



CITY OF HOUSTON

Houston Police Department

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January 11, 2019

Art Acevedo
Chief of Police



To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to express my support for the legislative efforts of Ms. Jennifer Allen to reduce the risks of misunderstandings between police officers and Texas drivers who have communication impediments. Effective communication between officers and those stopped on traffic is critical for the safety of all involved.

The first step in facilitating communication occurred in the 85th Legislative Session with the passage of House Bill 1434, which allows a citizen to identify a communications impediment with a peace officer on their drivers license. It is my understanding that Ms. Allen is now working on a bill to allow Texas citizens the option of indicating "*Communication Impediment*" when registering their motor vehicle.

This effort and action will flag license plates in the Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (TLETS) and alert officers to possible communication challenges when they run a license plate. Providing officers with this critical information before approaching a vehicle and interacting with the driver may allow for more effective communication and a safer interaction between the parties.

As I often say, good communication is vital for a successful community and it helps build the bond between the community and its police department. This legislative initiative will ease the challenge of communication at the outset on a traffic stop and provide for a more effective encounter.

In this regard, I understand this initiative has received support from the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, the Texas Department of Public Safety, and the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities. On behalf of the Houston Police Department, I am proud to support this proposed legislation and your favorable consideration is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Art Acevedo
Chief of Police

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COP # 19-69315

