Potential Use of Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) Technology

City of Palo Alto

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www.cityofpaloalto.org

ALPR – What is it?

- **Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR)** technology uses a combination of cameras and computer software to scan the license plates of passing vehicles.

- These computer-readable images allow law enforcement to compare plate numbers against plates of wanted vehicles and vehicles associated with wanted persons, missing persons, etc.

ALPR – Types

Two types of ALPR:
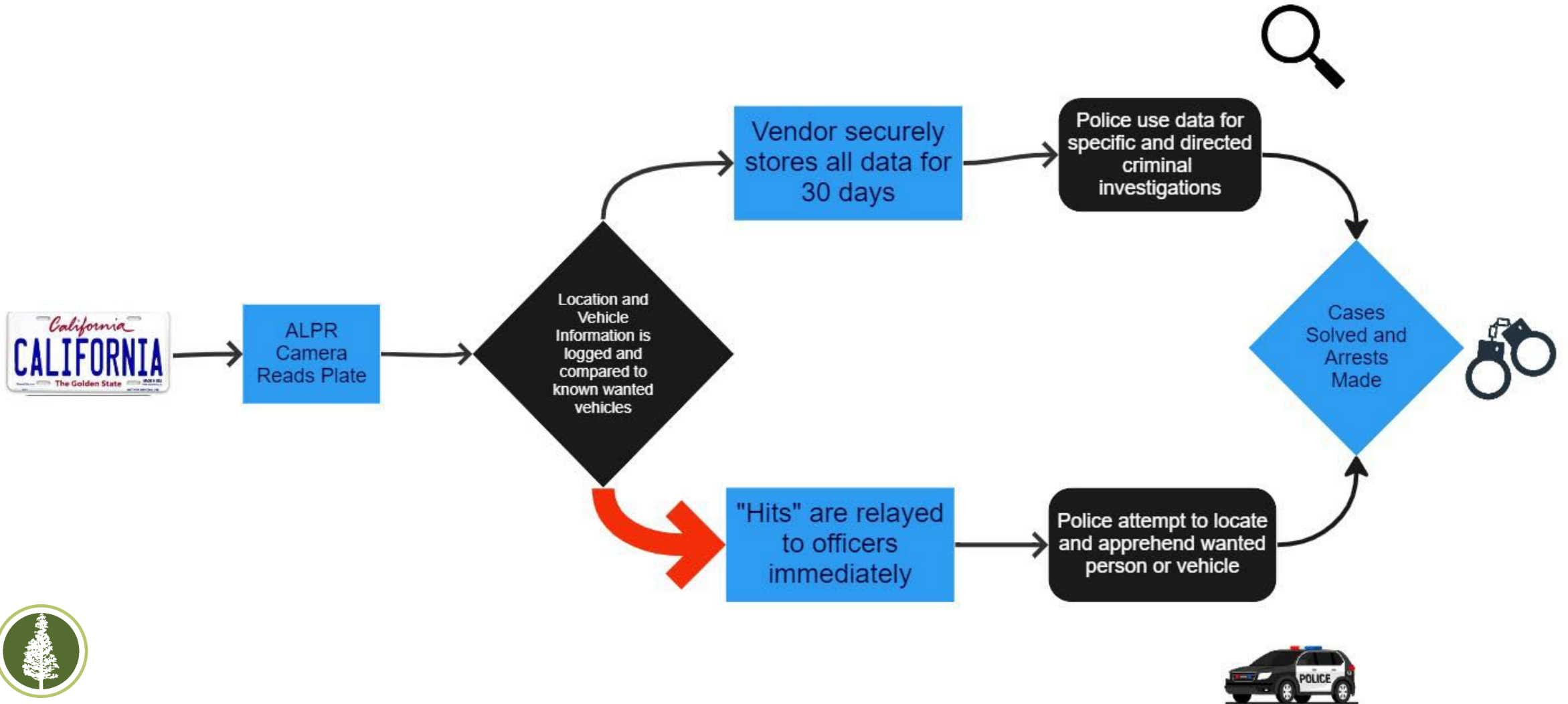

MOBILE
(mounted on a police vehicle)

FIXED
(mounted on pole or other piece of infrastructure)

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ALPR – How It Works

ALPR – What Problem Does it Address?

- Regional increases in property crimes, including catalytic converter thefts, auto burglaries, vehicle thefts and organized retail thefts

- Recent, albeit rare, brazen robberies and assaults

- Offenders commonly:
  - use a vehicle;
  - use a stolen vehicle or vehicle with a stolen plate;
  - engage in crimes in multiple jurisdictions;

- Cost-effective force multiplier

ALPR – What Information is Captured?

