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TOWN OF NEWTOWN

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ALPR Pause Report Update - *Executive Summary*

11/20/2026

To: The Newtown Board of Police Commissioners (Civilian Oversight Committee)

This is an executive summary of the Board of Police Commissioners' ALPR Pause Report (see attached) and the incidents that have occurred since. Note: This report is a living document; it evolves every day.

1. Executive Message: The Sacred Trust of Community Protection

Public safety is not merely a technical objective; it is a sacred trust. Every resident who walks the streets of Newtown, every child walking home from school, and every family sleeping in their home relies on the Newtown Police Department to maintain a vigilant, responsive shield against crime and tragedy.

Since static Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology was introduced in 2022, it has served as an essential component of that shield. These specialized, fixed cameras provided our officers with real-time awareness, allowing us to intercept fleeing felons, locate missing endangered residents, and resolve severe crimes swiftly. However, following a departmental pause initiated on August 21, 2026, our static ALPR network has been temporarily deactivated.

This official report presents a detailed evaluation of the operational consequences of that pause. In the ten weeks since deactivation, law enforcement capabilities in Newtown have suffered a critical setback. While financial metrics document over $156,666 in unrecovered property and unsolved burglaries, the true cost cannot be measured in dollars alone. The true cost lies in the **human factor,** the lost opportunities to intervene immediately in domestic violence escapes, attempted child abductions, and predatory threats against our youth.

As Chief of Police, I present these departmental facts to the public and the Board of Police Commissioners to demonstrate why restoring our static ALPR network is essential to maintaining public safety and protecting our town. Not using this constitutionally and statutorily lawful use of technology has opened our elected officials and town to liability of unimaginable proportions and the emotional weight of not protecting victims of domestic violence, returning a lost child, an endangered person, or potentially solving hundreds of crimes a year.

2. The Human Factor: Protecting Newtown's Most Vulnerable

When assessing public safety technology, financial figures fail to capture what matters most: human lives. ALPR technology is far more than a tool for locating property theft; it functions as an automated warning system that alerts on-duty officers the moment a registered sex offender, a stolen vehicle, or a wanted criminal enters our town.

Since the August 21, 2026 pause, our department has had to respond to critical human-related emergencies without the crucial leads ALPRs previously provided.

Recent Critical Vulnerabilities Post-Pause

Child Safety & Predatory Threats

- **Attempted Child Abduction (October 6, 2026):** A suspect vehicle engaged in suspicious activity by attempting to lure a male juvenile into a car and following him home. The suspect fled the scene, traveling past a static ALPR camera location. Had the network been operational, on-duty officers would have received an immediate lead, likely resulting in swift apprehension. Instead, the suspect fled without ALPR tracking available and remains at large.
- **Enticing a Minor (October 17, 2026):** An adult traveled into Newtown to meet a juvenile to perform sexual acts. In similar cases, where perpetrators are registered sex offenders, active ALPR protocols and automated hot-list alerts notify officers whenever a registered sex offender enters our town.

Domestic Assault & Emergency Interventions

- **Escaping Domestic Violence Perpetrator (September 5, 2026):** During a domestic dispute involving physical assault, the suspect fled the scene to avoid arriving officers, driving directly past a static ALPR camera. An active reader would have alerted patrol units to the suspect vehicle's escape route, enabling immediate apprehension and protection for the victim. In this case, the ALPRs were paused and did not assist, and the suspect remained at large, and the victim remained in fear until he was arrested.
- **Elderly Woman Scammed Out of $1,800 in a Fraud case (November 11, 2026):** The complainant reported that on **11/11/2026** she attempted a $100 withdrawal when an unknown male claimed the ATM was malfunctioning, took her debit card, and manipulated the machine; she later realized the card returned to her was not hers. It was later identified that additional transactions occurred on her account ($1,000 and $800). The ALPR cameras were deactivated and could not help locate the suspect.

Historical Successes: Lives Saved by ALPR Intelligence

Prior to the pause, ALPR technology repeatedly proved invaluable in safeguarding vulnerable community members and reuniting families:

- **Locating Confused and Missing Elderly (June 30, 2026):** A confused, elderly resident wandered away and went missing. Using the Flock ALPR network to determine the vehicle's general location, officers located the individual and ensured their safe return.
- **Rescuing Missing Juveniles (November 30, 2025):** When two juveniles were reported missing, ALPR tracking enabled officers to locate them quickly and ensure they were safe.
- **Medical Emergency Intervention (02/04/2025):** Officers received a call about a person at risk due to a medical emergency. ALPR data allowed officers to locate the vehicle rapidly and transport the individual to the hospital.
- **Welfare Checks (January 9, 2026):** An at-risk individual in need of assistance was located and assisted following positive vehicle identification.

