



ALPR Program Review and Update

What is ALPR and how does it work?

- ALPR = Automated License Plate Reader
- Network of stationary cameras
 - Fixed – cannot be remotely rotated/manipulated
 - Aimed into traffic lanes
 - To capture rear license plates of passing vehicles
 - Much like those on toll roads
 - Takes photos of rear of vehicles
 - Vehicles in plain view on public right-of-way
 - Does not photograph occupants



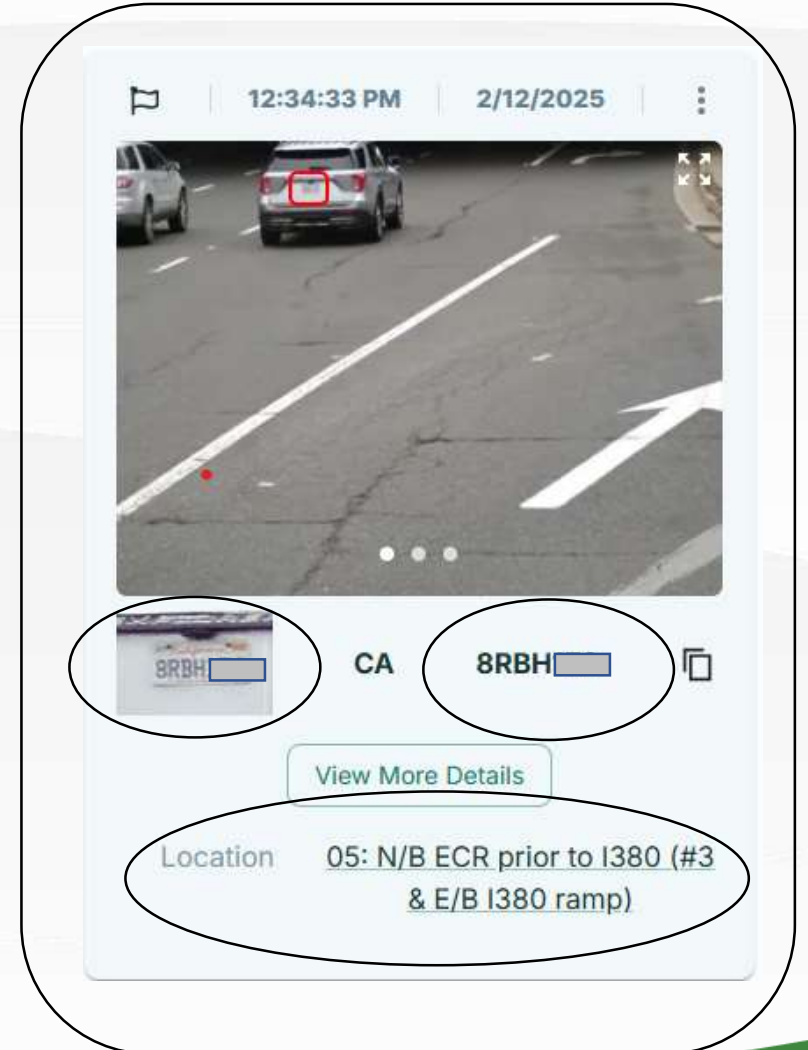
What does our ALPR system do with the photos?

- Reads/determines license plate numbers
- Automatically notifies police of...
 - Stolen vehicles
 - Crime vehicles with stop orders
 - Vehicles associated with: missing persons, AMBER/SILVER alerts, APBs
 - Provides location/direction of travel of vehicle at that moment
- Analyzes vehicle components to discern make/model/color
 - For vehicles with no license plates or cold plates
- Stores images for 30 days
 - Creates a temporary searchable database for police investigators



What does an alert look like?

- “Hit” notification to CPU/phone
 - Only for vehicles in LE databases for stop
 - Includes close up of plate alongside actual plate of the “hit”
 - Dispatch/Officer must confirm match and “hit” before taking any action



How does the ALPR database work?

