Annual Report
2026

Recommendations and
Best Practices

RACIAL AND
IDENTITY
PROFILING
ADVISORY
BOARD

Recommendations and Best Practices

The 2026 Annual RIPA Report provides the RIPA Board's recommendations and best practices for law enforcement agencies, the Legislature, local policymakers, community members, researchers, and advocates to promote evidence-based and data-driven policy reforms to eliminate racial and identity profiling and improve law enforcement and community relations. The Report provides context and research that inform the recommendations and best practices described below. This year, the Board builds on prior recommendations with a specific focus on the relationship of racial and identity profiling by law enforcement to public safety, and how reducing or eliminating profiling contributes to public safety. Recognizing that "profiling" and "safety" are broad terms with a range of connotations, the Board aims to contextualize these terms by defining public safety holistically. For purposes of this Report, the Board defines public safety as the collective experience of being safeguarded or protected from threats to one's life or wellbeing. These recommendations are not exhaustive but provide a foundation upon which stakeholders can build and develop emerging best practices geared toward safe and equitable policing.

Addressing Oversaturation Policing

This year, the Board makes several recommendations to the Legislature and local policymakers to mitigate the disproportionate and detrimental impacts of the law enforcement strategy known as "oversaturation policing." The available research shows that the negative effects of oversaturation policing, when combined with alternative enforcement technologies, can exacerbate bias and can increase the likelihood that racial and identity profiling will occur.

The Legislature and local policymakers should:

- Enact legislation to prohibit or limit police agencies from relying on oversaturation policing, as defined in the Policies chapter of the 2026 RIPA Report, in marginalized communities due to the negative effects of those practices on those communities.

The Legislature should:

- Enact legislation to allocate resources to an entity with the needed capacity or expertise, such as a state commission or research institution, to study and make further recommendations on whether alternative enforcement technologies such as face recognition, gunshot detection, and predictive policing technology exacerbate existing bias or are deployed in ways that lead to oversaturation policing.

Limiting Pretextual Stops

Research shows that pretextual stops — stops based on hunches that an individual is committing a crime, without basis in reasonable suspicion or probable cause —are susceptible to racial bias, and may not lead to meaningful reductions in crime or the discovery of contraband. Accordingly, the Board continues to build on its past work to mitigate the disparate impacts of pretextual stops, and makes an additional recommendation to legislators and policymakers to limit the occurrence of pretextual stops.

The Legislature and local policymakers should:

- Enact legislation or policies, similar to those in place in San Francisco, West Hollywood, Los Angeles, North Carolina, and Virginia, to limit pretextual stops consistent with public safety.

Ensuring Police Accountability Through Civilian Oversight

Civilian oversight is an important part of law enforcement accountability and, in turn, public safety. This year, the Board makes several recommendations to civilian oversight agencies (COAs) to aid in their review and address police misconduct rooted in racial and identity profiling.

Civilian oversight agencies (COAs) should:

- Explicitly incorporate the elimination of racial and identity profiling as part of efforts to increase public safety.

- Assess whether they possess the qualities of an effective civilian oversight entity, particularly the features of a robust COA that correlate with the elimination of racial and identity group bias in both high- and low-discretion interactions and expand or implement those factors consistent with their own model.

- Have timely and unfettered access to their agency's RIPA data and citizen complaint data, both in relation to all vehicle and pedestrian stops and citizen complaints alleging racial and identity profiling, and other information related to the matter being reviewed, with all appropriate confidentiality protections in place.

- Analyze RIPA data to identify any racial and identity disparities in policing practices and, if any exist, propose changes to policies and practices aimed at remedying these disparities and continue to monitor those disparities over time.

- Develop additional ways to use the RIPA data in a way that is consistent with their model and mission and look for ways to strengthen their existing model.

Improving Access to RIPA Data

Public access to the RIPA data is essential to the Board's work. To that end, the Board makes the following recommendation to the California Department of Justice.

The California Department of Justice (DOJ) should:

- Create a data dashboard of RIPA data that is accessible to the public.