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Death of LAPD Sergeant - Illegal LED Flashing Lights

Mark Baker <mbaker@softlights.org>

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To: contact.lapdonline@gmail.com

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Dear Jim McDonnell, Chief, Los Angeles Police Department,

I am aware that LAPD Sergeant Shiou Deng was killed on Highway 405 on June 23, 2025. According to the article, his lights were on. (<https://ktla.com/news/local-news/flags-at-state-capitol-to-fly-at-half-staff-for-fallen-lapd-sergeant-killed-assisting-crash-victim-on-405-freeway/>).

Auxiliary LED flashing lights have not been permitted by the California Highway Patrol and are thus illegal. It is likely that Sergeant Shiou Deng was using illegal auxiliary LED flashing lights which impair vision and cognitive functioning for other drivers. Thus, it is the systemic use of illegal auxiliary LED flashing lights that likely led to Sergeant Deng's death.

I have filed a lawsuit against the California Highway Patrol for failing to enforce the prohibition of LED flashing lights. I have also submitted numerous petitions to the CHP regarding illegal auxiliary LED flashing lights and I have submitted a request for Letter of Interpretation (see attached). I have also requested investigations by other agencies such as Caltrans (see attached). I have also requested an investigation by the California Department of Justice. I have also begun submitting requests to county civil grand juries for an investigation.

Despite all of my requests, the CHP, Caltrans, and California Department of Justice are fighting my lawsuits, and no state or local agency has opened an investigation into the use of illegal, dangerous, hazardous, and discriminatory LED flashing lights on vehicles.

Sergeant Deng's death was needless. There are laws that already exist that, if followed, would have saved Sergeant Deng's life. We must not lose any more lives from this issue. The Soft Lights Foundation respectfully requests an immediate investigation by the LAPD.

Sincerely,

Mark Baker
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2 attachments

**Request for Letter of Interpretation.pdf**

149K

**Request for Investigation - LED Flashing Lights.pdf**

150K