- Vehicle images captured by cameras are stored in database for 30 days
 - State law allows 90 days, we limit to 30
- When a vehicle is associated with a crime, investigators can search for it in the database
 - Requires case number, offense type, and reason for search
 - Can look for a plate, a make/model/color, or reads on a specific camera during a specific timeframe
 - Cannot search for a person, name, address, or other personal identifying information
- Images automatically purged after 30 days

The screenshot displays the search interface for the ALPR database. At the top, there are tabs for 'Search', 'Search', and 'Lookup'. The main search area is divided into several sections:

- Investigative Purpose:** Includes a dropdown for 'Offense Type' (with a red asterisk indicating it is a required field) and a text input for 'Case Number' (also a required field). Below these is a 'Reason' text input.
- Vehicle Details:** Features a 'License Plate' text input, a 'Plate State' dropdown menu, and three checkboxes: 'Include Partial Plate', 'Nationwide', and 'Statewide (NC)'. Below this is a 'Vehicle Fingerprint' dropdown menu.
- Location & Time:** Includes a 'Location' dropdown menu with 'My Network(s) Selected' and a 'Map & Devices' button. Below this are 'Start' and 'End' time range inputs, with the example range being '04/10/2026 07:30 AM' to '04/10/2026 09:30 AM'. At the bottom, there are five buttons for time-based filters: 'Last 15 Min', 'Last 2 Hours', 'Last 24 Hours', 'Last 48 Hours', and 'Last 30 Days'.

How does the ALPR database work?

- We own/control images
- Data sharing at our discretion
 - Police agencies only
 - For legitimate law enforcement purposes only
 - Each request approved/denied by APD
 - Single point of contact (civilian)
 - Flock data sharing MOU required
 - Sharing with about 1,000 police agencies
 - Same restrictions apply to them
 - Federal agencies now automatically excluded
 - 2 errant Federal shares caught/cleared in audit

US Postal Inspector's Office / USAFB Police Department

The screenshot displays the search interface for the ALPR database. At the top, there are tabs for 'Search', 'Search', and 'Lookup'. The main search area is divided into several sections:

- Investigative Purpose:** Includes a dropdown for 'Offense Type' (with a placeholder 'Enter offense type') and a text input for 'Case Number' (with a placeholder 'Enter case number (required)'). A 'Reason' field with a placeholder 'Enter search reason' is also present.
- Vehicle Details:** Features a 'License Plate' input field, a 'Plate State' dropdown menu (set to 'Any'), and checkboxes for 'Include Partial Plate', 'Nationwide', and 'Statewide (NC)'. A 'Vehicle Fingerprint' input field with a placeholder 'Enter body, make, color, etc' and a filter icon is also included.
- Location & Time:** Shows a 'Location' dropdown menu (set to 'My Network(s) Selected') with a 'Map & Devices' button. Below this are 'Start' and 'End' time range inputs, with the start time set to '04/10/2026 07:30 AM' and the end time to '04/10/2026 09:30 AM'. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Last 15 Min', 'Last 2 Hours', 'Last 24 Hours', 'Last 48 Hours', and 'Last 30 Days'.

A circular logo in the top-left corner, partially cut off, featuring a stylized white arrow pointing right, set against a grey background.

What the ALPR Program is **NOT**

- It is NOT facial recognition
- It is NOT widespread person surveillance
- It is NOT tied to Personal Identifying Information (PII)
- It is NOT used for traffic enforcement
- It is NOT used for non law enforcement purposes

Why is ALPR important for public safety IN APEX?

- Crime prevention
 - ALPR as an early warning system
 - Notice of the presence of criminal(s) before victimization
 - Stolen vehicles (used in vast majority of our crime sprees)
 - Vehicles recently used in criminal acts
 - Known safety concerns (school and other threat cases)
- Crime deterrence
- Missing/endangered persons
- Criminal investigations
 - Nationally, >70% of crimes involve the use of a motor vehicle
 - In Apex, this number is closer to 80%
 - Vehicle identification is critical evidence in solving crimes
 - Imagine having a license plate and/or vehicle description for 80% of our crimes
 - Especially valuable for crime during light traffic
 - Connecting one crime, to many others



What does the current program look like in Apex?

- First cameras in use as of October 2025, alerts activated December 2025 (less than 6 months of full use)
- Currently have 7 installed cameras
 - Relatively stationary (can be moved but not with regularity)
 - All cover public streets and vehicles traveling in plain view
 - None of these cameras are on DOT roadways
 - Placement based on crime data and key points of ingress/egress
 - Also have 3 “flex” cameras undeployed
 - Reducing to 2 primarily for special events deployment
 - We do not disclose locations because that would make it easier for criminals to avoid them



What does the current program look like in Apex?

