

| Agenda Item | cover sheet

for consideration by the Apex Town Council

Item Type: PRESENTATION

Meeting Date: June 09, 2026

Item Details

Presenter(s): Chief Ryan Johansen

Department(s): Apex Police Department (APD)

Requested Motion

Receive as information an update on the Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) program and provide direction to staff, as appropriate.

Approval Recommended?

N/A

Item Details

The Apex Police Department (APD) plans to provide update on the Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) program, which has now been in full operation for approximately six months. The system consists of stationary cameras placed along public roadways, capturing rear-facing images of vehicles in plain view. These images allow automated detection of stolen vehicles, wanted individuals, AMBER/SILVER alerts, and vehicles connected to criminal investigations. Images are retained for only 30 days—well below the state’s 90-day allowance—and are searchable solely for legitimate investigative purposes. APD strictly controls access, requires documented case numbers and justification for every search, prohibits federal data sharing, and maintains ongoing internal audits to ensure compliance.

Although still early in deployment, the ALPR program has already demonstrated significant public safety value. In less than half a year, the system has generated more than 1,700 actionable alerts, including 111 stolen vehicles, 300 stolen license plates, 40 criminal warrants, and several missing persons cases. ALPR alerts have contributed to major arrests, including organized retail theft groups, auto theft rings, dangerous fugitives, narcotics traffickers, and serial offenders operating across multiple jurisdictions. Notably, most suspects identified through ALPR were not Apex residents, underscoring the system’s role in intercepting regional criminal activity before it impacts the community.

This presentation seeks to emphasize APD’s commitment to transparency, adherence to constitutional protections, and pledge to balancing public safety with privacy. The department will also highlight its

ongoing public engagement efforts dating back to early 2025, its CALEA-accredited oversight practices, and its established reporting framework for the ALPR program—which, to date, shows zero instances of misuse, unauthorized searches, or any searches related to immigration or abortion enforcement.

Overall, APD reports that ALPR technology is already reducing crime, improving investigative outcomes, and enhancing community safety while maintaining strong privacy safeguards.

Attachments

- PR4-A1: PowerPoint Presentation (PPT): Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Program Review

