

Austin Police Department License Plate Readers

May 23rd, 2022



Purpose

- APD will utilize ALPRs as an investigative tool to keep our community safe by solving crimes and locating and identifying violent offenders quickly.
- This, in turn, will prevent further violence by assisting in apprehending the violent criminal before they can reoffend.
- The timely apprehension of these offenders may also lead to a higher number of illegal guns seized before they can be used in future violent actions.
- ALPRs will also be used in locating missing or endangered persons identified in amber alerts, silver alerts, and kidnappings.

Success Stories

- In 2016, a local teacher befriended and sexually assaulted a 16 year-old student. After his initial arrest, the teacher bonded out of jail, moved to Lubbock and threatened online to kill the victim. Shortly after the threat, he travelled from Lubbock to Austin to carry out the murder. Our ALPRs successfully located his vehicle at a hotel where he was taken into custody before he was able to find the victim. Officers found a loaded revolver, zip ties, numerous knives, and duct tape in his vehicle.

Success Stories

- In 2017, APD Officers were able to successfully locate a kidnapped 2 year-old child from San Antonio, after the ALPRs alerted them to the vehicle travelling northbound on I-35.

Success Stories

- In 2019, two suspects kidnapped a child from a school bus top. Their intention was to sexually assault the female, but she escaped before they could follow through. Investigative leads led to a potential suspect vehicle. The ALPR system led detectives directly to the location of the vehicle where they took one of the suspects into custody and obtained a full confession. The two suspects were arrested before anymore juveniles were placed in harm's way.

Success Stories

- In 2020, a violent serial shooting spree spanned several months in South Austin. The suspect, driving a white Honda 4-door, shot at numerous vehicles during various road rage incidents. Innocent people were shot and some suffered serious injuries, with one person who died from her injuries. The ALPRs were instrumental in locating and identifying the vehicle, and eventually led to the suspect's location and arrest.

Privacy Policy

- APD understands the concerns of the community in regards to ALPRs and adheres to the strictest of privacy policies.
- ALPR data bases will not contain PII (Personally Identifiable Information).
- Each logon and every transaction are logged within the system as an audit trail of everything that is done and by whom. APD's Professional Standards Unit conducts quarterly audits, all of which have shown 100% compliance by all users.

Privacy Policy

- ALPR data will only be available for law enforcement use. This includes criminal investigations and law enforcement-related purposes (e.g. searching for a missing person).
- The data from the ALPR system is the property of APD, and will not be sold, transferred or distributed to any non-law enforcement entity
- APD will not be using the system for any warrant round ups or collection of past dues and/or fines.
- All data in our system is purged after 365 days.

Questions