

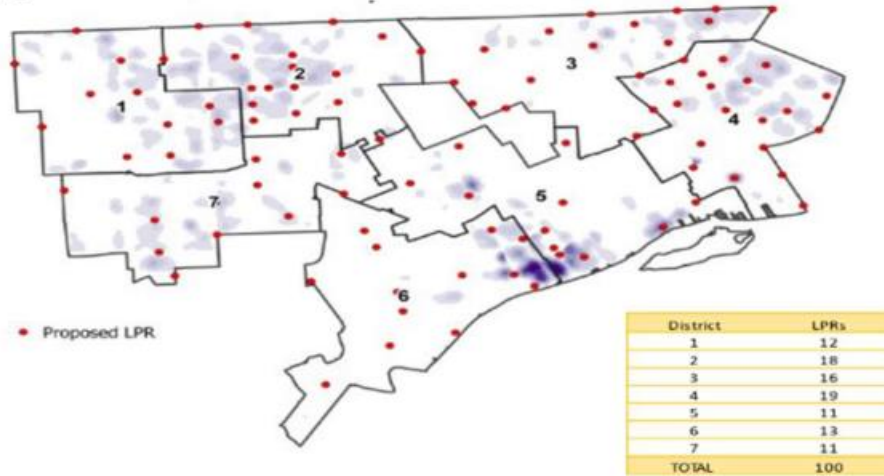
Automated License Plate Readers

May 25, 2023 – Board of Police Commissioners


ACLU Michigan

The Detroit Police Department's Proposal

Proposed LPR Locations and Density of 2022 Auto Theft



When one of these devices snaps a photo of your car, it logs your license plate number, as well as the time, date, and GPS location.

D345TR 
08:20:21
37.787827,
-122.407458

The supposed purpose is to catch car thieves and other suspected criminals. But even if you've done nothing wrong, these systems retain your information, sometimes indefinitely.

0392DZ
08:34:20
37.787827,

D345TR
08:20:21
37.787827,
-122.407458

RE23AD
08:20:23
37.787824,
-122.407459

DES20D
08:23:21
37.787827,
-122.407458

CDS210
08:19:54
37.787825,
-122.407460

FED223
08:22:43
37.787831,
-122.407458

What Does This Mean for Detroiters?

- The Detroit Police Department's proposal treats all Detroiters as potential suspects and tracks their real-time whereabouts without having committed any crime.
- Three primary concerns arise for Detroiters:
 - Accuracy & effectiveness
 - Privacy & data retention
 - Data sharing

Accuracy & Effectiveness

- License plate readers are flawed technology.
 - License plate readers aren't 100% accurate.
 - Reports of incorrect transcription of license plates.
 - Result: unwarranted police confrontation.
- They're also not very effective.
 - Cost: \$5 million
 - Benefit: a handful of potential leads—mostly registration issues.



ONE
MILLION
plates read

Here's an example:

For every one million
plates scanned by license
plate readers across
Maryland...

ONE
MILLION
plates read

2,000
HITS



...about 2,000 (or 0.2%) are
hits.

ONE
MILLION
plates read

2,000
HITS → ●

The overwhelming majority of those hits are due to registration issues or emissions violations.

On average, just 47 of these hits are potentially connected to a serious crime: a stolen vehicle, a wanted person, etc.



Privacy, Data Retention, and Data Sharing

- Captures and stores incredible amounts of personal data:
 - License plate number
 - Make and model
 - Bumper stickers
 - Time and GPS location
 - Direction of travel
- DPD is proposing to keep a database of innocent people, and to share that database with 30+ police agencies. That is antithetical to a free and democratic society.

Major Deficiencies in Specification Report

Civil Rights / Liberties Impacts

(5) *Civil Rights / Liberties Impacts:* An assessment identifying with specificity;

(a) *Any potential adverse impacts the surveillance technology, if deployed, might have on civil liberties and civil rights; and*

- LPR technology does not intrude upon any constitutionally protected areas.
- Misuse of LPR technology or any information collected is strictly prohibited.

(b) *What specific, affirmative measures will be implemented to safeguard the public from the potential adverse impacts identified in this section.*

- The Police Department will strictly enforce its policies pertaining to the use of LPRs and any information obtained from the technology.

Major Deficiencies in Specification Report

Authorized Use

- (6) *Authorized use:* A complete description of the purpose and intended uses of the surveillance technology, including any uses that will be expressly prohibited.

The purpose and intended uses of the proposed technology includes:

- Auto-theft prevention and deterrence;
- Apprehension of suspects and fugitives;
- Locating AMBER Alert vehicles;
- Furthering investigations of serious crimes; and
- Other legitimate law enforcement purposes (e.g., crime analysis).



The following uses of the technology are expressly prohibited:

- Willfully using the LPR for the specific purpose of taking photographs of personal property other than what would typically be expected from normal LPR use;
- Willfully using the LPR for the specific purpose of taking still-photographs of individuals other than what would typically be expected from normal LPR use;
- Traffic enforcement; or
- Track an individual's movements outside of a vehicle.



Major Deficiencies in Specification Report

Data Retention

(c) The process utilized to regularly delete surveillance data after the retention period stated in Subsection (b)(9)(a) of this section has elapsed and the auditing procedures that will be implemented to ensure data is not improperly retained.

- The Police Department's policies and procedures allow for the retention of LPR information for up to one year. However, any hits or reads that were not used in a criminal investigation will be automatically deleted by the system after 30 days for Flock cameras, and 90 days for both Motorola Vigilant, and Genetec cameras. If the Police Department preserves LPR information for use in an investigation, it will fall under the retention and destruction requirements for case files and not under the retention requirements for LPR information. This is a DPD only policy and is in compliance with Michigan law.

Deficiencies in Specification Report

Data Sharing

- (b) Where applicable, the type of information of surveillance data that may be disclosed to the governmental agency, department, bureau, division, or unit, or non-governmental person or entity; and*
- (c) Where applicable, any safeguards or restrictions that will be imposed on the surveillance technology or data receiving governmental agency, department, bureau, division, or unit, or non-governmental person or entity regarding the use or dissemination of the provided surveillance technology or data;*



As of May 17, 2023, the Police Department has entered into Data Sharing Agreements with 31 map law enforcement agencies. Under no circumstances are members of the department authorized to share information for the purpose of assessing immigration status or enforcing immigration laws. The DPD will provide a monthly report to the Board of Police Commissioners reflecting the number of law enforcement agencies with whom the Department has data sharing agreements.



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For more information:

Ramis Wadood: rwadood@aclumich.org
www.aclumich.org

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