

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS

September 16, 2025

AND JANICE HAHN

**Safeguarding Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) Data to Restore Community Trust and Prevent Improper Civil Immigration Enforcement**

The Los Angeles County Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR), managed and operated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (LASD), remains a powerful investigative tool for recovering stolen vehicles, identifying violent crime suspects, and finding missing persons. Yet its public support depends on unshakable confidence that the sensitive location data it generates will never be repurposed for impermissible civil-immigration enforcement.

As highlighted in a June 2025 CalMatters article, State of California (State) law enforcement agencies have repeatedly shared license plate reader data with federal immigration authorities, despite State laws intended to prevent such cooperation.<sup>1</sup> The database of queries collected by Oakland Privacy revealed that law enforcement agencies across Southern California shared information from automated ALPR with federal agents, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).<sup>2 3</sup> Among the

<sup>1</sup>California Police are illegally sharing license plate data with ICE and Border Patrol, <https://calmatters.org/economy/technology/2025/06/california-police-sharing-license-plate-reader-data/#:~:text=Under%20a%2010%2Dyear%2Dold,list%20as%20a%20search%20purpose>.

<sup>2</sup>Id.

<sup>3</sup>Oakland Privacy ALPR Database, <https://oaklandprivacy.org/ca-automated-license-plate-readers-alpr->

**MOTION**

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ten law enforcement agencies that conducted searches on behalf of ICE, six are in Los Angeles County.<sup>4</sup>

While LASD was not one of the law enforcement agencies that conducted searches on behalf of ICE, in a place like Los Angeles County, where residents depend on cars for nearly every aspect of daily life, people must feel safe traveling from place to place without fear that their movements are being tracked, stored, and shared in ways that violate their privacy. These ALPR data sharing incidents only help to reignite fear in immigrant communities and further erode public trust in Southern California's public-safety institutions.

The California legislature has already erected guardrails. The California Values Act (SB 54)<sup>5</sup> bars local agencies from assisting with most civil-immigration actions, and SB 34 (Civil Code §§ 1798.90.50-.55)<sup>6</sup> requires every ALPR operator to publish a public usage-and-privacy policy, train users, and log every query and export. LASD adheres to the logging mandate, but logging alone is insufficient to prevent misuse and restore community confidence.

SB 274 (Cervantes)<sup>7</sup> would strengthen Statewide safeguards by capping

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<sup>4</sup>Id.

<sup>5</sup>SB 54 text, [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220SB54](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB54)

<sup>6</sup>SB 34 text, [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201520160SB34](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB34)

<sup>7</sup>SB 274 text, [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202520260SB274](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB274)

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retention of non-hit plate reads at sixty days, mandating robust authentication, annual State Department of Justice audits, and yearly privacy training for users. Earlier Senate versions of SB 274 went further,<sup>8</sup> explicitly prohibiting the collection or sharing of ALPR sensitive geolocation data (such as the location of schools, courthouses, shelters, and health facilities) for civil immigration enforcement purposes. Although that language was removed in the May 23, 2025, Senate amendments, Los Angeles County can lead the State by formally adopting those protections locally, while embracing SB 274's remaining reforms.

By restoring the bill's original immigration safeguards, tightening retention limits and access controls, and subjecting the entire program to independent oversight through the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and Civilian Oversight Commission (COC), the County can rebuild public trust and ensure that its ALPR resources are never leveraged for civil-immigration enforcement beyond the narrow limits permitted by State law and County policy.

**IWE, 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.

**IWE, FURTHER, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations branch to support Senate

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<sup>8</sup>SB 274 earlier text, <https://legiscan.com/CA/text/SB274/id/3227469>

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Bill 274 (Cervantes), and send a 5-signature letter in support of the bill to Governor Newsom should the bill make it to his desk.

**WE, FURTHER, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors request Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD), in consultation with County Counsel, to:

1. Within 90 days, amend LASD's ALPR Privacy Policy to ensure that:
  - a. ALPR data shall not be disclosed, transferred, or otherwise made available for civil immigration-enforcement purposes, except when disclosure is expressly required by State or County law or pursuant to a judicial warrant.
  - b. Any permissible disclosure is subject to documented review and written authorization by a designated Custodian of Records.
  - c. Access controls, authentication requirements, purpose limitations, and retention periods fully comply with SB 34, SB 54, and SB 274, if it is signed into law.
2. Ensure the Advance Surveillance and Protection Unit (ASAP), which as the LASD ALPR System and Data Custodian of Records, maintains a record of each data request's basis and outcome.
3. Request LASD to provide the Office of Inspector General (OIG), the Civilian Oversight Commission (COC), and the Board with a semi-annual written report

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summarizing ALPR data or system access logs (redacted for the COC as legally necessary) that identifies the requesting entity, date range, and statutory authority relied upon to disclose information.

4. Request that each LASD employee or contractor with ALPR credentials complete training that covers:
  - a. SB 54 restrictions on immigration cooperation,
  - b. SB 34 privacy requirements,
  - c. SB 274, if it is signed into law, restrictions on accessing data for vehicles or persons when either are reasonably suspected of being involved in the commission of a public offense and deleting all ALPR information that has been held for more than 60 days and does not match information on an authorized hot list (lists of license plates of vehicles of interest),
  - d. LASD's updated ALPR policy, and
  - e. Require that refresher training shall occur annually, and completion records shall be transmitted to the OIG and COC.
5. Review all current memoranda of understanding or other data-sharing agreements and terminate or renegotiate any provision that permits ALPR disclosures for civil immigration enforcement beyond what State or County law allows.

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6. Request LASD implement the ALPR related recommendations provided by the Office of Inspector General's April through June 2025 Reform and Oversight Efforts: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department report.
7. Request LASD to report back in writing within 120 days on updated ALPR Privacy Policy, implementation status of the above directives, resource needs, and any recommended legislative advocacy to bolster statewide ALPR safeguards.

**WE, FURTHER, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct that starting January 1, 2026:

1. The OIG to:
  - a. Conduct annual compliance reviews of LASD's ALPR audit-log summaries, training rosters, and any alleged violations.
  - b. Publish an annual report outlining findings, corrective actions, and further policy recommendations.
2. The COC to:
  - a. Host at least one multilingual community forum a year on LASD's ALPR Privacy Policy to gather resident input and share oversight results, ensuring community voices remain central to this process.

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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