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August 26, 2014

BPC #14-0320

The Honorable Public Safety Committee
City of Los Angeles
c/o City Clerk's Office
City Hall, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention John White:

RE: CITY COUNCIL MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER MITCHELL ENGLANDER
RELATIVE TO THE "MEDINA ALERT" SYSTEM (CITY COUNCIL FILE NO. 14-0444)

At the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held Tuesday, August 26, 2015, the Board APPROVED the Department's report relative to the above matter.

This matter is being forwarded to you for approval.

Respectfully,

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria Silva".

MARIA SILVA
Commission Executive Assistant II

Attachment

c: Chief of Police

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

BPC # 14-0320

RECEIVED 8C

AUG 20 2014

POLICE COMMISSION

REVIEWED

August 22, 2014
16.2

TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

Richard M. Tefank 8/21/14
RICHARD M. TEFANK
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: CITY COUNCIL MOTION COUNCILMEMBER MITCHELL ENGLANDER
MEDINA ALERT SYSTEM (CITY COUNCIL FILE NO. 14-0444)

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. That the Board of Police Commissioners (Board) REVIEW and APPROVE this report; and,
2. That the Board TRANSMIT this report to the Public Safety Committee.

BACKGROUND

On April 9, 2014, Councilmember Mitchell Englander introduced a motion in City Council requesting that the Los Angeles Police Department (Department) report back on the feasibility of implementing a "Medina Alert" system in Los Angeles to issue alerts when a severe or fatal hit and run collision occurs, and a vehicle description is available, and what steps the City would need to take implement this type of system.

The Medina Alert system, which was created in Colorado, is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement agencies, broadcasters, media, taxis, transportation providers and other agencies to activate an urgent bulletin by utilizing electronic signage, radio broadcasts, text messaging, emails and news alerts in the most serious hit and run cases. The goal of the Medina Alert system is to instantly galvanize the entire community to assist in the search, reporting and apprehension of the suspect and/or vehicle by law enforcement agencies. The Medina Alert Bill was signed into law by the State of Colorado on March 25, 2014.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The City of Los Angeles experiences approximately 20,000 hit and run traffic collisions each year. The exact percentage of total collisions that this number represents remains unknown since many collisions go unreported. However, the Department recognizes that a hit and run traffic collision is a serious crime perpetrated by irresponsible community members with no regard for their civic responsibility. The investigation of these crimes is often hindered by the lack of evidence, witnesses or delays in alerting the public of the suspect and/or vehicle that fled the traffic collision. The Department is committed to finding new and innovative ways, such as the Medina Alert system, to reduce the number of hit and runs and to aggressively apprehend and prosecute those who would seek to evade responsibility for their actions.

The creation of a California Medina Alert system would require legislation, the support of law enforcement agencies and other victim advocacies groups throughout the State to ensure its immediate passage. It is recommended that the proposed legislation by Councilmember Englander establish defined criteria for activating a Medina Alert such as a hit and run involving a fatality or severe injury. In Colorado, an alert is based on the injuries and the on-scene traffic collision investigator's determination that there is clear and accurate solvability factors, such as a vehicle description, full or partial license plate number, direction of travel or witness(es) statements corroborating the crime. In addition to the criteria, it is recommended that the legislation include language establishing protocols to initiate an alert when an incident meets the criteria. The legislation would need to authorize law enforcement agencies access to freeway message boards to ensure information is immediately distributed.

Once the legislation is approved, the Department will develop procedures to enable officers in the field to immediately initiate a Medina Alert to notify and seek the assistance of the public. In Colorado the goal of the Media Alert is "to instantly galvanize the entire community to assist in the search, reporting, and apprehension of the suspect." The success of the Medina Alert system is its ability to alert various sectors of the public such as transportation providers, media outlets, freeway commuters and private security companies.

The development of these protocols would be a simple task and would be similar to those established for issuing a Child Abduction Regional Emergency Alert, California Child Safety Amber Network Alert, a Blue Alert or an Abducted/Missing Child Alert and Reporting Subsystem. The Department currently has existing public notifications systems such as Nixle, Twitter and Facebook that would be utilized. Furthermore, the Department has existing crime reporting systems available to the public such as Los Angeles Regional Crime Stoppers or Text-A-Tip. Unlike those reporting systems, the City of Los Angeles will soon provide a financial incentive to the public to report hit and run drivers. It is projected that the Hit and Run Reward Program will be approved by the City Council by late 2014. As a result, it is anticipated that once the Medina Alert system and the Hit and Run Reward Program are approved, the Department's ability to apprehend and solve hit and run crimes will dramatically improve and will encourage parties involved in a traffic collision not to flee.

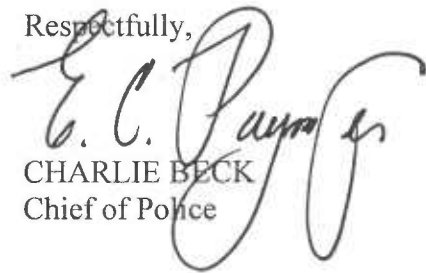
The Department has identified key stakeholders whose input would be necessary in developing protocols. These Department entities consist of Communications Division, Real-Time Analysis and Critical Response Division, Information and Technology Division, Metropolitan Transportation Authority liaison, Media Relations and Community Affairs Group and Traffic Coordination Section (TCS), Emergency Operations Division (EOD). In addition to Department entities, outreach and support will be sought from the California Highway Patrol, taxicab franchises, transportation providers, such as Uber, Lyft, Sidecar, shuttles and trucking companies, private security companies with patrol units, digital billboards companies, such as Clear Channel and CBS Outdoor, and the media.

CONCLUSION

The implementation of the Medina Alert system is certainly feasible and warranted in the State of California. The Department strongly supports State legislation to create a Medina Alert system or any legislation that seeks to discourage community members from fleeing the scene of a traffic collision in California. In the interim, TCS, EOD, is working on implementing a Medina Alert system within Los Angeles County. Traffic Coordination Section is working to develop protocols in which an alert activation could be generated in the field by officers.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this correspondence, please have a member of your staff contact Captain Philip S. Fontanetta, Commanding Officer, EOD, at (213) 486-0680.

Respectfully,



CHARLIE BECK
Chief of Police

**BOARD OF
POLICE COMMISSIONERS**
Approved *August 26, 2014*
Secretary *Maria Silva*

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

July 31, 2014

1.1

TO: All Concerned Personnel

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: ACTING CHIEF OF POLICE

In my absence Assistant Chief Earl Paysinger will serve as Acting Chief of Police as follows:

Friday, August 1, 2014, 1100 hours, through Tuesday, August 12, 2014, 0500 hours.

Tuesday, August 12, 2014, 1500 hours, through Monday, September 1, 2014, 2400 hours.

I will be available for notifications through Assistant Chief Paysinger's office.



CHARLIE BECK
Chief of Police

c: Mayor's Office
Police Commission
Chief of Staff
Office of Operations
Office of Administrative Services
Office of Special Operations
Geographic Bureaus
RACR