



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement from the La Habra Police Department and the Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center reference the ALPR system

LA HABRA, Ca. (March 14, 2019) – The Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center is a fusion center that is a collaborative effort of multiple local, state, and federal public safety agencies in Orange County including the La Habra Police Department. The OCIAC fusion center was formed in 2007 to meet the need for information sharing among federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and other public safety disciplines.

OCIAC's data sharing practices are based on their mission- To provide an integrated, multi-disciplined, information and intelligence sharing network to collect, analyze, and disseminate information on all criminal risks and safety threats to law enforcement, fire, health, private sector and public sector stakeholders in a timely manner in order to protect the residents, visitors, and critical infrastructure while ensuring the protection of privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties (P/CRCL) of all persons.

A common misunderstanding is the distinction between ICE's two distinct divisions: Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO), an enforcement arm that carries out immigration arrests and removal from the United States, and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the investigative branch with a focus on gangs, counterterrorism, narcotics enforcement, human trafficking and other serious crimes involving national security.

The disparate functions performed by HSI and ERO often cause confusion among the media, public, and other law enforcement agencies since the two missions are erroneously combined.

The automated license plate reader (ALPR) information mentioned in the article was shared with HSI in connection with criminal investigations for HSI and not for immigration enforcement purposes through ERO. This does not violate SB 54, which prohibits California law enforcement agencies from sharing non-public information about individuals with ICE for immigration enforcement purposes.

Law enforcement including the OCIAC use ALPR to support authorized law enforcement purposes of local, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement agencies, by organizing and analyzing ALPR data to enable the rapid identification and location of vehicles of legitimate law enforcement investigations. No authorized law enforcement user or agency may access the ALPR database for the purpose of immigration enforcement. The ALPR system is restricted to law enforcement personnel with a lawful purpose for searching the system.

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