- Average of about 60,000 vehicle reads per day
- Over 1,700 official hot list hits
 - 1,100 protection orders
 - 300 stolen license plates
 - 111 stolen vehicles
 - 40 criminal warrants
 - 28 sex offenders
 - 3 missing persons

** As of April 2026*



Just a few of examples of ALPR success in Apex

- Multi-million dollar, multi-year ATM jackpotting case
 - Tren de Aragua gang members from Venezuela
 - Dozens of thefts throughout east and mid-west US
 - Hit Apex ATM and detectives were able to obtain a license plate from an ALPR camera
 - Resulted in location and arrest of multiple suspects within hours
 - Suspects not from Apex



Just a few of examples of ALPR success in Apex

- Thwarted commercial burglaries
 - ALPR alerted officers to a stolen U-Haul truck coming into town
 - Officers saturated the area and located 2 stolen U-Haul trucks
 - Connected to a series of commercial burglary attempts throughout the area using stolen moving trucks
 - Evidence suggested suspects were in Apex for the same
 - Suspects not from Apex



Just a few of examples of ALPR success in Apex

- Arrest of dangerous felon with multiple felony warrants
 - ALPR alerted officers to a vehicle associated with a dangerous wanted felon
 - Officers saturated the area and located the vehicle
 - Driver had several warrants for violent felony offenses and was on the run
 - Suspect not from Apex



Just a few of examples of ALPR success in Apex

- Auto theft ring arrests
 - ALPR alerted officers to a stolen vehicle
 - Officers saturated the area, located the vehicle and attempted to stop it
 - Driver fled and a pursuit ensued into Durham
 - Durham PD ultimately assisted in arrest of multiple suspects
 - Suspects tied to regional auto theft ring
 - Suspects not from Apex



Just a few of examples of ALPR success in Apex

- Thwarted residential burglaries
 - Suspects committed residential and vehicle break ins in Pittsboro (firearms stolen)
 - ALPRs indicated headed eastbound on 64
 - Officers saturated the area, located the vehicle and attempted to stop it
 - Driver fled and a pursuit ensued into Durham
 - Pursuit terminated by officers due to safety
 - Suspects identified by investigators and later arrested
 - Suspects tied to string of break-ins
 - Suspects not from Apex



Just a few of examples of ALPR success in Apex

- Fentanyl trafficker arrested
 - ALPR alerted officers to a vehicle with a stop/seizure order
 - Officers saturated the area and located the vehicle
 - Search of the vehicle revealed driver was trafficking in methamphetamine and fentanyl
 - Suspect not from Apex



Just a few of examples of ALPR success in Apex

- Domestic violence protective order violation arrest
 - ALPR alerted officers to a vehicle associated with a suspect wanted for violating a DVPO
 - Vehicle was in the area of victim residence
 - Officers saturated the area and located the vehicle
 - Driver was arrested for warrants and DVPO violation
 - No business in area beyond looking for victim
 - Suspect not from Apex



Just a few of examples of ALPR success in Apex

- Organized retail theft and vehicle theft arrests
 - ALPR alerted officers to a stolen vehicle
 - Officers saturated the area and located the vehicle in Kohl's parking lot, unoccupied
 - Officers set up on vehicle and arrested suspects after they came out of Kohl's with thousands of dollars in stolen property and entered the stolen vehicle
 - Mass of additional stolen property in vehicle
 - ALPR used to connect suspects to several additional retail theft cases
 - Suspects not from Apex

Just a few of examples of ALPR success in Apex

- Arrest of violent felon on the run
 - ALPR alerted officers to a vehicle associated with a wanted felon out of Raleigh
 - Suspect had fled from multiple prior arrest attempts
 - Officers saturated the area and located the vehicle
 - Multiple violent felon arrested for warrants
 - Suspect not from Apex



Just a few of examples of ALPR success in Apex


- Repeat larceny series solved and closed using ALPR
 - Multiple past-occurred larcenies reported to APD
 - Initially, no available video or other physical evidence to work with
 - Investigators used ALPR to determine a potential vehicle involved
 - ALPR search revealed same vehicle in area of dozens of additional crimes in Greensboro, High Point, Kernersville, Durham and Cary
 - Warrants obtained for suspect
 - ALPR alerts used to locate suspect and vehicle
 - Suspect charged with dozens of larcenies and other crimes
 - Suspect not from Apex

What is APD doing to balance safety and privacy?

