

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

SPECIAL ORDER NO. 1

March 4, 2025

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS ON

**SUBJECT: ENFORCEMENT OF UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION LAWS
– REVISED; DEPARTMENT IMMIGRATION LIAISON OFFICER
– RENAMED AND REVISED; AND, THE LOS ANGELES POLICE
DEPARTMENT AND FEDERAL IMMIGRATION
ENFORCEMENT, FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS GUIDE
– ACTIVATED**

BACKGROUND: On December 9, 2024, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass signed Ordinance Number 188441, Prohibition of the Use of City Resources for Federal Immigration Enforcement. The ordinance added Chapter 19 to Division 19 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code (“LAAC”) to prohibit the use of City resources, including City property and City personnel, from being utilized for the purposes of federal immigration enforcement.

Among other things, the ordinance prohibits City resources from being used to: inquire into or collect information about an individual’s citizenship or immigration status, except as specified; investigate, arrest, hold, transfer, or detain a person for the purposes of immigration enforcement, except as authorized under California law, including pursuant to a judicial warrant or order; respond to administrative requests to detain or transfer a person, or be notified about their release date; provide an immigration agent access to non-public areas of City property for the purposes of immigration enforcement; to make any person in City custody available to an immigration agent for an interview for the purposes of immigration enforcement; and to participate in immigration enforcement in any operation, joint operation, or joint task force involving an immigration agent. The Los Angeles City Council declared this ordinance was required for immediate protection of public peace, health, and safety of all residents across the City.

In addition to the City Ordinance, *California Senate Bill 268, Crimes: Serious and Violent Felonies* was amended on November 18, 2024, to enhance prison terms for new criminal offenses listed in California Penal Code Section 667.5, violent felonies that count as strikes under California’s “Three Strikes Law.” When a Department employee encounters an individual detained and/or charged with a violent criminal offense, and discovers the individual may have an outstanding federal criminal immigration arrest warrant, the employee shall comply with the appropriate local, state and federal laws.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Order is to revise Department procedures regarding local, state, and federal laws related to immigration enforcement within the City of Los Angeles.

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PROCEDURE:

- I. **ENFORCEMENT OF UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION LAWS – REVISED.** Department Manual Section 4/264.50, *Enforcement of United States Immigration Laws*, has been revised and is attached with the revisions in italics.
- II. **DEPARTMENT IMMIGRATION LIAISON OFFICER– RENAMED AND REVISED.** Department Manual Section 4/264.60, *Department Immigration Liaison Officer*, has been renamed and revised and is attached with the revisions in italics.
- III. **THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT AND FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT, FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS GUIDE– REVISED.** *The Los Angeles Police Department & Federal Immigration Enforcement, Frequently Asked Questions Guide*, has been activated.

AMENDMENT: This Order amends Sections 4/264.50 and 4/264.60 of the Department Manual.

FORM AVAILABILITY: *The Los Angeles Police Department and Federal Immigration Enforcement, Frequently Asked Questions Guide* is available on the LAN in E-Forms. All other version of the guide are now obsolete.

AUDIT RESPONSIBILITY. The Commanding Officer, Audit Division, shall review this directive and determine whether an audit or inspection shall be conducted in accordance with Department Manual Section 0/080.30.



J. M. McDONNELL
Chief of Police

Attachments

DISTRIBUTION "D"

**DEPARTMENT MANUAL
VOLUME IV
Revised by Special Order No. 1 , 2025**

264.50 ENFORCEMENT OF UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION LAWS. Officers shall not initiate police action where the objective is to discover the civil immigration status of a person. Officers shall neither arrest nor book persons for violation of Title 8, Section 1325 of the United States Code (U.S.C.), (Improper Entry) unless pursuant to an arrest warrant issued by a federal district court or magistrate judge.

