

#### Los Altos Racial Equity < losaltos racial equity@gmail.com>

### [test] Los Altos for Racial Equity Newsletter - Issue #15

1 message

LARE via ActionNetwork.org <info+community-members-info@sg.actionnetwork.org>

Wed, Aug 13, 2025 at 11:48 PM

Reply-To: losaltosracialequity@gmail.com To: losaltosracialequity@gmail.com

Hi Friend!



March 2023 Issue 15

Los Altos for Racial Equity's (LARE) mission is to advocate for all people, especially Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) who live, work, and play in Los Altos and surrounding communities, to be treated equitably in all aspects of their lives. We are a group of Los Altos residents who share a commitment to the work of social justice.

**LARE** has several Working Groups focused on the following areas: Policing & School Resource Officers (SROs), Racial Identity and Profiling Act (RIPA) data analysis, Membership, Local Government. If one or more of these Working Groups resonate with you and you would like to participate in making change happen in our community, reach out to us and let us know how you can help! We are looking forward to hearing from you!

## **Issue Highlights**



#### Military Equipment Usage Policy

The Military Equipment Usage Policy (MEUP) has been added to the agenda for the Los Altos City Council meeting tomorrow night, Tuesday, 3/14/23, at 7pm. We would like to bring a few points to your attention and ask you to speak out to City Council by writing a letter to Council before 2pm *today*, Monday, 3/13/23 or by attending the meeting tomorrow evening.

- Section 709.3.1 was added without public input and without meeting the public
  oversight requirements of AB481. It appeared after the Sept 2022 version was
  approved by Council. The edit was never 'blue-lined' as new and the opportunity for
  public review and discussion of these new changes was not given. Section 709.3.1
  describes the acquisition of military equipment outside of the specified process as
  allowable due to "exigency". This creates a loophole for in the moment decisions to
  acquire military equipment first and ask for permission later.
- Per AB481 sec 7070 (d) (6) A provision of independent oversight is required. This
  provision is not indicated in the MEUP. The Chief of police and City Council are not
  independent entities and an independent auditor must be added to this document.
- in Section 709 4 there are ambiguities about the chain of command in the Intergovernmental Agreement for the joint regional Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team between Mountain View Police Department and Los Altos Police Department.

#### **Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR)**

Acquiring 25 Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) for a pilot program was proposed to the Los Altos City Council at the February 28th meeting by Los Altos Police Department (LAPD) Chief Averiette. The Chief is requesting 15 more units than what was introduced at the Public Safety Meeting on February 8th and presented a proposed budget of \$75K for all cameras (this figure does not include a one time set up fee, maintenance, or the additional hours paid to staff monitoring the ALPR system).

LAPD would like City Council to hire Flock Safety to install and run the cameras. These cameras will be placed at ingress and egress locations to capture images of the rear license

plates of all cars driving through these targeted areas. The images are then stored in a database for 30 days. The Chief's stated goal for these cameras is to reduce commercial property crime.

LARE does not support the purchase of ALPR cameras for our city and does not support the premise that these cameras will lead to an increase in solvability of property crimes. ALPRs come at a cost not only to our budget (Los Altos Hills, recently reluctantly renewed their ALPR program *and* hired security officers despite exceeding their budget by over \$200K), but also to our civil liberties and privacy. They may even lead to harassment, wrongful arrest, and litigation if implemented without safeguards in place. The Guardian recently reported that Flock cameras could be used to, "criminalize people seeking reproductive health [since the Dobbs v Jackson decision] and further erode people's ability to move about their daily lives free from being tracked and traced", said by Chris Gilliard, a tech fellow at Social Science Research Council, an independent non-profit research organization.

In neighboring city, Atherton, there is a case pending that was filed on April 25, 2022, Burkleo v. Taylor et al (4:22-cv-02509) in the California Northern District Court by David Burkleo. Burkleo was detained at gunpoint by Atherton police because of a misread front license plate by an ALPR which showed up as a 'hit' for a stolen vehicle. Burkleo claims his detainment was a violation of his Fourth Amendment rights.

At the February 28th City Council Meeting three City Council members requested further data and analysis about the efficacy of Flock's ALPR system before taking a Council vote. Keep your eye on the upcoming City Council agendas and prepare your comments to speak out against ALPRs in our city.

#### **Ethnic Studies**

Ethnic Studies is under attack by a national group claiming the curriculum taught at MVLA contains antisemitic lessons. As with any issue that arises, please check the facts. Look at the MVLA website where you can find examples of unit overviews. Call the high school where your student attends and ask to see the curriculum. If you have questions about Ethnic Studies, go to the source and ask the educators who spent almost two years developing the curriculum for your students. With the passing of Assembly Bill 101 in October of 2021, Ethnic Studies became a required course in high schools in California.



The 2023 Theme for Women's History Month is "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Story". As with most celebratory months, Women's History Month began as one week initiated by the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women in 1978. In February of 1980, President Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8th as National Women's History Week. There was a major focus on curriculum in schools educating students about women change makers in history. In 1987, Congress declared March as National Women's History Month in perpetuity.

"I am a woman

Phenomenally.

Phenomenal woman,

That's me."

— Maya Angelou

# Community News News from Community Partners

For the next Free Movie Night on Thursday, March 23rd, **Justice Vanguard** will be showing 'Hidden Figures'. Three brilliant African-American women at NASA -- Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson -- serve as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit, a stunning achievement that restored the nation's confidence, turned around the Space Race, and galvanized the world. The movie will begin at 6:45pm with a group discussion after the movie. The movie will be shown at the Los Altos Community Center.

Through education and conversation about future trends, policy proposals, and best practices, the **Los Altos Community Coalition (LACC)** promotes good city planning, good

government, and civil discourse in our community. Every Friday morning at 8:30am LACC features an interview with a community leader or a representative from a local organization. You can view these events on their You Tube channel.

#### **Important Dates**

- Tuesday, 2/28, 7pm: City Council Meeting, Recording
- Monday, 3/13, 7pm MVLA School Board Meeting Agenda
- Tuesday, 3/14, 7pm: City Council Meeting, Agenda
- Friday, 3/17, 6pm-9pm: St. Paddy's Beer Stroll (Los Altos Village Association)
- Thursday, 3/23, 6:45pm, Justice Vanguard Free Movie Night, 'Hidden Figures', Los Altos Community Center

#### **Ongoing Meetings**

Every Friday, 8:30am: LACC Interview on YouTube

#### **How Can You Help?**

Read more about LARE on our website and follow us on social media (Instagram, Facebook), @losaltosforracialequity.



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