- 4th Amendment measures
 - Egregious mischaracterization from previous council meeting
 - Why I CHOOSE to mention the 4th Amendment when discussing ALPR
 - The courts are our measuring stick for this critical assessment
- We CHOOSE to retain images for only 30 days (1/3 of state allowance of 90 days)
 - Another egregious mischaracterization from previous council meeting
 - Why I would prefer 90 days, but CHOOSE to keep it at 30
- Data sharing
 - We CHOOSE what agencies we share data with
 - Each share request is independently reviewed by professional staff member
 - Restricted to policing agencies for official law enforcement purposes only
 - Must sign Flock MOU sharing agreement (prevents resharing)
 - We CHOOSE not to share our images/data with federal LE/agencies

What is APD doing to balance safety and privacy?

- Misuse by end users
 - Each search requires right to know/need to know documentation
 - Must enter an official investigative case number, charge being investigated, and plain English reason for search
 - System tracks every search
 - Regular audit practices to ensure compliance
 - Random supervisory spot checks
 - Office of Professional Standards (OPS) audits at regular intervals per policy and CALEA guidance
- Supervisor approval for “custom hot list” entry
 - Submission/approval of form required to input a vehicle
- Civilian Intel Analyst as ALPR Coordinator and OPS as oversight
- Annual Reporting
 - Trend/patterns; program effectiveness; need for policy changes; training needs
 - Also providing this report with only about 6 months of use



of Federal agencies APD is sharing its ALPR data with

0



of APD ALPR searches conducted for immigration enforcement

0

of APD ALPR searches conducted for abortion enforcement

0



of APD ALPR searches conducted other than for official police investigations

0

of APD ALPR searches conducted without case # and reason description

0



of APD ALPR searches conducted in violation of law or policy

0

Addressing mischaracterizations

- Council approved in 2023 but there's been no reporting
 - Contract approved in 2023, but no system deployment until late 2025
 - Program has been full live for only about 6 months
 - Nonetheless, Council has requested and received numerous updates
- Public doesn't know
 - Presented at multiple public meetings prior to my arrival in late January 2025
 - Public presentation February 2025 work session
 - More than 9 months before going live
 - Public presentation May 2025 work session
 - About 6 months before going live
 - Public presentation January 2026 work session
 - About a month after going live
 - Public presentation tonight
 - Thoroughly and openly discussed at more than 30 Chat with the Chief events
 - Thoroughly and openly discussed at multiple Peak Academies and Resident Police Academies

Addressing mischaracterizations

- Department staffing
 - I reported on this extensively in January work session presentation and prior
 - Claim that we are authorized for 143 officers is plainly false, we are authorized for 114
 - We are NOT having trouble attracting people to work here...anymore
- APD doesn't report crime data
 - Plainly false and disingenuous
 - There is a single missing year due to loss of data from the cyber attack (cannot report partial data)
- APD doesn't provide call breakdowns
 - See annual reports on website (minus cyber attack year)
 - 2025 still being generated (challenges of poor CAD/RMS as previously reported)
- Police policing the police
 - Officer of Professional Standards – civilian led

Summary/Closing

- ALPR program is already reducing crime, increasing apprehensions/prosecutions, deterring criminal actors and making our community safer and more secure
- The Supreme Court has repeatedly ruled that this is NOT mass surveillance
- Your police department has been, and continuous to be, highly transparent about this program
- Your police department is an exceedingly professional organization, nationally accredited by CALEA via repeated independent audits and reviews ensuring best practices
- Your police department has access to far more private data than a photo of your license plate, and has for decades (reason for backgrounding and swearing in)
- Your police chief has nearly a decade of experience deploying ALPR programs and balancing security benefits with privacy concerns
- Our ALPR vendor has recently deployed new default settings that mirror what we have done by choice from the start



A Final Thought

- *We can have honest conversations about policy, technology, and oversight. In fact, we should.*
- *We are a responsive, service-driven organization, and honest, respectful conversations produce prosperous outcomes.*
 - *The Transparency Portal is an example: <https://transparency.flocksafety.com/apex-nc-pd>*
- *Honest, mindful conversations aimed at greater understanding do not come at the expense of the trust, respect, and support we all owe to the men and women who put on this uniform and serve this community with honor every day.*
- *This community, and this Council have long shown their support for the difficult work that our police officers do, and I would ask that any community member wishing to engage in public discourse do the same.*





Thank you.

Questions?