

Champaign Police Department
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MEMORANDUM

To: Citizen Review Subcommittee
From: Police Technology Administrator Cory Koker
Date: March 5th, 2026
Subject: ALPR Report – June 2025 to December 2025

Background

As part of a community effort to combat a persistent rise in gun violence, the City of Champaign initiated an Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) program, beginning with a two-year contract in December 2021, to deploy 46 Falcon ALPRs supplied by Flock Safety. These units were installed based on historical data related to shooting incidents, targeting key arterial routes and community entry points surrounding, but not within, neighborhoods experiencing elevated crime rates. The deployment strategy was intended to intercept vehicles traveling to and from areas most impacted by gun violence. The last ALPR of the 46 ordered units was installed in January 2023, marking the formal start of the program's two-year pilot phase.

Prior to the program's launch, Police Department personnel received training on the system's use, with clear policy guidance restricting usage to cases involving criminal offenses that would justify custodial arrest. Training remains an integral part of onboarding for newly hired employees, with support materials available from both the Champaign Police and Flock Safety.

Following positive initial outcomes, the ALPR system quickly proved to be a valuable investigative tool. The Police Department reported dozens of criminal investigations, including homicides, shootings, arsons, and abductions, where ALPR data was pivotal in identifying suspect vehicles, generating leads, and facilitating arrests. These successes, documented in both narrative form and a detailed case table, highlight the program's substantial impact on investigative outcomes and public safety.

Expansion

To ensure the system's capabilities aligned with community needs, the Police Department convened a multidisciplinary working group in April 2023. This team assessed ALPR coverage and identified significant gaps. These included multiple streets used by subjects and a lack of ALPR technology in the Downtown Business District. The working group used data and case analysis to consider 113 locations that could benefit from an ALPR. This list was later refined to 79 high-priority sites. The expanded coverage would primarily focus on the North and Southwest police districts, where coverage was found to be considerably lacking.

In December 2023, the City Council passed [Council Bill 2023-209](#), which authorized a five-year, \$1.15 million agreement with Flock Safety to expand the program to 66 stand-alone ALPRs, made up of 62 fixed Falcon ALPRs and four mobile Falcon Flex units. Additionally, 18 integration licenses for ALPR functionality in police squad car cameras were authorized. Notably, the five-year contract locks in discounted pricing at \$2,500 per ALPR per year, ensuring cost stability and long-term savings.

The contract also authorized the Police Department to develop a Public Safety Camera (PSC) program, which will integrate ALPR technology into multipurpose, high-definition video units at 18 major intersections in the community. These PSCs, modeled after successful camera implementation in Bloomington, Illinois, will offer 360-degree surveillance and eliminate the need for multiple directional ALPRs at high-traffic locations. The flexibility gained through this integration will allow up to 27 existing ALPRs to be relocated to underserved areas, amplifying coverage without substantially increasing overall costs. The Police Department encountered unanticipated delays related to network connectivity infrastructure. Information Technology is actively assisting in identifying cost-efficient solutions to support implementation.

The portable Falcon Flex ALPRs, recommended for short-term deployments and emergent crime hotspots, further increased the system's adaptability. These battery-operated units can be moved as needed, providing near-immediate coverage in locations where permanent installations may be impractical.

Policy Updates

On June 30, 2025, the Police Department's policy (Attached) was updated to ensure compliance with Illinois law, not just by its own personnel, but by every agency that accesses the Police Department's ALPR Network. These changes specifically prohibit the use of the ALPR Network for reproductive health care and immigration enforcement.

Transparency and Accountability

To ensure transparency and public accountability, the ALPR program was launched with a [webpage](#) to explain the technology and its use, and a [Transparency Portal](#) maintained by Flock Safety to report statistics and agency data-sharing activity. As part of a broader City initiative to ensure online accessibility, the Police Department is working with Flock Safety to ensure that this Transparency Portal is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG). Flock Safety has provided the Police Department with their Accessibility Statement and Accessibility Plan, which involves third-party auditing to ensure compliance with all applicable standards.

The Police Department Administration also conducts monthly audits to ensure proper use of its ALPR Network by outside agencies, including reviews of specific search terms that suggest activity prohibited by the Illinois Trust Act or involve investigations related to reproductive health care. Any agency found to be using the Police Department's ALPR Network for activities prohibited by Illinois law and Department policy will have its access immediately revoked. Further, the Police Department Administration has revoked access to its ALPR Network to all

agencies outside of Illinois to reduce the potential for conflicts with state law. The Police Department has committed to providing biannual ALPR reports to the Citizen Review Subcommittee as of February 2024.

