



ericGARCETTI

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

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GARCETTI JOINS HAHN, BRATTON TO UNVEIL LAPD DATA-TRACKING DEVICE

SYSTEM TRACKS RACIAL STOP DATA, ASSISTS CONSENT DECREE COMPLIANCE

Councilmember Eric Garcetti joined Mayor Jim Hahn, Police Chief Bill Bratton, Councilmember Antonio Villaraigosa, Police Commission President David S. Cunningham, Geraldine Washington of the NAACP and other community leaders today to unveil the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD) new hand-held Portable Office Data Device System (PODDS). PODDS provides fast and easy statistical documentation of consent decree mandated information with respect to traffic and pedestrian stops including the reason for the stop, the action taken by the officers involved, and the apparent race, ethnicity, or national origin of those who were stopped.

"We have two choices: we can have our officers filling out paperwork, or we can have them protecting our streets," said Councilmember Eric Garcetti. "Our new PODDS technology gets us the information we need, helps build trust in the community, and gives back valuable time to LA's finest."

The PODDS (Portable Officer Data Device System) is a portable electronic device used to collect traffic and pedestrian stop data in place of the paper version of the Field Data Report (FDR). The PODDS device also collects data regarding Field Interviews (FI) conducted by the Los Angeles Police Department. Data for approximately 720,000 pedestrian and traffic stops are collected annually by the LAPD.

"The collection and analysis of this traffic and pedestrian stop data will help us better understand the basis for LAPD's traffic and pedestrian stops and to determine if the data is reflective of good policing or racially biased policing," said Mayor Hahn. "The PODDS device demonstrates LAPD's commitment to achieve transparency and goes far toward our goal of rebuilding the trust between the LAPD and the communities it serves."

The PODDS devices are connected through a wireless network with the ability to also download information on a hard line. Upon downloading any information, supervisors have the ability to approve the documents and again wirelessly download the information within minutes. Officers currently collect the information using a paper form and sends hard copies of the completed forms to a centralized data entry point. PODDS allows officers to input data instantaneously into the department's database eliminating the department's massive backlog and allows personnel to spend valuable time on other issues.

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As currently programmed, the device provides for the electronic gathering of data by use of self-guiding and correcting data fields with logic correcting capabilities. The logic correction capabilities will provide for a 90% percent reduction in recurring errors in completing of the FDR forms.

“With the use of durable PODDS devices and field-proven software, the LAPD officer can quickly and reliably enter and upload required data to the database from the field, eliminating data collection and transposition errors, while also providing important field information to the LAPD's operational staff,” said Chief Bratton.

PODDS is part of LAPD's continuing efforts to create a more technologically advanced police department. This system integrates technologies that provide officers not only the convenience of paperless documentation of their efforts. PODDS will allow the department to electronically upload collected traffic and pedestrian stop data into department databases and will be used as one factor in identifying and analyzing the conduct of officers.

“The PODDS device is in line with the Department's goal of providing the best in technology to our officers. It also allows the LAPD the opportunity to effectively manage large quantities of stop data Information,” said Police Commission President David S. Cunningham.

There will be 1,200 PODDS deployed throughout the 18 Areas and 4 Traffic Divisions.

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