



CITY OF FALL RIVER POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY MANUAL

Subject:	Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR)		
Effective Date:	01-06-2026	Policy Number:	C06-01
Revision Date::	12-30-2025	Original Policy Issue Date:	03-20-2012
CALEA References			
MPAC References			
Associated Policies			

Revision Notes	01-06-2026 Policy was updated to govern the use of FLOCK and ALPR.
Purpose	The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines governing the deployment, use, access, retention, and dissemination of data obtained through Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology by the Fall River Police Department, while balancing legitimate law enforcement needs with the privacy rights of the public.
Policy	It is the policy of the Fall River Police Department to utilize ALPR technology as a lawful and effective investigative and public safety tool. ALPR data and images are collected for official law enforcement purposes only. All ALPR data is confidential law enforcement information and shall be handled in accordance with applicable federal and Massachusetts law, policy, and departmental procedures. ALPR technology may be used to assist in, but not be limited to: • Identifying stolen vehicles or license plates • Locating vehicles associated with wanted, missing, or endangered people • Supporting criminal investigations • Enhancing officer and public safety
Definitions	<u>Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR):</u> A system of cameras and computer software capable of capturing images of motor vehicles and license plates and converting them into searchable data. <u>ALPR Administrator:</u> The Chief of Police or designee responsible for oversight, compliance, and administration of the ALPR program.

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	<u>ALPR Operator/User:</u> Any properly trained and authorized sworn officer, dispatcher, or crime analyst permitted access to the ALPR system. <u>Detection (Read):</u> Data captured by an ALPR system, including license plate image, vehicle descriptors, date, time, and location. <u>Hot List:</u> A list of license plates associated with vehicles of law enforcement interest compiled from authorized databases (e.g., NCIC, RMV, BOLOs). <u>Hit:</u> An alert generated when a detected license plate matches a plate on an authorized hot list.		
Administration & Oversight	The Chief of Police will designate an ALPR Administrator. The ALPR Administrator is responsible for the following: • Ensuring compliance with this policy and applicable laws • Authorizing and documenting system access • Ensuring required training is completed • Coordinating audits and data retention • Maintaining transparency requirements		

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Authorized Use	1. ALPR systems shall be used only for legitimate law enforcement and public safety purposes. 2. Reasonable suspicion or probable cause is not required to scan license plates visible from public vantage points. 3. ALPR alerts shall be verified through official law enforcement databases prior to initiating enforcement action. 4. An ALPR hit alone shall not constitute probable cause for a stop, search, or arrest. 5. Officers must visually confirm the license plate, state of issuance, and vehicle descriptors prior to acting on an alert.
Prohibited Use	ALPR systems and data shall not be used for: • Personal or non-official purposes • Harassment or intimidation • Monitoring based solely on race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or other protected characteristics • Activities that infringe upon First Amendment rights • Immigration enforcement Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, civil liability, and/or criminal prosecution.
Data Collection & Retention	1. ALPR data shall be stored securely in accordance with vendor safeguards and departmental procedures. 2. ALPR data shall be retained for no longer than 30 days, unless: a. It is evidentiary in a criminal or civil matter b. It is subject to a court order, subpoena, or discovery request 3. Evidentiary ALPR data shall be preserved and handled in accordance with evidence and records retention policies.

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Data Access & Security	1. All access to ALPR data shall be logged and auditable. 2. ALPR data may be shared with verified law enforcement or prosecutorial agencies for official purposes only, with approval from the Chief of Police or designee. 3. Requests from non-law enforcement entities shall be processed in accordance with Massachusetts public records law and departmental policy.
Interagency Sharing & Use Requirements	The Fall River Police Department may share ALPR data with other federal, state, or local law enforcement agencies solely for legitimate law enforcement or public safety purposes and only upon approval by the Chief of Police or an authorized designee. Any agency receiving ALPR data from the Fall River Police Department shall be required to use the data in a manner consistent with this policy, applicable law, and accepted law enforcement standards. Receiving agencies shall: 1. Use ALPR data only for official law enforcement or public safety purposes. 2. Prohibit secondary dissemination of Fall River Police Department ALPR data to any other agency or entity without prior written authorization. 3. Maintain access controls, audit logs, and data security safeguards that meet or exceed those required by this policy. 4. Comply with retention limitations and purge requirements consistent with this policy unless the data has been preserved as evidence or is otherwise lawfully required to be retained. 5. Prohibit the use of ALPR data for personal purposes, harassment, discrimination, or activities that infringe upon constitutional or statutory rights. 6. Prohibit the use of ALPR data for immigration enforcement activities. ALPR data shared by the Fall River Police Department shall not be used by any agency for civil immigration enforcement purposes, unless required by law or court order. The Fall River Police Department reserves the right to suspend or terminate data-sharing access with any agency found to be in violation of these

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	requirements or whose use of the data is inconsistent with this policy. Where practicable, data-sharing relationships shall be governed by a written agreement, memorandum of understanding (MOU), or comparable instrument outlining permitted uses, restrictions, auditing authority, and compliance expectations.
Training	Only personnel who have completed department-approved ALPR Training on the specific platform and this policy may access or operate an ALPR system.