



Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Program

Scott Askew | Assistant Chief, Austin Police Department | June 3, 2025



ALPR Project Timeline

September 2022 – Council granted APD authority to use ALPR technology (Resolution 20220915-056)

Early 2023 – APD collaborated with the community and City stakeholders to create the ALPR use policy

Mid 2023 – APD identified a vendor, Flock, obtained Council approval authorizing funds, and signed a contract

March 29, 2024 – Flock ALPR cameras went live in the City of Austin

October 2024 – Axon Fleet 3 ALPR cameras went live in the City of Austin

March 2025 – Council approved a 90-day pilot extension, which expires at end of June 2025

May 2025 – City Auditor finalized and presented an audit of the one-year pilot program

May 2025 – APD adopts and implements program changes as recommended by the City Auditor and Council



One-Year Pilot Results

***Locating stolen vehicles:** APD successfully recovered 176 stolen vehicles during the pilot program period, reuniting them with their rightful owners.*

Apprehending individuals involved in serious crimes:** The ALPR system has directly led to the arrests of numerous individuals wanted for a variety of violent felony offenses, including serious crimes such as **capital murder, murder, robbery, aggravated assault, sex crimes, and kidnapping.

***Aiding in investigations:** The ALPR data has provided critical leads for detectives, helping to solve cases and reduce violent crime citywide. Chief Davis has emphasized that this tool is integral to our comprehensive plan for reducing violent crime.*



Using ALPR Technology Responsibly and Ethically

- **Strict Data Retention Policies:** The data collected by the ALPR system that is not linked to a criminal investigation is retained for a very short period—seven days—before being purged. This is one of the shortest retention periods in the country.
- **Controlled Access and Use:** Access to the ALPR data is restricted to trained, authorized APD personnel for legitimate law enforcement purposes only. Our policies strictly govern how the data can be used and queried.



Using ALPR Technology Responsibly and Ethically

- **Limited Data Sharing:** Since the reactivation of ALPR, APD has had eight requests from outside law enforcement agencies for our ALPR data, all of which were completed within the guidelines regulating ALPR usage. Our policy and City resolution dictate how and when any such data can be shared, with specific limitations. All requests must be reviewed and approved by a Lieutenant in the ARIC or RTCC. (Arson - 3, Auto Theft - 2, Sexual Assault, Agg Sexual Assault, Human Trafficking)
- **Transparency and Audits:** We are committed to transparency regarding the program. In addition to the audit conducted by the City Auditor's office, APD conducts quarterly internal audits of ALPR system use. APD has created a public facing dashboard and moving into the future, as recommended by the City Auditor, we will provide summaries of the audits to the Office of Police Oversight, Public Safety Committee and City Council.



City of Austin Audit Report Findings

- Provided accurate ALPR system data
- Incorporated best practices observed in peer police departments
- Properly used the ALPR software and multiple hotlists, leading to 13,122 matches (**zero incorrect or unjustified stops**)
 - **APD had four stops/arrest for Class B misdemeanor arrest NOT authorized.**
- Adhered to Council data sharing limitations, data shared on three occasions during the pilot period. (Eight total since March 29, 2024.)
- Completed 27 requests from APD officers for a license plate number to be entered into APD's custom hotlist (**resulting in 193 hits, with zero unjustified stops**)



City of Austin Auditor Recommendation #1

Automated data pulls and data requests, including automated anonymization of the data for audit purposes. If no automation is available, APD should adhere to a specific, written schedule for manually pulling or requesting required data for audits.

APD agrees with this recommendation and is currently implementing



City of Austin Auditor Recommendation #2

Clearly described roles and responsibilities for staff involved with the Risk Management audits, including documented audit procedures so that the audit process can be replicated by future rotations of staff.

APD agrees with this recommendation, full implementation estimated by July 31, 2025.



City of Austin Auditor Recommendation #3

Regular reviews of ALPR user compliance with policy requirements.

APD agrees with this recommendation and has implemented many of these changes



City of Austin Auditor Recommendation #4

A defined timeline for reporting the regular Risk Management audits, including a list of stakeholders to regularly share audit results with.

APD agrees with this recommendation and is currently implementing

Flock Contract Language Update

The Austin City Auditor also located an issue in the Flock contract regarding the verbiage in section 4.4. summarizing it as:

Section 4.4 of the contract's Terms and Conditions grants Flock a "non-exclusive, worldwide, perpetual, royalty-free right and license... to (i) use and distribute Aggregated Data to improve and enhance the Services and for other development, diagnostic, and corrective purposes, other Flock offerings, and crime prevention efforts, and (ii) disclose the Agency Data (both inclusive of any Footage) to enable law enforcement monitoring against law enforcement hotlists as well as provide Footage search access to law enforcement for investigative purposes only"

The Auditor concludes and states this language could allow Flock to maintain APDs data and share it.

