Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR)
Best Practices

October 1, 2021

ALPR – What is it?

- ALPR assists law enforcement in locating vehicles that are wanted for a legitimate law enforcement purpose

- The ALPR system uses cameras designed to capture images of license plates and vehicles

- ALPR technology compares the license plates read by the cameras with license plates in the ALPR database

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ALPR – What is it?

- The database contains license plate numbers of:
  - Stolen vehicles
  - Wanted felony vehicles
  - Lost or stolen license plates
  - Missing persons vehicles
  - Amber alert vehicles

- If the plate read by the camera matches a plate in the database, the officer is alerted

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ALPR – What is it?

- Before an officer can take enforcement action, he/she must verify that the vehicle is wanted through the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS)

- ALPR data stored in the database includes the date, time, and location where a vehicle was detected by an ALPR camera and an image of the plate and vehicle

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ALPR – What is it?

- That data can be used to assist law enforcement in identifying dates and times when a particular vehicle was in a particular location; thereby aiding in the investigation of criminal activity

- ALPR data collected by the Long Beach Police Department is retained in the database for a period not to exceed 24 months

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ALPR – Important Points

- ALPR does not provide any personal information about the registered owner of the vehicle. No name, address, or other identifying information

- It is not until the officer runs the license plate through CLETS that he/she receives information about the registered owner of the vehicle.

- CLETS information is not uploaded into the ALPR database

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ALPR – Data Sharing

- California Values Act – SB54 (2017)

- LBPD does not share ALPR data with out-of-state or Federal agencies

- Audits of the system are conducted to ensure compliance

Questions?