

10/26/21

# 21-1122



**Council and Authorities  
Concurrent meeting**

**RTC # 21-1122**

**Information Report Regarding an  
Amendment to the City of Santa  
Clara Police Department's  
Automated License Plate Reader  
Policy**

**October 26, 2021**

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**City of  
Santa Clara**  
The Center of What's Possible

## **Senate Bill 34**

- Effective January 1, 2016, public agencies that operate Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) are required to maintain reasonable security procedures and practices, including operational, administrative, technical, and physical safeguards, to protect ALPR information from unauthorized access, destruction, use, modification, or disclosure
- SB 34 also requires the agency to implement a usage and privacy policy that meets certain requirements, including posting the usage and privacy policy on the agency's website
  - The Police Department has been compliant with the requirements since the inception of SB 34.

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## What is ALPR?

- Use a combination of cameras and computer software to scan the license plate of parked or passing vehicles
- The readers can be mounted on stationary poles, handheld devices or mounted on patrol vehicles
  - SCPD currently has 4 ALPR's attached to patrol vehicles
  - In addition, a pilot program for stationary ALPR cameras has been approved
- The devices send the data to ALPR software which compares each license plate against a designed "hot list"
  - From August 2020 through August 2021, the devices read 114,837 license plates resulting in 126 "hot hits"



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## How Does SCPD Use ALPR?

- Locate stolen or wanted vehicles and vehicles that are the subject of a legitimate law enforcement investigation
- Locate and apprehend suspects that are lawfully sought by law enforcement
- Locate witnesses and victims of violent crime
- Locate at-risk missing persons (including responding to Amber and Silver Alerts)
- Support local, state and federal safety departments in the identification of vehicles associated with targets of criminal investigations, including investigations of serial crimes
- Protect participants at special events
- Protect critical infrastructure sites

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## SCPD Policy Manual Transition to Lexipol

- The Police Department implemented Policy 98.4 in April, 2016
- The Department is since transitioning to Lexipol LLC
  - Lexipol was founded in 2003 to provide standardized policies and training for law enforcement agencies, fire departments and other public safety based
  - Lexipol reflects court opinions, legislation and industry best practices
  - This web-based platform is intended to manage risk and compliance resources
  - Lexipol is the industry standard and is currently used by the majority of California Law Enforcement agencies
- As a result of the transition, all of the Police Department's policies are in some part of the updating process
- If approved, Lexipol Policy 428 would replace Policy 98.4

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## Community Engagement

- Community Meeting
  - Advertised on the City's website and information distributed on GovDelivery, Facebook, Nextdoor, Nixle and Twitter
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force
- Chief's Advisory Committee

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