- A fixed ALPR system is designed to capture:

    - the date, time, and location;

    - license plate (state, partial, paper, and no plate);

    - vehicle characteristics (make, model, type, and color)

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ALPR – What Information Is *Not* Captured?

- A fixed ALPR system *is not* intended to capture images of vehicle occupants

- A fixed ALPR system *does not* use facial recognition

ALPR – Fixed ALPR vs. Red Light Cameras

- A red light camera is designed to capture driver images for driver identification

- A fixed ALPR system is designed to capture rear license plate images for vehicle identification

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ALPR – Legal Considerations

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Surveillance Technology Ordinance

- Council approval required
- Weigh benefits versus costs and concerns
- Surveillance use policy

State Law

- Requires training
- Requires limitations/controls on access
- Requires limitations on sharing

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ALPR – Policy Considerations

Internal and External Access

- Limited to need to know and right to know;
- Criminal penalties for unauthorized access;
- Training provided to employees;
- Queries are logged and auditable;
- Agency controls with whom data is shared;
- No outside sharing by vendor;

Data Integrity

- CJIS-compliant transmission and storage by vendor

Data Retention

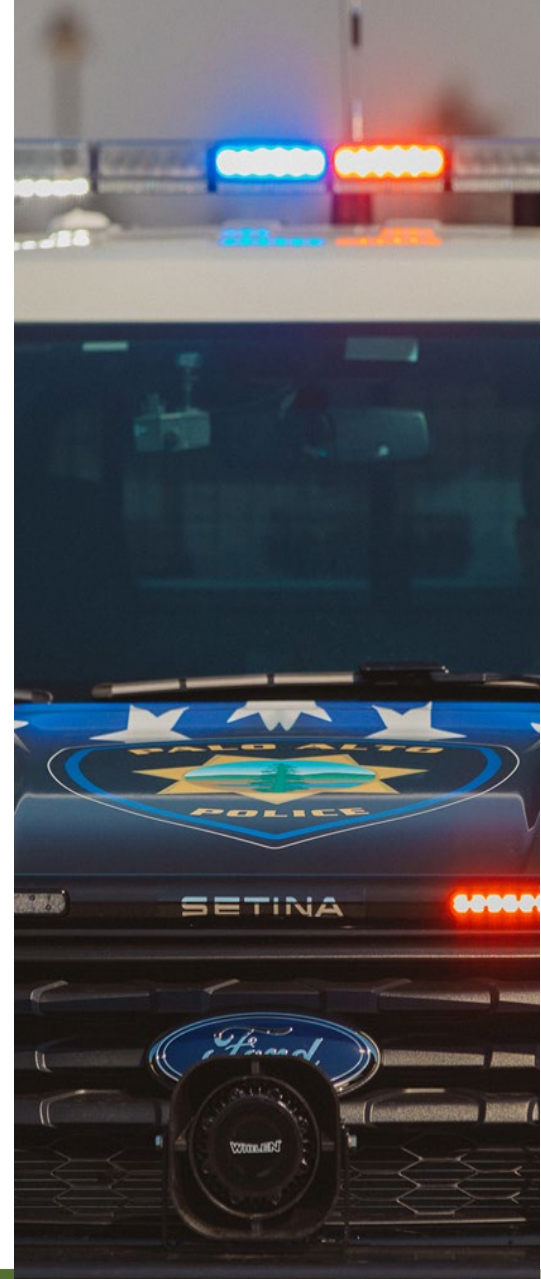- Automatically purged after 30 days*

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ALPR – Uses & Benefits

USES

- Proactive

  Real-time alerts

- Reactive (Investigative)

  Searchable database

BENEFITS

- ✓ Real Time Alerts
- ✓ Deterrence
- ✓ Solve Crimes Already Committed
- ✓ Regional Coordination

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ALPR – Local Implementation & Collaboration

- ALPR technology is an existing tool for local law enforcement including neighboring communities
- Numerous success stories and examples of where it *could* have been used in Palo Alto
- A growing majority of agencies in the Bay Area currently use it
- *Many private businesses, HOAs, and individuals have ALPR and elect to share that data with law enforcement*

ALPR – Next Steps

- ✓ Council's feedback and discussion on potential implementation of ALPR technology

- ✓ Gather community feedback

- ▪ Complete a procurement process

- ▪ Return to Council with draft agreement, deployment plan, and associated surveillance use policy- **tentatively set for April 3**

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ALPR – Information and Community Input

Additional information, and an opportunity to submit input for the Council's consideration can be found at www.cityofpaloalto.org/PAPDalpr