ALPR Audit Outcomes

For the period of June 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, the Police Department conducted six monthly audits. In each audit, a random sample of all system searches was evaluated by the Police Technology Administrator to ensure that:

1. The use of the ALPR system was appropriate under State Law and Department policy.
2. The search included either a case number or description of an in-progress incident that could be clearly related to an arrestable offense, not a non-custodial or petty offense; and
3. Personnel are not utilizing ALPR technology for any unauthorized use.

Across the six audits conducted during this timeframe, no instances of misuse by Police Department personnel were identified.

Tracking Successes

ALPR technology has become an integral part of nearly every applicable investigation or response to in-progress calls for service. The Police Department has found that ALPR technology not only aids in securing key evidence to support prosecutions but also serves as a valuable tool in excluding individuals from suspicion or verifying the alibis of potential persons of interest. The Police Department is currently investigating more efficient and standardized methods of tracking investigative successes attributable to ALPR technology.

Key cases during the six-month period covered by this report in which ALPR technology significantly advanced the case include:

- C25-20471 ALPR technology assisted detectives in locating a suspect who was in possession of narcotics and several firearms.
- C25-21466 ALPR technology assisted detectives in locating a vehicle where occupants were involved in a previous shooting. The traffic stop yielded a stolen handgun and cannabis. A search warrant was obtained for the suspect's home that yielded another cache of weapons (2 handguns, 1 assault rifle).
- C25-22527 ALPR technology was utilized to help identify a suspect involved in a criminal sexual abuse case.
- C25-22728 ALPR technology was instrumental in locating a suspect involved in a homicide.
- C25-22954 ALPR technology was utilized to locate a suspect for felony theft of property in conjunction with a Champaign County Sheriff's Office investigation.
- C25-23419 ALPR technology was instrumental in locating and tracking a vehicle involved in a road rage incident where an occupant discharged a firearm on a public roadway. The vehicle fled from officers and ultimately was involved in a traffic crash

causing injury to unsuspecting citizens. The suspect was arrested for numerous violent felonies.

- C25-21467 ALPR technology was used to identify and arrest a suspect for residential burglary while the victims were asleep in their home.
- C25-23632 ALPR technology was used to identify the owner of a vehicle involved in illegal dumping.
- C25-4000631 ALPR technology was used to locate a suspect involved in a forgery scheme and was found to have nearly an ounce of narcotics in their possession.
- C25-24311 ALPR was utilized to locate a vehicle and its occupants involved in an attempted murder case involving a shooting and other violent felonies.
- C25-24504 ALPR was utilized to notify officers of a stolen vehicle in the area from out of state. The vehicle and driver were subsequently located, and the driver also had an arrest warrant for Child Sex Trafficking.
- C25-24594 ALPR technology was directed to locate a suspect vehicle in a burglary. The identities of the suspects involved were discovered based on the results of the search.
- C25-27130 ALPR was deployed by officers to help them locate a vehicle involved in assaulting another motorist, invasion of their vehicle, and reckless driving. The suspect was arrested.
- C25-29530 ALPR was utilized to locate vehicles associated with a homicide investigation. The results assisted in identifying and arresting two suspects.
- C25-39509 ALPR technology was used to locate a stolen vehicle, and the driver was apprehended by officers.
- C25-39977 ALPR technology was deployed to locate a vehicle that had eluded officers previously. The vehicle was located and impounded.
- C25-43942 ALPR technology was utilized to locate and arrest a suspect of a violent domestic battery.

Conclusions for This Reporting Period

For the period of June 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, the Police Department utilized ALPR technology in a manner consistent with Illinois law and Department policy, contributing to the successful advancement and resolution of multiple significant criminal investigations. ALPRs continue to function as a valuable investigative tool with demonstrated public safety benefits, including the identification of suspects, recovery of stolen vehicles, and the disruption of violent and serious criminal activity.

The Police Department remains committed to balancing the legitimate public safety benefits of ALPR technology with the protection of individual rights and civil liberties. In furtherance of this commitment, the Department continues to strengthen oversight, auditing, and access controls to ensure that all agencies authorized to use the ALPR Network operate strictly within statutory and policy limitations and in accordance with community expectations for transparency, accountability, and lawful use of technology.