Surveillance Impact Report (SIR)
SPD SIR Material Update

Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) (Fleet-wide)

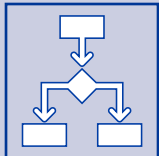**May 14, 2024**

City of Seattle

Surveillance Ordinance Material Update

There have been 28 Surveillance Impact Reports (SIRs) approved by Council.

SMC 14.18 requires Council approval by Ordinance of a "material update" to an SIR.

SMC 14.18 does not require material updates to go through the same process as the initial SIR.

ALPR

What is the technology?

- Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) are a combination of software and hardware used for capturing and monitoring images of license plates.

- In 2021, the Seattle City Council passed Ordinance 126312, approving SPD's use of ALPR technology in 11 SPD vehicles.
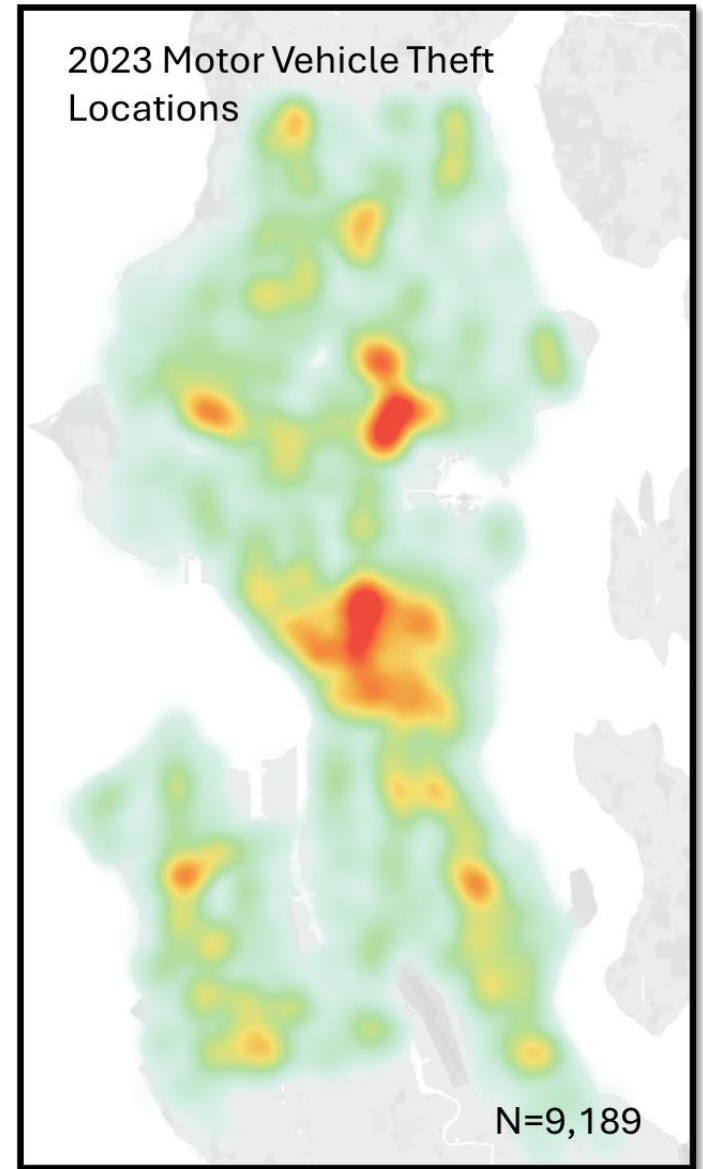
Why do we use the technology?

- SPD uses ALPR in pursuit of maintaining public safety and enforcing applicable laws related to stolen vehicles, parking enforcement, Amber and Silver Alerts, and other active investigations.

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ALPR – How is it used?

- ALPR is used in active investigations, to find missing persons, and recover lost or stolen vehicles.

- Software deciphers the plate number and compares that number to a list of license plates associated with open, reported crimes and missing persons. If a match is found, the Patrol Officer must verify license plate accuracy and confirm with dispatch before any action may be taken.

- Each time a Patrol Officer logs into ALPR or contacts dispatch, an auditable record is created.

2023 Motor Vehicle Theft Locations

N=9,189

Expanding ALPR Capability

- Expanding capacity helps address persistent public safety issues and allows SPD to better address the growing vehicle theft problem.

- Motor vehicle theft has increased citywide by 33% from 2022 to 2023, from 6,934 to 9,189 incidents.

- Expansion to all existing SPD patrol vehicle dash cameras would occur quickly and cost $280,000 per year beginning in 2024

What is the Material Update?

- Expand from 11 vehicles to all SPD vehicles with onboard in-car video.

- ALPR functionality will be enabled as a component of the existing in-car video platform.

- All sworn SPD officers will be trained in the use of the in-car video with ALPR enabled functionality.

- The back-office system through which ALPR camera data are interpreted and ALPR is administered will change from the Neology Pips platform to the expanded Axon Fleet platform.

What will not change?

- **No changes will be made to data retention.**

- All data collected by the ALPR systems – images, computer-interpreted license plate numbers, date, time, and GPS location – are stored and retained for 90 days.

- After 90 days, all data collected by the ALPR systems is automatically deleted unless it has been flagged as serving an investigative purpose – in which case, it is included in an investigation file.

Questions