

Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs)

462.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE


Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology, also known as License Plate Recognition, provides automated detection of license plates. ALPRs are used by the San Mateo Police Department to convert data associated with vehicle license plates and use it for official law enforcement purposes including identifying stolen or wanted vehicles, stolen license plates and missing persons. ALPRs may also be used to gather information related to active warrants, homeland security, electronic surveillance, suspect interdiction and stolen property recovery.

462.2 ADMINISTRATION OF ALPR DATA

All installation and maintenance of ALPR equipment, as well as ALPR data retention and access shall be managed by the Support Services. The Support Services Captain/Deputy Chief and Field Operations Captain will assign personnel under his/her command to administer the day-to-day operation of the ALPR equipment and data.

462.3 ALPR OPERATION

Use of ALPR is restricted to the purposes outlined below. Department personnel shall not use, or allow others to use the equipment or database records for any unauthorized purpose.

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- (a) An ALPR shall only be used for official and legitimate law enforcement business.
 - (b) An ALPR may be used in conjunction with any routine patrol operation or criminal investigation. Reasonable suspicion or probable cause is not required before using an ALPR.
 - (c) While an ALPR may be used to canvass license plates around any crime scene particular consideration should be given to using ALPR equipped cars to canvass areas around homicides, shootings and other major incidents. Partial license plates reported during major crimes should be entered into the ALPR system in an attempt to identify suspect vehicles.
 - (d) No member of this department shall operate ALPR equipment or access ALPR data without first completing department-approved training.
 - (e) No ALPR operator may access California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS) data unless otherwise authorized to do so.
 - (f) If practicable, the officer should verify an ALPR response through CLETS before taking enforcement action that is based solely on an ALPR alert.

462.4 ALPR DATA COLLECTION AND RETENTION

All data and images gathered by ALPR are for the official use of the San Mateo Police Department and because such data may contain confidential CLETS information it is not open to public review. ALPR information gathered and retained by this department may be used and shared with prosecutors or others only as permitted by law.

Collection and retention of ALPR data is subject to the following guidelines: