



Joint Statement on Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) Technology

Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA)

Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)

Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA)

National Alliance of State Drug Enforcement Agencies (NASDEA)

National Fusion Center Association (NFCA)

National High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Directors Association (NHDA)

National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC)

National Real Time Crime Center Association (NRTCCA)

National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)

Small and Rural Law Enforcement Executives Association (SRLEEA)

As organizations representing state and local law enforcement across the country, we recognize and take seriously the concerns being raised about ALPR technology.

We are listening. We want to work with policymakers and the communities we serve to address these concerns and ensure this technology continues to be used responsibly. At the same time, we believe it is important that this conversation fully consider how ALPR technology is being used every day in communities across the country - to locate missing children, find victims, solve serious crimes, and keep our communities safe.

ALPRs help save lives.

When a child is missing, a trafficking victim is being moved across jurisdictions, or a violent offender is on the road, every minute matters. ALPR technology gives investigators a critical lead in seconds - helping law enforcement find someone in danger, identify a dangerous suspect, or connect a vehicle to a serious crime before that opportunity is lost.

That happens every day across the country. Law enforcement agencies responsibly use ALPRs to locate missing and endangered children, find trafficking and kidnapping victims, identify vehicles connected to homicides, shootings, and other violent crimes, locate dangerous suspects

and fugitives, and recover stolen vehicles. ALPRs also help investigators connect criminal activity across jurisdictions and provide critical leads in complex investigations involving drug trafficking, organized crime, and transnational criminal organizations.

For agencies large and small, in many cases ALPR technology helps dramatically reduce the time it takes to identify a vehicle connected to a crime or other public safety incident that can not be accomplished with any other investigative resource. ALPRs do not photograph or identify people; they only photograph (not video) cars and license plates on roadways. ALPR does not replace an investigator. It does not establish guilt. It must be verified before enforcement action is taken. But it provides an investigative lead - often at the moment that lead matters most.

We welcome meaningful safeguards and accountability.

State and local law enforcement agencies responsibly use ALPR technology under policies, controls, and oversight designed to ensure it is used for legitimate law enforcement purposes and to protect against misuse. In most places, access is restricted to authorized personnel through individual user credentials and other access controls, while audit logs create a record of queries and allow agencies to identify and investigate potential misuse. Policies also establish requirements for data retention and sharing, security, training, and supervisory oversight.

Responsible data sharing is critical to the effectiveness of ALPR technology. Missing and endangered persons, trafficking victims, dangerous offenders, and criminal activity do not stop at jurisdictional boundaries. The ability of law enforcement agencies to appropriately share and query ALPR information across jurisdictions can help investigators connect cases, locate people in danger, and identify suspects who have moved from one community or state to another. That capability can be particularly important in time-sensitive investigations, and it should be governed by clear policies, appropriate access controls, auditing, and accountability.

These safeguards are fundamental to the responsible use of ALPR technology. They protect against misuse and help ensure this important tool is used for legitimate public safety purposes. And when someone abuses that access, there should be consequences. Misuse of ALPR technology - like misuse of any law enforcement investigative tool - should not be tolerated.

As technology evolves, law enforcement is committed to evaluating and strengthening the safeguards that govern the use of ALPR technology. We stand ready to work with policymakers at the federal, state, and local levels to hear concerns, examine where additional protections may be appropriate, and develop a path forward that reinforces accountability while preserving legitimate public safety use of ALPR.

We can protect against abuse while ensuring law enforcement continues to have access to a tool that helps find missing children and trafficking victims, locate violent offenders, solve serious crimes, and save lives.