Potential Use of Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) Technology

https://www.palmspringsca.gov/

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.
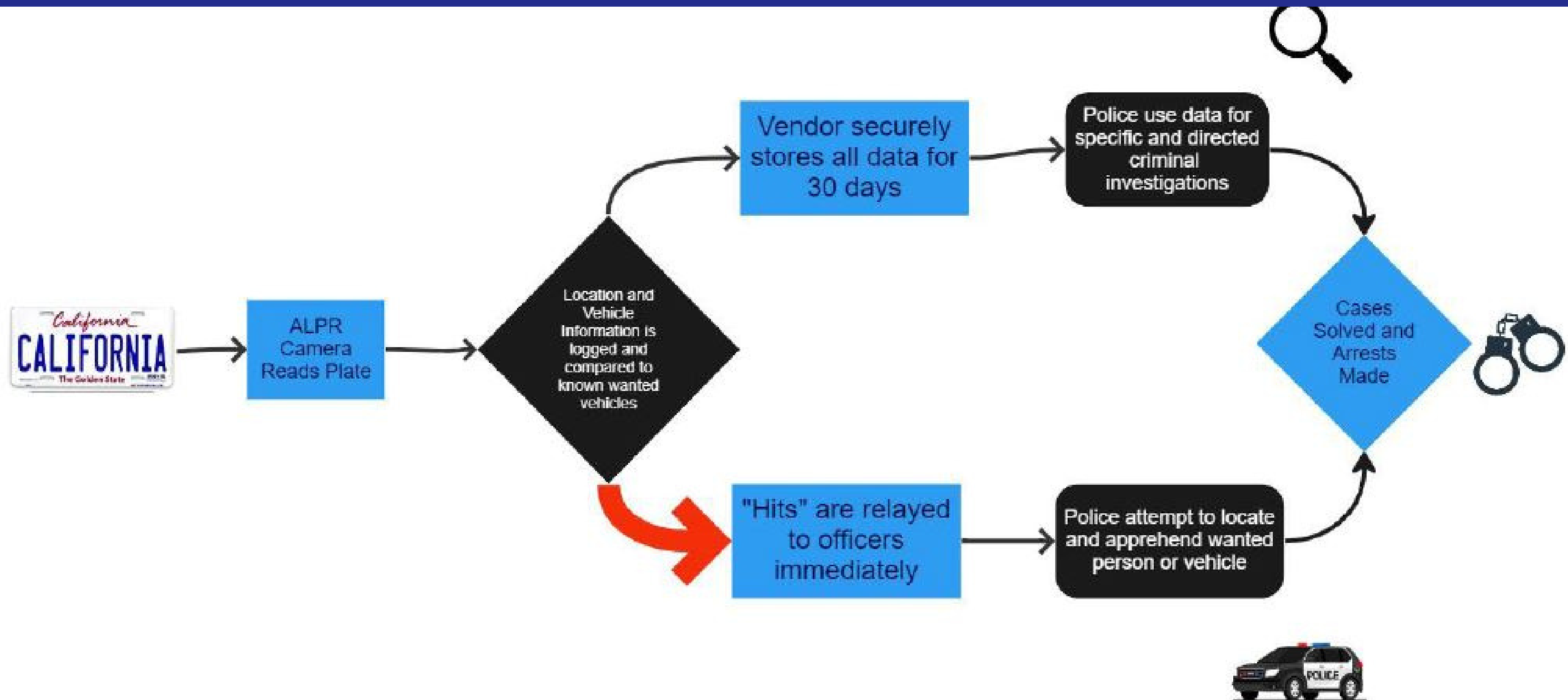
ALPR – Types

Two Types of ALPR:

MOBILE
(mounted on a police vehicle)

FIXED
(mounted on pole or other piece of infrastructure)

ALPR – How It Works

ALPR – What Problem Does it Addres?

- 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)

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

ALPR – Legal Considerations

Palm Springs - ALPR Policy

- Only allows trained authorized users
- Official Use Only
- No automatic sharing of data with out of state agencies
- Routine system audits
- Prohibits invasion of privacy, harassment or intimidation, personal use

State Law

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

ALPR – Policy

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;

- No outside state sharing, unless a court order or reason is provided, and approved by the Chief of Police

Data Integrity

- CJIS-compliant transmission and storage by vendor

Data Integrity

- Automatically purged after 30 days*

ALPR – Uses & Benefits

USES

- Proactive Real-time alerts

- Reactive (Investigative)
  - Searchable database

BENEFITS

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

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 Palm Springs

- A growing majority of agencies in the Coachella Valley currently use it

- *Many private businesses, HOAs, and individuals have ALPR and elect to share that data with law enforcement*

ALPR – Next Steps

- Council feedback and discussion on potential implementation of ALPR Technology
- Public Comments
- Approve Contract with Insight Public Sector through a cooperative purchase program
- Install 15 Flock ALPR cameras throughout the City of Palm Springs

Questions

Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR)