



Los Altos Racial Equity &lt;losaltosracialequity@gmail.com&gt;

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**[test] Los Altos for Racial Equity Newsletter - Issue #19**

2 messages

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

Wed, Aug 13, 2025 at 11:52 PM

Reply-To: losaltosracialequity@gmail.com

To: losaltosracialequity@gmail.com

Hi Friend!



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**July 2023    Issue 19**

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**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!

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## Issue Highlights

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## Affirmative Action

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Affirmative action has been in the news a lot recently. Some background...Affirmative action was first established by Executive Order 11246 - Equal Employment Opportunity in 1965. This was then followed by the sanctioning of affirmative action in higher education admissions by the Supreme Court in 1978. In California (along with at least seven other states: Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Michigan, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Washington) the practice of using race to count in university admissions was banned with the approval of Proposition 209 in 1996. The ban took effect in California with the incoming class of 1998.

In 2020 Zachary Bleemer, an economist at Princeton University, conducted a [study](#) looking at if enrollment was affected in California since 1998. Bleemer found 40% of Black and Latino students who might have gotten into top schools like, UCLA or UC Berkeley, chose to enroll at less competitive campuses.

"Black and Hispanic students saw substantially poorer long-run labor market prospects as a result of losing access to these very selective universities," Bleemer told NPR. "But there was no commensurate gain in long-run outcomes for the white and Asian students who took their place."

According to Ibram X. Kendi, scholar and professor at Boston University, this 'race neutral' ruling is today's 'separate but equal', reminiscent of the Jim Crow period. On May 18, 1896, the U.S. Supreme Court case Plessy v. Ferguson ruled that separate-but-equal facilities were constitutional. The Plessy v. Ferguson decision upheld the principle of racial segregation over the next half-century. Read Kendi's complete essay in The Atlantic [here](#).

A quote from Justice Sonia Sotomayor from her dissent to the affirmative action Supreme Court case: "Ignoring race will not equalize a society that is racially unequal. What was true in the 1860s, and again in 1954, is true today: Equality requires acknowledgment of inequality"

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## Community News

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### Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR)

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ALPRs are back on the City Council's agenda for this evening's meeting. An [updated](#) ALPR Policy 462 will be presented by Chief Averiett and City Manager Gabe Engeland. City staff

are recommending that Council approve Policy 462.

LARE submitted six recommendations to City Council that we felt would increase transparency and protect civil liberties.

1.

Updated Section 462.4 (g) Once an alert is received, the operator must confirm that the observed license plate from the ALPR system matches the license plate of the observed vehicle

2.

Updated Section 462.4, Operations defines more clearly the specific use cases for ALPR use.

3.

Updated Section 462.6 strengthens data collection and retention policy

4.

Updated Section 462.8 (d) has added verbiage safeguarding reproductive rights

We feel there are two areas that have not been fully addressed:

1) In Section 462.7 (f) and (g) the frequency of audits, who will conduct the audit, and an outside agency also auditing ALPR usage as an added measure of transparency is included in the policy. LARE is proposing the results be made public so members of the community can feel confident that the ALPR system is being used properly and according to the Policy.

2) We feel more can be included in Section 462.4 (g) to confirm the Hit before taking action to stop and/or detain a driver. '...exigent circumstances...' is broad and vague. From Alameda's ALPR Policy which we find to be more specific:

"7. Required Steps Preliminary to Police Action. Hot lists utilized by the Department's ALPR system may be updated by agency sources more frequently than the Department may be uploading them, and the Department's ALPR system will not have access to real time data. Further, there may be errors in the ALPR's read of a license plate. Therefore, an alert alone shall not be a basis for police action (other than following the vehicle of interest). Prior to initiation of a stop of a vehicle or other intervention based on an alert, an officer shall undertake the following:

- a. Verification of current status on hot list. An officer must receive confirmation, from someone or some system within the Department that the license plate is still stolen, wanted, or otherwise of interest before proceeding.
- b. Visual verification of license plate number. Officers shall visually verify that the license plate on the vehicle of interest matches identically with the image of the license plate number captured (read) by the ALPR, including both the alphanumeric characters of the license plate and the state of issue, before proceeding with a traffic stop."

We thank Chief Averiett and City Council for working together to create a stronger ALPR policy which we believe shows efforts towards greater transparency for the community.

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## Trusted Response Urgent Support Team (TRUST)

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**TRUST** is a community service that helps Santa Clara County residents who are experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis. TRUST is a partnership between Momentum for Health, Pacific Clinics, and HomeFirst services and TRUST responders are behavioral health staff from community organizations. **Dial 988** and ask for the TRUST team who will assess the situation, triage with other teams if needed, and involve law enforcement as a last result. TRUST operates 24 hours/day, 7 days/week and 365 days a year! If you

frequent an establishment that has a message board and would allow a flier for TRUST, please let us know!

## Los Altos Community Coalition (LACC)

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 other 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 [YouTube](#) channel.

## Important Dates

- Tuesday, (Tonight! Soon!) 7/11, 7pm: Los Altos City Council meeting ([Agenda](#))
- Friday, 8/4, 6pm - 8pm: [First Friday](#)
- Saturday & Sunday, 8/12, 10am - 5:30pm: 48th Annual [Los Altos Rotary Fine Art in the Park](#)

## Ongoing Meetings

- Every Other Friday, 8:30am: LACC interview on [YouTube](#)
- Every Third Thursday of the month 5:00pm - 7:00pm: Conversations and Reflections about Local History offered by the Los Altos History Museum
- Thursdays 6:30pm, during the summer, the [Summer Concert Series](#) is BACK!
- Everyday: **Dial 998** and ask for the **TRUST mobile team** or someone you know or someone you see is experiencing a mental health substance abuse crisis. Responders include mental health professionals.

## How can you help?

Read more about LACC on the [website](#) and follow us on social media. Email [info@losaltosforracialequity.org](mailto:info@losaltosforracialequity.org)

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*Juneteenth Flag at City Hall*

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Sent via Action Network, a free online toolset anyone can use to organize. [Click here to sign up](#) and get started building an email list and creating online actions today.

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**Justice Vanguard (JV) reports this was their biggest Juneteenth Festival to date! They raised over \$10,000 the day of the Festival and roughly \$30,000 overall. This is over \$5,000 more than the previous year. JV estimates they had roughly 2,000 people in attendance! Vendors**

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