



March, 24, 2021

To: Chairman Mike Petersen and the Senate Transportation Committee:

This letter is in support of SB305.

**LPR Technology Legislation Summary:**

Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) solutions were developed specifically for mission critical operations which law enforcement and homeland security agencies face. ALPR's enhance law enforcement's ability to detect violations of law, recover stolen property, apprehend fugitives, rescue victims of human trafficking and kidnapping, and assist in criminal investigations. Most crimes and terrorist activities worldwide involve vehicles. Law enforcement is also tasked with ensuring the safety of the homeland from drug trafficking, terrorist activity and more. ALPR technology is capable of contributing in all these areas, but the use of such technology must be done in a way to ensure the sanctity of privacy rights and have minimal delays on legitimate travel and commerce.

ALPR technology in general has been an effective tool for law enforcement and homeland security operations for almost two decades. The Wichita Police Department successes have been extensive with arrests and successful prosecutions of fugitives, homicide suspects, known drug traffickers, recoveries of stolen vehicles and license plates, recovery of kidnapping victims, leads in violent crime investigations and the seizure of large amounts of illegal drugs. In the last 4 ½ months alone, the WPD ALPR program resulted in the following statistics:

1. 152 Stolen vehicles recovered totaling \$1,495,625.00.
2. 76 Stolen license plates recovered.
3. 156 Arrests. A majority are felony.
4. 23 Guns seized.
5. Large amounts of various drugs seized.
6. 1 Homicide suspect arrested, multiple robbery suspects arrested, a kidnapping victim recovered with both suspects arrested.
7. Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs were confirmed and identified in the Wichita area.

ALPR technology also provides public safety benefits for regional and national Amber and Silver alerts, allowing law enforcement officers to be aware of urgent matters involving abducted or missing persons.

ALPR data is a significant benefit to law enforcement investigations, even carrying weight in criminal trials. Investigators can review data for specific periods of time and possibly decipher important information, such as confirming a drug dealer or trafficking suspect at a scene, discovering vehicles that always travel together and identifying possible key witnesses.

ALPR plays a critical role in the recovery of stolen vehicles, arrest of suspects and subsequent reductions in auto theft crimes. Below, is a table displaying the top 10 U.S. Metropolitan Statistical Areas By Motor Vehicle Theft Rate using data from 2019 from the National Insurance Crime Bureau.

Rank	Metropolitan Statistical Area (1)	Vehicles stolen	Rate (2)
1	Bakersfield, CA	6,538	726.28
2	Albuquerque, NM	6,399	697.05
3	St. Joseph, MO-KS	770	614.90
4	Modesto, CA	3,156	573.13
5	Odessa, TX	946	569.11
6	Topeka, KS	1,293	557.40
7	Yuba City, CA	959	546.01
8	Merced, CA	1,483	534.07
9	Yakima, WA	1,325	528.16
10	Springfield, MO	2,420	514.57

(1) Metropolitan Statistical Areas are designated by the federal Office of Management and Budget and usually include areas much larger than the cities for which they are named. (2) Rate of vehicle thefts reported per 100,000 people based on the 2019 U.S. Census Population Estimates.

Source: National Insurance Crime Bureau.

Law enforcement users recognize the concerns of privacy advocates regarding the use of ALPR technology but are confident the policies and practices already adhered to by Kansas Law Enforcement agencies more than sufficiently limit these concerns. By proposing legislation for the State of Kansas, Law Enforcement is voluntarily limiting the use and subjecting itself to standards and auditing to ensure the public's privacy is protected. Suggesting that egregious violations of the proposed statute be punishable by a misdemeanor, law enforcement even provides a self-policing mechanism for holding itself accountable for the proper use of this technology.

Sixteen state laws governing ALPR were comprehensively reviewed in the creation of this bill. Language was adopted from five of those states and was included in the proposed



legislation. Chiefs of Police in Lenexa, Mulvane, Goddard, Wichita and Park City were given the opportunity to provide input along with the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office and the Kansas Highway Patrol Public Service Administrator. Each of these agencies has a vested interest in ALPR.

We are confident this bill will not cost the State, specifically the Kansas Department of Transportation or the Kansas Highway Patrol, any funds as this bill puts the responsibility of compliance on the agencies utilizing the technology. This request recognizes both the lifesaving abilities and the privacy concerns of LPR technology. This legislative request is our effort to reassure the public and codify the policies already in use, in order to ensure the privacy rights of the public are protected. In designing the language for this bill, specific consideration was given to how ALPR data would be treated under the KORA laws. This bill specifically exempts ALPR data from the KORA requirements, ensuring that potential stalkers, or those without a legitimate law enforcement purpose, cannot access the data for unauthorized purposes. Additionally, we would propose an amendment to exempt the physical locations of ALPR systems from the KORA requirements.

On behalf of the Wichita Police Department, and other interested Kansas Law Enforcement agencies, I urge you to support this bill to enhance the safety of the citizens of Kansas.

Respectfully,



Lt. Casey Slaughter  
Wichita Police Department  
Auto Theft Section Commander

Gordon Ramsay  
Chief of Police

GR:CS