Getting a Read on the Road

Automated License Plate Readers: How They Work

1 An Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) camera reads a license plate on the streets of Champaign

2 Plate is compared to known alerts from local, state, and national sources

NO ALERT IS RECEIVED

AN ALERT IS RECEIVED

3a All reads are stored for 30 days

4a If a case requires, officers can search ALPR database

5 Officer verifies search results against vehicle details in case

6 If appropriate, officers set an ALPR alert

7 All ALPR searches are saved and subject to review and audit

8 All reads roll off of the ALPR system after 30 days

3b Alerts are relayed directly to CPD officers, who verify the captured ALPR details

4b Following verification, officers take action on the alert, seeking the vehicle near its last known location

Alerts can come from:
- *Investigations at CPD*
- *Area law enforcement partners*
- *The Law Enforcement Agencies Data System (LEADS)*
- *The Amber Alert Database*
- *The National Crime Information Center (NCIC)*

The verification process requires:
- *Officer review of the captured image*
- *Visual comparison to vehicle and plate details on the alert list*
- *Confirmation that a response is warranted and within CPD policy*

Under CPD Policy,
ALPR's can be used for:
- *Shots fired investigations*
- *Stolen vehicles*
- *Wanted subjects*
- *Missing persons*
- *AMBER Alerts*
- *Other legitimate law enforcement purposes*

ALPR's will NOT be used for:
- *Vehicle registration issues*
- *Local ordinance violations*

ALPR's are NOT EQUIPPED for:
- *Speeding enforcement*
- *Use as a red light camera*
- *Enforcement of minor traffic infractions*