



## Victory in Gaylord racial profiling case

In 2012, a Sibley County sheriff deputy arrested the driver of a car in which Jesus Manuela Mendoza Sierra was a passenger. The officer had no reason to suspect that Sierra was involved in any criminal activity. Rather, because Sierra is Hispanic, the officer assumed she was in the country illegally. Despite having valid identification and no arrest warrants, Sierra was brought to the police station for interrogation. She was only released after officers took her to her home and inspected her immigration documents. The ACLU-MN sued the local police and sheriff’s departments on behalf of Sierra and won a settlement.

As part of the settlement agreement both Sibley County and the Gaylord Police Department agreed

to better and more routine use of dashboard cameras, and additional training on unbiased policing. Gaylord Police Department also agreed to make diversity a priority in their hiring process and to have more translators available for use during police interactions.

As Sierra said, “I hope that this settlement sends a clear message to police to stop treating people differently because of the color of their skin. I don’t want what happened to me to happen to other people.” Attorneys in the case were Al Goins of the Goins Law office and Teresa Nelson and Ian Bratlie of the ACLU-MN. ■

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## At the Minnesota Capitol in 2015

The ACLU-MN has hope this year that some of the bills we are pro-actively pushing will pass. While the ACLU-MN supports and monitors a fair number of bills, every year we pick a few to prioritize. Below is a list of the bills that we have prioritized this year. We also expect there to be a number of bills that we will fight against.

- **Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Regulation:** Police use ALPR cameras that capture images of license plate numbers, allowing law enforcement to monitor and track the movement of vehicles. This technology allows for the capture of mass data on innocent individuals and law enforcement may retain that data for as long as they want. We support legislation that restricts retention of innocent individual’s information and provides additional privacy protections.
- **Drone Privacy Protection:** Drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles, are used by the government for a variety of purposes, including law enforcement investigation, research and surveillance along the

border with Canada. We introduced a new bill this session that requires law enforcement to obtain a warrant before using a drone for surveillance purposes.

- **Police Body Camera Regulation:** While body cameras have the potential to increase police accountability and deter misconduct, we support a strong, statewide policy that includes adequate safeguards for personal privacy.
- **Data Privacy Amendment:** Where we go online, whom we email, and what we say reveals a great deal about us, and the government shouldn’t have access to this information without a warrant. A diverse, bipartisan coalition is proposing a Minnesota state constitutional amendment that would add “electronic communications and data” to the right of the people to be secure in their “persons, houses, papers, and effects.” If passed, the proposed amendment would be on the ballot in 2016.