



City Council

December 7, 2021

Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR)



Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR)

- Cameras that read license plates
- **Investigative tool** that assists by automating current manual process
- Improves efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability
- Used by several agencies



ALPR Visual



Plate

7YU 688 480



Last Visit

3:15 PM EDT



Make

Toyota



Seen

3 OF 30 DAYS



Color

Gray



Resident?

No



Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR)

- Data secured for said retention period, then automatically deletes
- Search reason required
- Audit trail
- Removes human bias by detecting objective data
- End to end encryption
- Instant feedback (stolen vehicles, amber alert, wanted person)
- Intelligence led
- Not facial recognition
- Not used for immigration
- Not connected to 3rd party

Current ALPRs Deployment

- Mobile ALPRs in 4 patrol vehicles since 2014
- Existing policy (APD 462)
- Limitations
- 6 month retention period



Risks and Concerns

- Access and Use
- Retention
- Facial recognition software
- Accountability
- Auto theft on the rise (over 40%)



Efficacy

- Difficult to quantify due limited controlled experiments
- Solved case documentation
- All police agency that use ALPR found technology beneficial
- “Actual vehicle” vs “Possible/similar vehicle”



Efficacy

- “The Impacts of Large-Scale License Plate Reader Deployment on Criminal Investigations”
- Clearance vs solve rates
- Study shows ALPR assisted in case resolution 20% of the time



Case studies

- Kidnap case in Georgia resolved in 4.5 hours
- Morgan Hill and San Ramon PD stolen vehicles
- Benicia PD recovered 11 firearms on stop
- Fairfield PD arrested two murder suspects
- San Mateo PD home invasion



Case studies

- San Marino PD and City Council attribute 70% burglary reduction to ALPR
- San Jose PD resolved 10 shootings
- Alameda PD developed leads based on ALPR in several cases soon to be announced



Recap

What ALPR will do

- Recognize license plates
- Gather evidence on vehicles
- Delete information after 30 days
- Require reason/approval to access
- Helps solve crimes

What ALPR won't do

- Facial recognition
- Store information indefinitely

Staff Recommendation

Approve:

- Move forward with:
 1. Installation of fixed ALPR equipment and/or
 2. Expanding mobile ALPR equipment to all PD vehicles assigned to field duties

