



# OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



July 1, 2025

Sharmaine Moseley, Executive Director  
Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission  
World Trade Center  
350 South Figueroa Street, Suite 288  
Los Angeles, California 90071

Sent via Electronic Submittal

Dear Ms. Moseley:

**BACKGROUND ON THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT'S  
PROPOSED RADAR PILOT PROGRAM**

On June 9, 2025, you were advised via letter about the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's (Department) plan to update our policies related to the use of various technologies that we intend to use in support of our public safety mission. Since that time, the Department has scheduled a meeting with the Civilian Oversight Commission's Ad Hoc Committee (Committee) on technology. We look forward to discussing these important issues with the Committee.

In anticipation of our upcoming meeting with the Committee, we thought it could be helpful to provide some additional background on the proposed program to pilot using radar in open spaces to assist with residential burglaries.

In regions characterized by expansive, undeveloped areas between residential properties, individuals are increasingly exploiting these vast open spaces to monitor law enforcement activities and plan criminal operations. The limitations of conventional security measures, such as fixed cameras and human patrols, combined with the increasing concern in some communities relating to residential burglaries, prompted the Department's review of different alternatives to ensure appropriate and timely crime prevention and intervention.

In addition, as you are aware, Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff's Station recently completed the pilot program for the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems in their coverage area. Following that success, Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff's Station

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researched technological options to further enhance their community safety efforts with tools that are effective for the unique landscape of the area. Of particular concern to community members in this area is the numerous residential burglaries that take place. Many of these burglaries include the use of drones for surveillance purposes in advance. These tools allow burglars to identify points of easy access into a home, to determine whether residents are home, to locate cameras in the area, and obtain other information to increase the chances of a successful burglary. As a result of this community concern, Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff's Station proposed the use of compact radar systems as a pilot project.

The company, SpotterRF, offers compact radar systems, which are small devices placed in and around an area that can detect the existence of humans and drones in open spaces. The systems would help support Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff's Station to address its community's concern and develop more effective strategies to combat residential burglaries in the area. The radar information will feed into Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff's Station's existing Real Time Watch Center. The Real Time Watch Center currently receives camera feeds from privately owned cameras aimed at public spaces. The use of a radar system will help combat the burglaries since each radar system can cover significantly more ground than a single camera. The system would essentially act as a virtual patrol of open spaces that are not easily visible or accessible and alert the station to the presence and/or entrance of humans and/or drones onto residential properties that are in such large open spaces.

It is important to note that the SpotterRF devices *cannot* identify or show images of actual humans or drones; thus, they cannot show or detect the face or any distinguishing features of humans or provide any specific information about the drone. The technology can only detect the existence of a human or drone. Under the proposed pilot program, the SpotterRF equipment and installation would be purchased by Los Angeles Sheriff's Foundation (Foundation) and donated to Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff's Station. The Foundation is also willing to donate the cost of any maintenance. The estimated cost of purchase and maintenance is approximately \$6,000.

The Department acknowledges and respects the privacy interests implicated using this technology and is committed to operating the equipment in a lawful and transparent manner and to creating policies that provide clear guidance on the deployment of this technology. Finally, the Department will also track and regularly audit all usage of the technology.

This pilot program is being proposed with the support of the Malibu/Lost Hills community and will be subject to continuous review by the Department and the impacted community.

Again, the Department looks forward to our upcoming discussion on this matter and hopes that this background answers many of the questions you may have about the background and scope of this proposed pilot program.

Sincerely,

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF



APRIL L. TARDY  
UNDERSHERIFF