Diligently working with the vendor, the language has now been modified to state:

- **4.4 Aggregated Data.** Agency acknowledges that Flock will be compiling anonymized and/or aggregated data based on Agency Data input into the Services (the "Aggregated Data"). Flock shall have the right to collect and analyze Aggregated Data as described in this paragraph. Aggregated Data does not refer to or identify Agency or any individuals, or it de-identifies Agency Data and other information relating to the provision, use and performance of various aspects of the Services and related systems and technologies (including, without limitation, information concerning Agency Data and data derived therefrom). For the sake of clarity, Aggregated Data is compiled anonymous data which has been stripped of any personal identifying information. Aggregated Data has also been stripped of data reflecting the location and the date and time at which the Agency captured the data. Aggregated data will not include photographs or video that capture images of the driver or occupants of a vehicle. Aggregated Data may include photographs of license plates without any accompanying meta-data that identifies, or could reasonably be used to identify, the agency which collected the photo, where the photo was captured, and when the photo was captured. Agency hereby grants Flock a non-exclusive, worldwide, perpetual, royalty-free right and license (during and after the Service Term hereof) to use and distribute such Aggregated Data to improve and enhance the Services and for other development, diagnostic and corrective purposes, other Flock offerings, and crime prevention efforts. No rights or licenses are granted except as expressly set forth herein. Flock shall not sell Agency Data or Aggregated Data. Unless requested by Agency, Flock shall not keep or maintain Agency's Aggregated Data for longer than seven (7) days. Nothing in this paragraph shall be interpreted to permit Flock to keep or use Agency Data except as permitted by Paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2.

Success Stories – March 2024 – May 2025

ALPR technology has assisted APD with solving many violent felony crimes, including but not limited to:

- **Capital Murder** - (78758, 78741, 78724, 78723)
- **Murder** - (78753, 78758, 78723, 78731, 78759, 78653, 78745, 78752, 78702, 78704, 78705, 78617)
- **Aggravated Robbery** - (78653, 78753, 78617, 78703, 78741, 78723, 78724, 78750, 78758, 78727, 78745, 78744, 78749, 78704, 78752)
- **Robbery By Assault** - (78758, 78702, 78741, 78731, 78735, 78613)
- **Burglary of Residence** - (78757)
- **Aggravated Assault** - (78758, 78653, 78753, 78746, 78723)
- **Sex Crimes** - (78704, 78703)
- **Fail to Stop and Render Aid** - (78701)
- **Arson** - (78753)
- **Auto Theft** - 176 cases (Various)

Note – Zip codes above may represent more than one event.



Murder #23 (24-1431493 – 78753)

- On May 22, 2024, the suspects shot and killed the victim at approximately 2159 hours.
- Based on information provided by witnesses, the suspects were believed to have departed in a "gray pickup," which was parked outside the complex.
- Video was located, which supported this narrative showing the suspects arriving at the complex at approximately 2145 hours.
- Witnesses reporting hearing gunshots a short time later after which they witnessed the suspects walking away from the victim's apartment.
- A search of the area located additional video of the suspect vehicle after the murder.
- Using ALPR and other investigative techniques, the suspect vehicle was eventually identified as a gray Toyota Tundra pickup.
- Two suspects were ultimately arrested and charged with murder.



Murder #21 (25-1171604 – 78723)

- On April 27, 2025, the suspects located the victim and shot her at approximately 2216 hours.
- Police had a description of the suspect vehicle which was a Red Chevy Pickup.
- Utilized Flock, which captured a photo of the suspect vehicle just a few blocks away from the murder, APD confirmed the suspect vehicle and sent out a Be On The Lookout (BOLO).
- At approximately 0445 hours (approximately 6 hours after the murder), Kerr County Sheriffs located the suspects and took them into custody.
- At the time of the arrest, a Glock pistol was located on one of the suspects. The ammunition in the gun matched the cartridges located at the murder scene.
- One suspect admitted to taking part in the murder.



Aggravated (Armed) Robbery Series

- Starting on April 25, 2025, and continuing through May 5, 2025, suspects committed five Aggravated (armed) Robberies:
 - 25-1151143 - (78741)
 - 25-1160194 - (78704)
 - 25-1240340 - (78741)
 - 25-1250118 - (78753)
 - 25-1250604 - (78617 Travis County)
- In this series, suspects demonstrated a willingness to fire weapons near or at the victim, who were known to them.
- Utilizing ALPR, and other investigative tools and techniques, the APD was able to build cases against the suspects and arrest them before they killed anyone.



Aggravated (Armed) Robbery Series

- Starting on April 9, 2025, and continuing through April 12, 2025, suspects committed six Aggravated (armed) Robberies:
 - 25-0991201 - (78741)
 - 25-0990194 - (78752)
 - 25-1000157 - (78723)
 - 25-1000082 - (78758)
 - 25-1020304 - (78758)
 - 25-1020305 - (78758)
- In case 25-0990194, the suspects fired at the victim. Detectives subsequently located a bullet in the headrest of his vehicle. They also located what appeared to be two holes "consistent with a bullet entering and exiting the hood of the victim's hoodie." "The bullet was inches away from striking the victim in the back of the head."
- In case 25-1000157, the victim was shot by the suspects as he refused to exit his vehicle and drove away.
- Utilizing ALPR and other investigative tools and techniques, APD was able to build cases against the suspects and arrest them before they killed anyone.

"I don't know how we're going to solve some of these cases without ALPR"

- Detective Tara Dicken

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