

Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR)

Frequently Asked Questions

What are Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR)?

Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) are high-resolution digital cameras with an infrared filter to capture images of vehicle license plates. ALPRs are designed to capture images of the vehicle's license plate and basic characteristics, such as make, model, and color.

ALPRs are NOT designed to:

- Capture occupants of vehicles or use facial recognition
- Connect to law enforcement databases
- Capture names, dates of birth, or social security numbers, or continuously track individuals
- Record video
- Monitor speed or red-light violations, or issue citations

What is ALPR data NOT used for?

ALPR data is not used for civil immigration enforcement, traffic enforcement, harassment or intimidation, targeting based on protected characteristics (such as race, sex, or religion), or any personal use. Flock ALPR does not forecast behavior or predict who will commit a crime.

How long is ALPR data stored?

Data captured by the ALPR system is retained for 30 days. After that period, it is automatically purged unless it is, or is reasonably expected to become, evidence in a criminal or civil case, or must be preserved due to a lawful order.

Why does the Department retain ALPR information for 30 days?

Historical ALPR information can become important after a crime is reported or after investigators identify a vehicle associated with an investigation. The 30-day period provides investigators with a limited window to develop those leads while preventing routine vehicle-location information from being retained indefinitely. The Department's policy requires historical searches to be connected to a documented law enforcement or public safety purpose.

What safeguards are in place to protect citizens' privacy?

All ALPR data is used strictly for law enforcement purposes. The data is owned by the Naperville Police Department and is never sold to private entities. Additionally, access is limited, logged and audited.

Does an ALPR alert automatically give an officer a reason to stop a vehicle?

No. An ALPR alert is an investigative lead and does not, by itself, establish reasonable suspicion or probable cause for a traffic stop, search or arrest. Officers are required to evaluate the circumstances and verify the alert before taking enforcement action whenever reasonably practical. This is an important protection already contained in your policy.

What happens if an employee misuses the ALPR system?

Suspected misuse is reviewed and investigated. Misuse may result in suspension or loss of ALPR access, disciplinary action, and criminal prosecution when applicable.