Definitions. *The following definitions were added in Section 19.190 to Chapter 19 of Division 19 of the Los Angeles City's Administrative Code Ordinance Number 188441, entitled Prohibition of the Use of City Resources for Federal Immigration Enforcement:*

- **"Citizenship or Immigration Status"** shall mean all information or classification regarding citizenship of the United States or any other country, place of birth, the authority to reside in or otherwise be present in the United States, including visa status, and the time or manner of a person's entry into the United States;
- **"Immigration Agent"** means an individual engaged in Immigration Enforcement against natural persons, including agents employed by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (US-ICE) or U.S. Customs and Border Protection (US-CBP), and all other individuals authorized to conduct Immigration Enforcement against natural persons under 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g) or any other federal law; and,
- **"Immigration Enforcement"** means any and all efforts to investigate, enforce, or assist in the investigation or enforcement of any federal civil immigration law against natural persons, and also includes any and all efforts to investigate, enforce, or assist in the investigation or enforcement of any federal criminal immigration law that penalizes a natural person's presence in, entry, or reentry to, or employment in, the United States.

Federal Criminal Arrest Warrants. Pursuant to the California Values Act, California Government (Cal. Gov) Code § 7284.6(a)(4), Department personnel shall continue to honor a valid judicial warrant for a criminal offense issued by a federal or state judge, or other judicial order evidencing a judicial determination of probable cause, including arrest warrants issued by a federal district court or magistrate judge for criminal offenses including federal immigration crimes.

Temporary Detentions for Illegal Reentry Criminal Offenses. Pursuant to Cal. Gov. Code §7284.6(b)(1), officers may detain for investigation, based on reasonable suspicion, a person suspected of violating 8 U.S.C. §1326(a), (b)(2), Illegal Reentry after Conviction of an Aggravated Felony, a felony immigration offense, under the following circumstances:

- Department personnel-initiated contact with the person for reasons unrelated to immigration enforcement;
- The person is reasonably suspected of having a prior conviction for an aggravated felony under federal law;

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- The purpose of the detention is to determine if the prior conviction for an aggravated felony is also classified as a serious or violent felony, as defined in California Penal Code §§ 1192.7(c) and 667.5(c); and,
- The person is not a victim of, or a witness to, a crime or can otherwise provide evidence in a criminal investigation.

Release Requirement. Department personnel shall release a person detained for an 8 U.S.C. §1326(a), (b)(2) investigation if, during the detention, it is determined that the prior felony conviction is neither a serious nor violent felony under California law and the person is not otherwise subject to arrest or detention based on a non-immigration local, state or federal offense.

Approval Required Prior to Arrest or Transfer. Prior to conducting a probable cause arrest for a violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1326(a), (b)(2), or transferring a suspect to federal authorities such as US-ICE or US-CBP based on a probable cause arrest for 8 U.S.C. § 1326(a), (b)(2), Department personnel shall obtain approval from the *Department Immigration Affairs Liaison (DIAL)* appointed by the Chief of Police.

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264.60 DEPARTMENT IMMIGRATION AFFAIRS LIAISON. The Chief of Police may appoint a command officer or staff officer as the primary or secondary *Department Immigration Affairs Liaison (DIAL)*. The *DIAL* represents the Department on matters related to federal immigration enforcement and communicates with federal immigration agency representatives.

