From: Totten, Terrell <TTotten@pd.sandiego.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 1:53 PM
To: Totten, Terrell <TTotten@pd.sandiego.gov>
Subject: [Possible spam] ALPR Update

Hello to all,

I want to bring your attention to the ongoing debate over San Diego's Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras and encourage those who support this valuable law enforcement technology to make their voices heard.

There is a presser scheduled tomorrow to bring objections to City Council and we must immediately reach out to our District members expressing support.

The San Diego Police Department has deployed approximately 500 ALPR cameras throughout the city. These cameras have proven remarkably effective in helping officers identify suspects, solve violent crimes, recover stolen vehicles, and apprehend dangerous criminals.

The results speak for themselves.

According to SDPD's published reports, since the program began in December 2023, the cameras have:

*Assisted in more than **600 criminal investigations**.*
*Contributed to **over 420 arrests**.*
*Helped recover **more than 440 stolen vehicles**.*
*Assisted in recovering **over $5.8 million in stolen property**.*
Helped investigate homicides, kidnappings, armed robberies, shootings, hit-and-run collisions, and hate crimes.

Perhaps most compelling, during 2024, ALPR technology assisted in approximately

one-third of San Diego's homicide investigations. ***SDPD specifically identified FOUR homicide cases that would not have been solved without this technology.***

These are not hypothetical benefits. These are actual crimes, actual victims, and actual criminals brought to justice.

Some have raised concerns about privacy. Those concerns deserve consideration, but they must be weighed against the demonstrated public safety benefits. The cameras photograph license plates on vehicles traveling public streets, where there is no general expectation of privacy. The system is subject to access restrictions, auditing, and data-retention policies, with most collected information automatically deleted after 30 days.

It does not collect personal identifiers for facial recognition nor is the data shared with federal authorities/agencies.

At a time when SDPD continues to struggle with staffing shortages, eliminating a proven investigative tool makes little sense.

If SDPD had to put an officer at every intersection to watch for suspect vehicles, it would take 2,500 officers to man 500 camera stations 24/7. But a single set of eyes could never replicate the accuracy, so double that manpower requirement. The force multiplier benefit cannot be overstated.

We should be strengthening law enforcement's ability to protect our neighborhoods, not taking away technology that has demonstrably helped solve violent crimes.

I encourage everyone who supports retaining these cameras to contact our elected representatives and express that support.

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Please consider sending a short email asking the City Council to retain SDPD's ALPR program with appropriate privacy safeguards.

Public safety should not be a partisan issue. We all benefit when police have effective tools to identify criminals, protect victims, and make our neighborhoods safer.

Our elected representatives need to hear from residents who support these cameras, not just those who oppose them.

Thank you.

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