About Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPR)

The Problem: Violent Crime Is Not Going Away

Nationwide, cities are experiencing a disturbing rise in homicides and violence. The FBI's 2020 Crime Report shows a 30% increase in homicides from 2019 to 2020, the largest single-year increase recorded.

Over two-thirds of the country's most populous cities saw even more homicides in 2021

Crime in Illinois

Illinois was no exception, tracking record violent crime numbers in 2021. Despite reporting a nation-leading 0.7% population decline in 2020, the number of violent crimes in Illinois increased by 4% over the same period. The state's overall violent crime rate is up nearly 5% year over year.

Selected Headlines
- How the Violent Crime Rate in Illinois Compares to Other States, [Center Square](#)
- Communities Addressing Violent Crime, [WAND](#)
- Outside Chicago, Suburbs are also Struggling with Surge in Violent Crime, [WGN9](#)

One Solution: Technology that Detects Objective Evidence to Clear More Cases

Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) capture computer-readable images of license plates and vehicles, allowing officers to compare plate numbers against those of stolen cars or wanted individuals on a crime database like the NCIC.

ALPR devices assist law enforcement in solving crime in two ways:

- Proactive - ALPR devices provide real-time alerts when a vehicle that is stolen or associated with a known suspect is detected.
- Investigative - ALPR cameras help determine whether and which vehicle(s) were at the scene of a crime.

Is ALPR effective ?

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, when employed ethically and objectively, ALPRs are an effective tool for law enforcement, cutting down on the time required for investigations and acting as a force multiplier. In 2011, a study by the Police Executive Research Forum concluded that ALPRs used by the Mesa, Ariz., Police Department resulted in "nearly 3 times as many 'hits' for stolen vehicles, and twice as many vehicle recoveries."

Flock Safety communities have reported crime reductions of up to 70 percent. In some areas, that included an over 60 percent reduction in non-residential burglaries, 80 percent reduction in residential burglary, and an over 40 percent reduction in robberies.

ALPR Provides Objective Evidence While Protecting Privacy

ALPR does not include facial recognition capabilities and does not capture personally identifiable information (PII). While eyewitnesses and individual officers are subject to inherent human bias, ALPR cameras capture wholly-objective images of vehicles and license plates, providing a clear and actionable investigative lead.

- Firearm violence - SOLVED
  - After just a few months of using an ALPR system, Rantoul police were able to arrest multiple suspects connected to a dangerous shooting. Rantoul Man Facing Charges in Shots Fired Incident
- Organized theft: SOLVED
  - Mokena Police have used ALPR cameras to identify a burglary suspect. The arrest resulted in the recovery of a large amount of narcotics, currency, multiple vehicles, a trailer, multiple firearms, silencers, and other weapons parts, and over $100,000 worth of stolen property. Sleepy Hollow Man Arrested In Connection to May Burglary in Mokena