

# Automated License Plate Readers

## 430.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology, also known as License Plate Recognition, provides automated detection of license plates. ALPR is used by the Orting Police Department to convert data associated with vehicle license plates for official law enforcement purposes, including identifying stolen or wanted vehicles, stolen license plates and missing persons, and locating vehicles associated with individuals who have committed Felony and Gross-Misdemeanor crimes as authorized by the Washington State Legislature, Chapter 239, Laws of 2026 (HB6002).

## 430.2 ADMINISTRATION OF ALPR DATA

All installation and maintenance of ALPR equipment, as well as ALPR data retention and access, shall be managed by the Chief of Police or his or her designee. The Chief or designee will assign personnel under his/her command to administer the day-to-day operation of the ALPR equipment and data.

## 430.3 ALPR OPERATION

Use of an ALPR is restricted to the purposes outlined below. Department personnel shall not use, or allow others to use, the equipment or database records for any unauthorized purpose

(a) ALPR data may be used upon an officer's determination that the license plate numbers or vehicle characteristics are relevant and material to an investigation of a vehicle that is:

- i. Associated with a missing or endangered person;
- ii. Registered to an individual for whom there is an outstanding felony or gross misdemeanor warrant;
- iii. Related to or involved in a felony or gross misdemeanor crime;
- iv. Pursuant to a Judicial Court order or Warrant.

(b) No member of this department shall operate ALPR equipment or access ALPR data without first completing department-approved training addressing access to the ALPR system.

(c) A positive match by an automated license plate reader system alone does not constitute reasonable suspicion as grounds for a state or local law enforcement officer to stop the vehicle. The officer shall develop independent reasonable suspicion for the stop. Officers shall verify an ALPR response through the Central Computerized Enforcement Service System (ACCESS) or other available means before taking enforcement action

(d) It is unlawful for any person to use an automated license plate reader system for immigration investigation or enforcement, or both, in accordance with RCW 10.93.160, or

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for any protected health care services under chapter 7.115 RCW, or to track or otherwise monitor activity protected by the Washington state Constitution and the first amendment to the United States Constitution.

ALPR data shall only be used for official and legitimate law enforcement business.

### **430.4 ALPR DATA COLLECTION AND RETENTION**

All data and images gathered by an ALPR are for the official use of the Orting Police Department, and because such data may contain confidential ACCESS information, it is not open to public review. ALPR information gathered and retained by this department may be used and shared with prosecutors or other Washington State Law enforcement agencies only as permitted by law.

Data collected by ALPR cameras shall not be retained longer than 21 days unless authorized by a judicial court order or Warrant or when referenced within a police report or other judicial document.

### **430.5 ACCOUNTABILITY AND SAFEGUARDS**

All saved data will be closely safeguarded and protected by both procedural and technological means. The Orting Police Department will observe the following safeguards regarding access to and use of stored data:

- (a) All non-law enforcement requests for access to stored ALPR data shall be referred to the Records Unit Manager and processed in accordance with applicable law.
- (b) ALPR system audits should be conducted on a regular basis.
- (c) ALPR data will not be used for political purposes or to unlawfully target any individual or group of persons based on a protected class or status.
- (d) ALPR data will not be provided to, or used to assist, any outside law enforcement agency to enforce the laws of another state that relate to women's reproductive rights when the same law, or equivalent, is legal in Washington State.
- (e) ALPR data shall not be used to enforce federal immigration laws or shared with any federal agency or official tasked with enforcing federal immigration laws unless the federal agency or agent requesting data is able to confirm that the need for the data requested is directly related to the investigation of a federal criminal law violation and additionally asserts that the use of such data will not be provided to any third party or used for civil federal immigration enforcement purposes.