



The Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas

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September 15, 2022

Members of the Austin City Council:

The Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas (CLEAT) is in full support of item #56 on today's agenda regarding License Plate Readers (LPR). CLEAT represents over 27,000 rank and file officers in the State of Texas including the majority of Austin Police Officers.

The use of LPR systems in law enforcement is imperative to successfully combating crime and apprehending violent fugitives. Advances in technology have allowed all aspects of society to perform in a more efficient and effective manner and LPR systems is a prime example of that. The LPR data must also be accessible for a minimum of 30 days to be effective. Dangerously low staffing levels and the nature of criminal investigations makes any timeframe short of that simply ineffective. LPR systems enhance public safety and CLEAT is in full support of reinstating access to LPR data for the Austin Police Department as it was a very successful tool that was stripped away from the department for no apparent reason. Officers who were solving crimes at a rapid pace were suddenly unable to access data that kept the public safe and brought criminals to justice. This is a morale killer and just one example of why our officers are struggling to understand how they are to carry out their oath to protect this community.

The safety of the citizens of Austin has clearly been impacted by a political decision in which the consequences were not weighed.

Highest Regards,

Charles B. Wilkison
Executive Director, CLEAT