

14-0444

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PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTION

Hit and run collisions involving pedestrians and bicyclists are a significant issue in the City of Los Angeles, with an annual average of 22 severe or fatal hit and run collisions involving bicycles and 92 involving pedestrians occurring between 2007 and 2011. Over the same time period, the Police Department (LAPD) reports that it was only able to clear approximately 20% of hit and run collisions. This is because these crimes are especially difficult to solve, as there is often little or no evidence and no witnesses. While the difficulty of solving hit and runs is understandable, new and innovative tools should be studied and introduced to assist the police in solving these crimes.

The state of Colorado has recently passed legislation establishing a "Medina Alert" system. Medina Alerts, named for Jose Medina, a 21-year old victim of a hit and run collision in Denver, are emergency alerts similar to Amber Alerts, but issued for specific hit and run incidences. Medina Alerts have been in place in the City of Denver for two years and in the City of Aurora for one, and are issued in severe or fatal hit and run collisions when a description of the vehicle involved is available. Medina Alerts enable authorities to quickly broadcast information about a hit and run collision to the public on highway signs and through the media. In Denver, the city has also partnered with cab drivers and others who spend their working hours on the road, and alerts them when a collision occurs. Denver has issued 17 Medina Alerts since enacting their program; 13 of these cases have been solved.

A Medina Alert system similar to the one in Colorado would be an efficient and innovative way of disseminating vital information to the public, and could help police apprehend those responsible for severe and fatal hit and run collisions in Los Angeles. LAPD should study the feasibility of implementing such a system.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Police 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 to implement this type of system.


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