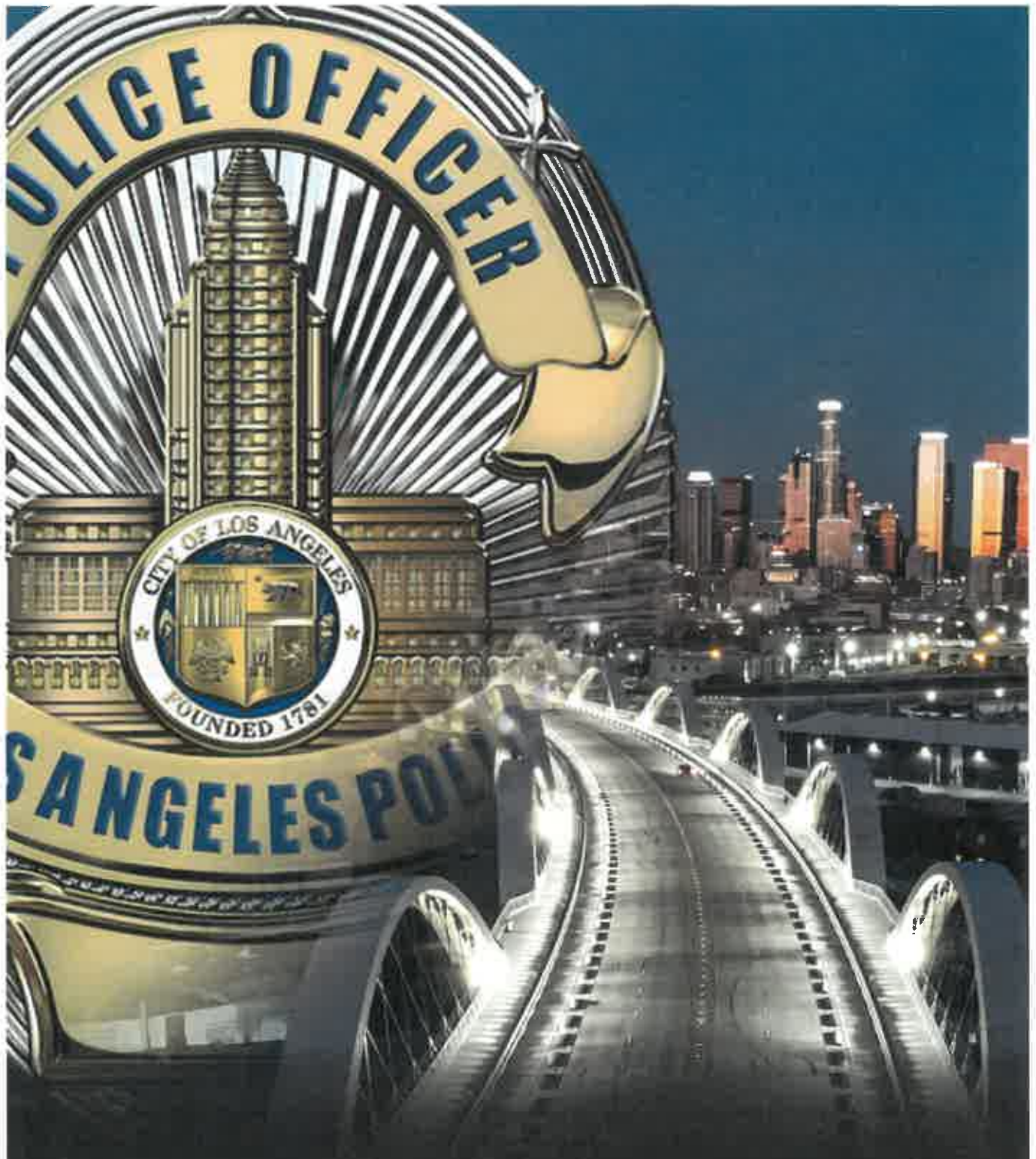
The *DIAL* is responsible for the following:

- Maintaining liaison between the Department and federal immigration authorities;
- Maintaining liaison between the Department and the community on matters concerning federal immigration enforcement;
- Providing advice to all Department entities and personnel related to issues involving federal immigration enforcement;
- Approving probable cause arrests for illegal re-entry *after conviction of an aggravated felony*, under federal law (see below); and,
- Approving criminal immigration enforcement actions as specified in the Office of the Chief of Police Notice, Immigration Enforcement Procedures, dated December 29, 2017.

In the absence of the primary *DIAL*, the secondary *DIAL* shall be responsible for the above duties and responsibilities.

Probable Cause Arrest for Illegal Re-Entry. Department personnel shall obtain approval from the *DIAL* prior to conducting a probable cause arrest for a violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1326(a), (b)(2), (Illegal Re-entry after Conviction of an Aggravated Felony), or transferring a suspect to federal immigration authorities based on a probable cause arrest for 8 U.S.C. § 1326(a), (b)(2).

*******The remainder of this section remains unchanged*******



2025

THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

Frequently Asked Questions
FORTHCOMING