear personal disguises or conceal their identities while interacting with the public in the course of their duties. But since the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids began in Los Angeles County on June 6, 2025, that is exactly what has been happening. Residents have witnessed countless incidents of men in plainclothes or wearing tactical gear, with their faces covered by masks or balaclavas and sunglasses, while they raid communities and detain residents. And they have refused to reveal their identities or even a badge when asked, leading to fear of impersonators. When law enforcement officers conceal their identities, they create confusion, incite fear, and undermine public trust.

In response to these incidents, there have been efforts within California and across the country to prohibit local, state, and federal law enforcement officers from wearing face coverings in the course of their duties and require that they identify themselves. In California, for example, Senators have proposed bills that would prohibit officers from wearing masks or personal disguises¹, and require that they visibly display identification²

¹ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB627

² https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB805

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while in the course of their duties. Congressmembers have proposed similar legislation on the federal level that specifically applies to ICE agents.³ While these bills go through the State and Federal processes, and before they are hopefully approved and signed into law, Los Angeles County should act quickly to ensure the County Code prohibits law enforcement officers from concealing their identities in all unincorporated areas of the County.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors suspend Section 22.1 of the Rules of the Board for the limited purpose of considering this motion.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct County Counsel to report back, in 60 days, with proposed language for a draft ordinance that would do the following:

1. Prohibit all law enforcement officers, including federal agents operating within Los Angeles County, from wearing any mask or personal disguise while interacting with the public in the course of their duties within the unincorporated areas, with appropriate pre-approved exemptions, such as the use of gas masks, fire and/or smoke protection masks, or medical grade masks when necessary, as well as exemptions for undercover law enforcement operations; and
2. Require all law enforcement officers, including federal agents operating within Los Angeles County, to wear visible identification and agency affiliation while interacting with the public in the course of their duties within the unincorporated areas.

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³ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/4004>, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/2212>