

**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: April 23, 2014

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations
Committee

FROM: Gerry F. Miller *Gerry F. Miller* Council File No: 14-0002-S41
Chief Legislative Analyst Assignment No: 14-04-0278

SUBJECT: Resolution (Englander - Bonin) to support and/or sponsor legislation to create a
Medina Alert System for California

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Englander - Bonin) to include in the City's
2013 – 2014 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for and/or SPONSOR of legislation to create
a Medina Alert System for California that would issue alerts when a severe or fatal hit and run
collision occurs and a vehicle description is available, similar to the system recently approved in
Colorado.

SUMMARY

On April 9, 2014, a Resolution (Englander - Bonin) was introduced to support and/or sponsor
legislation to create a Medina Alert System for California that would issue alerts when a severe
or fatal hit and run collision occurs and a vehicle description is available, similar to one recently
created in Colorado. The Resolution states that serious and fatal hit and run collisions are a
significant issue in urban areas throughout California, and that these cases are often difficult for
law enforcement to solve as there is often limited evidence and no witnesses. The Resolution
further states that, in an effort to solve more hit and run crimes, Colorado recently enacted
legislation to establish a Medina Alert System.

The Resolution states that Medina Alerts are similar to Amber Alerts, but issued for severe or
fatal hit and run collisions. The Resolution further states that a Medina Alert System would be
beneficial in California, as it has a large population and a significant number of severe and fatal
hit and run collisions each year. The Resolution, therefore, seeks an official position of the City
of Los Angeles to support and/or sponsor legislation to create a Medina Alert System for
California that would issue alerts when a severe or fatal hit and run collision occurs and a vehicle
description is available.

BACKGROUND

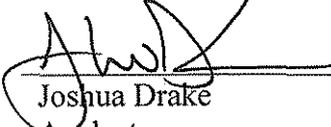
Hit and run collisions are a significant problem in many jurisdictions across the United States,
the City of Los Angeles and other California cities included. Hit and run collisions are difficult
to solve, as there is often little or no evidence, and no witnesses to the crime. In cases where a
description of a vehicle is available, drivers are able to flee the scene of the crime before law
enforcement is able to disseminate information to the public. The Medina Alert System was
created in an attempt to get the public involved in catching perpetrators of hit and runs quickly,
in order to solve more of these crimes.

The Medina Alert System, which is modeled after the Amber Alert System, rapidly sends out information to the public on hit and runs when there is a serious injury or fatality and a reliable description of a vehicle. When a Medina Alert is issued, highway signs in the area of the crime display information on the vehicle involved, and the media is notified. Medina Alerts are designed to enable the public to assist law enforcement in tracking down perpetrators of hit and runs.

The Medina Alert System was originally introduced in Denver, Colorado in 2012, and later in Aurora Colorado. Since the Medina Alert System was rolled out in Denver, 17 alerts have been issued, resulting in 13 cases being solved. The system is named for Jose Medina, who was tragically killed in a hit and run in Denver in January 2011. The Denver system also alerts taxi drivers and others that spend their working hours on the road of the hit and run and suspect vehicle description. The State of Colorado recently enacted legislation to establish a statewide Medina Alert System, and other states are likely to follow. California would benefit from a similar system.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

Police Department



Joshua Drake
Analyst

GFM:MF:jwd

Attachment: Resolution (Englander - Bonin)

14_0002-541

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RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, serious and fatal hit and run collisions are a serious problem in the City of Los Angeles as well as other urban areas in California; and

WHEREAS, these cases are difficult for law enforcement to solve, as there is often limited or no evidence and no witnesses; and

WHEREAS, currently, information related to hit and run collisions is not immediately released to the public; and

WHEREAS, Colorado recently enacted legislation establishing "Medina Alerts," which are emergency alerts similar to an Amber Alert but issued for severe or fatal hit and run collisions when a description of a vehicle is available; and

WHEREAS, when a Medina Alert is issued, information related to the incident is quickly broadcast to the public via highway signs and media reports; and

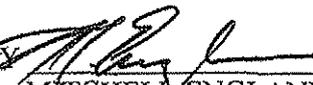
WHEREAS, Medina Alerts were originally instituted in Denver, where 17 alerts have been issued, resulting in 13 cases being solved; and

WHEREAS, a Medina Alert system would be incredibly beneficial in California, a state with the largest population in the United States and a significant number of serious and fatal hit and run collisions each year; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has been a leader in attempting to address incidences of hit and run collisions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2013 - 2014 State Legislative Program to SUPPORT and/or SPONSOR legislation to create a Medina Alert System for California that would issue alerts when a severe or fatal hit and run collision occurs and a vehicle description is available, similar to the system recently approved for Colorado.


APR 09 2014

PRESENTED BY 
MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY 

jwd

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