



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: April 7, 2015

02

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 643 (NAZARIAN): EXPAND THE SILVER ALERT PROGRAM TO ACTIVATE CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGNS ON CALIFORNIA FREEWAYS AND HIGHWAYS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Overview

On May 6, 2014, the County of San Diego launched The Alzheimer's Project, an unprecedented initiative to tackle this insidious disease and public health epidemic on several fronts: Cure, Care, Clinical, and Public Awareness and Education. The Alzheimer's Care Roundtable, which includes members of the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, identified wandering to be of significant concern as it's estimated that six in ten people with Alzheimer's disease or other related dementia will wander. A person diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease is exceptionally vulnerable as he or she may not remember basic information such as his or her name, emergency contact telephone number or address, and is easily disoriented. The Alzheimer's Project implementation plan, approved on March 17, 2015, included the recommendation to explore using the Silver Alert system to help locate individuals who have wandered.

The Silver Alert is a notification system that alerts law enforcement and the public when a person who is 65 years of age or older, developmentally disabled or cognitively impaired, has been reported missing. Law enforcement agencies, under existing law, may request that the California Highway Patrol (CHP) activate a Silver Alert, if certain criteria are met. However, Silver Alert messages currently are not displayed on Changeable Message Signs, which are used for Amber Alert and Blue Alert messages.

Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian has introduced Assembly Bill 643 (AB 643), which would expand the Silver Alert program to include an alert on Changeable Message Signs, thereby making the Silver Alert consistent with the Amber Alert and the Blue Alert. Today's action would draft a letter expressing this Board of Supervisors' support for State Assembly Bill 643 to San Diego County's legislative representatives in Sacramento and add to the County's Legislative Program support for legislation that adds Silver Alerts to the changeable message signs seen on California freeways and highways as another tool in the search for persons who have wandered.

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 643 (NAZARIAN): EXPAND THE SILVER ALERT PROGRAM TO ACTIVATE CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGNS ON CALIFORNIA FREEWAYS AND HIGHWAYS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Recommendation(s)

VICE CHAIRMAN DAVE ROBERTS, SUPERVISOR DIANNE JACOB, AND SHERIFF BILL GORE

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a letter expressing this Board of Supervisors' support for State Assembly Bill 643 to San Diego County's legislative representatives in Sacramento and add to the County's Legislative Program support for legislation that adds Silver Alerts to the changeable message signs seen on California freeways and highways.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

Background

On May 6, 2014, the County of San Diego launched The Alzheimer's Project, an unprecedented initiative to tackle this insidious disease and public health epidemic on several fronts: Cure, Care, Clinical, and Public Awareness and Education. At a board conference on December 2, 2014, these four roundtables presented "The Alzheimer's Project: A Call to Arms", a report with specific recommendations from each roundtable. The Alzheimer's Project implementation plan is the regional roadmap for this multi-year effort, and was approved by the County Board of Supervisors on March 17, 2015.

The Alzheimer's Care Roundtable, which includes members of the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, identified wandering to be of significant concern as it's estimated that six in ten people with Alzheimer's disease or other related dementia will wander. A person diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease is exceptionally vulnerable as they may not remember basic information such as their name, emergency contact telephone number or address, and are easily disoriented. The Alzheimer's Project implementation plan, approved on March 17, included the recommendation to explore using the Silver Alert system to help locate individuals who have wandered.

The Silver Alert is a notification system that alerts law enforcement and the public when a person who is 65 years of age or older, developmentally disabled or cognitively impaired, has been reported missing. As of January 1, 2015, Senate Bill 1127 amended Government Code Section 8594.10 to authorize a Silver Alert to be activated for an individual that is developmentally disabled or cognitively impaired regardless of his or her age. Under existing law, law enforcement agencies may request from the CHP to activate a Silver Alert, if certain criteria are met.

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 643 (NAZARIAN): EXPAND THE SILVER ALERT PROGRAM TO ACTIVATE CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGNS ON CALIFORNIA FREEWAYS AND HIGHWAYS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Under current law, the Silver Alert may consist of:

- **Be-On-The-Lookout (BOLO)** – BOLO notifications contain suspect, victim and vehicle information. Communication Centers broadcast alerts to CHP personnel in the affected areas.
- **Emergency Digital Information Service (EDIS)** – EDIS delivers official information about emergencies and disasters to the public, local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.
- **The All Points Bulletin Network (APBnet)** – APBnet captures and distributes color photographs and images to law enforcement agencies, the media, and other organizations.

The following conditions must be met prior to the CHP issuing a Silver Alert within a specific geographical area:

- The investigating agency determines that the person has gone missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances.
- The law enforcement agency believes that the person is in danger because of age, health, mental or physical disability, or that there are other factors indicating that the person may be in peril.
- There is information available that, if provided to the public, could assist in the safe recovery of the missing person.

According to the CHP, in 2013 there were 161 Silver Alerts activated to help locate persons who had wandered in California. Only ten of those victims were located because of traditional law enforcement alert methods. In 2014, 164 Silver Alerts were activated and only 11 victims were located because of the same alert methods. These traditional law enforcement alert methods are not enough and we need to do more to locate residents faster to ensure a safe return home.

Assembly Member Nazarian has introduced Assembly Bill 643 (AB 643), which would expand the Silver Alert program to include an alert on Changeable Message Signs, thereby making the Silver Alert consistent with the Amber Alert and the Blue Alert. By expanding the Silver Alert to include activation of a CMS, the Alert has the potential to reach millions of motorists and improve the likelihood of finding a person who has wandered.

Today's action would draft a letter expressing this Board of Supervisors' support for State Assembly Bill 643 to San Diego County's legislative representatives in Sacramento and add to the County's Legislative Program support for legislation that adds Silver Alerts to the changeable message signs seen on California freeways and highways as another tool in the search for persons who have wandered.

We urge your support.

Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan

N/A

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 643 (NAZARIAN): EXPAND THE SILVER ALERT PROGRAM TO ACTIVATE CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGNS ON CALIFORNIA FREEWAYS AND HIGHWAYS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Respectfully submitted,

DAVE ROBERTS
Vice Chairman, Third District

DIANNE JACOB
Supervisor, Second District

WILLIAM D. GORE
Sheriff

ATTACHMENT(S)
N/A

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 643 (NAZARIAN): EXPAND THE SILVER ALERT PROGRAM TO ACTIVATE CHANGEABLE MESSAGE SIGNS ON CALIFORNIA FREEWAYS AND HIGHWAYS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:
N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:
N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:
N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:
N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):
N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors, Districts 2 and 3, Sheriff's Department

OTHER CONCURRENCES(S): N/A

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Lindsey Masukawa
Name
619-531-5533
Phone
Lindsey.Masukawa@sdcounty.ca.gov
E-mail

Amber Tarrac
Name
619-531-5522
Phone
Amber.Tarrac@sdcounty.ca.gov
E-mail