ALPR-Patrol Material Changes

Seattle Police Department (SPD)

What is the technology?

Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) are a combination of software and hardware used for capturing and monitoring images of license plates.

SPD uses ALPR to maintain public safety and enforcing applicable laws related to stolen vehicles, parking enforcement, and other active investigations.

In 2021, the Seattle City Council passed Ordinance 126312, approving SPD's use of ALPR technology in 8 SPD patrol vehicles.

The open comment period for this technology is currently underway. You can provide comments to Seattle.gov/SurveillanceComment.

All comments will be included in the Surveillance Impact Report on this technology and submitted to Council.

If you would like to provide feedback outside of the open comment period, please submit them directly to City Council.

What is the material change requested?

- All SPD vehicles with onboard in-car video will have ALPR functionality enabled as a component of the existing in-car video platform.
- All sworn SPD officers will be trained in the use of the in-car video with ALPR enabled functionality.
- The back-office system through which ALPR camera data are interpreted and ALPR is administered will change from the Neology Pips platform to the expanded Axon Fleet Hub platform.

What will not change?

No changes will be made to data retention. All data collected by the ALPR systems –
images, computer-interpreted license plate numbers, date, time, and GPS location –
are stored and retained for 90 days. After 90 days, all data collected by the ALPR
systems is automatically deleted unless it has been flagged as serving an investigative
purpose – in which case, it is included in an investigation file.