3. The Operational Impact: $156,666 in Unsolved Crimes Since the Pause

When static ALPRs were paused on August 21, 2026, the department's ability to track suspect vehicles fleeing crime scenes was severely impaired. Between August 21 and November 2, 2026, **$156,666 in property crimes went unsolved** where the suspect vehicle traveled past a location equipped with a static ALPR.

Operational Window	Assisted in Newtown Crimes	Hot List Alerts	Agency Assists	Monetary Value Involved	Departmental Outcome
Active Network (2022 – Aug 2026)	33	8	3	$245,186	**Successful Resolutions** (Arrests Made, Warrants Served, Stolen Property Recovered)
Paused Network (Aug 21 – Nov 20, 2026)	14 Unable to Assist	0 (Decommissioned)	0 (Decommissioned)	$156,666	**Stalled Investigations** ("Unable to Access ALPR")
Overall Historical Total	**47**	**8**	**3**	**$375,542**	Official Departmental Cumulative Data

Prior to the deactivation, ALPR alerts consistently enabled officers to recover stolen cars, apprehend fleeing felons, and serve arrest warrants. Since the deactivation, departmental case files are repeatedly marked with the same investigative roadblock: "Unable to access ALPR.

4. Departmental Success Log: Proven Protection

From 2022 until the pause in August 2026, ALPR technology served as a vital tool for Newtown police officers, helping resolve violent crimes, locate stolen vehicles, and support regional law enforcement partners.

Demonstrated Effectiveness of Active ALPR Technology
Departmental records confirm that static ALPR deployment directly contributed to resolving severe crimes, executing arrest warrants, and recovering stolen vehicles across Newtown.

Major Case Resolutions Enabled by ALPR Technology

- **Fatal Hit-and-Run Collision (August 24, 2025):** A fatal motor vehicle collision involving $24,000 in property loss resulted in the offender fleeing the scene. ALPR camera data identified the evading vehicle, leading to the offender's apprehension.
- **Armed Robbery & Threat to Shoot (July 17, 2025):** Following a robbery where the perpetrator threatened to shoot, ALPR data assisted investigators in tracking the vehicle and gathering critical evidence.
- **Robbery & Multiple Arrest Warrants (April 22, 2025):** An ALPR hit on a vehicle tied to a $2,000 robbery led to an arrest and the execution of multiple outstanding arrest warrants.
- **Strongarm Robbery of Juveniles (May 28, 2025):** Perpetrators who robbed juveniles of property were identified and arrested following an ALPR match.
- **Road Rage & Threat of Weapon (December 15, 2024):** An ALPR detection enabled officers to locate and arrest a reckless driver who threatened motorists with a weapon.
- **Reckless Driving Intercept (July 26, 2024):** ALPR data enabled an immediate intercept and arrest for dangerous reckless driving.

Major Vehicle & Property Recoveries:

- ***August 11, 2026:*** Assisted an outside agency on ALPR hits in Newtown, recovering $90,835 in stolen vehicles.
- ***July 22, 2026:*** Located and recovered a $40,000 stolen car.
- ***February 9, 2026:*** Recovered a $14,000 stolen car based on a cross-jurisdictional LPR hit shared with the Danbury Police Department.
- ***March 3, 2026:*** Recovered a $14,033 stolen car and arrested the driver.
- ***May 18, 2026:*** Intercepted suspicious activity involving an $18,000 stolen vehicle, resulting in an arrest.
- ***February 5, 2026:*** Intercepted a suspect wanted for thefts in West Hartford, making an arrest in Newtown.

5. The Investigative Blindspot: Case Log Post-Pause (Aug 21 – Nov 20, 2026)

Since static ALPR readers were turned off on August 21, 2026, investigative leads in fleeing-vehicle cases have repeatedly stalled. The following chronological log details incidents where static ALPRs would have provided crucial evidence:

- **August 25, 2026:** Stolen car and license plate ($30,000 value). Hartford Police recovered the car, but Newtown officers could not access ALPR data to investigate the stolen plate or identify secondary vehicles.
- **August 25, 2026:** Burglary and larceny ($100 loss). Suspect vehicle fled; officers were unable to access ALPR records.
- **August 27, 2026:** Evading motor vehicle accident causing $8,000 in damage. Unable to access ALPR.
- **August 29, 2026:** Evading accident ($8,000 damage). ALPR network inaccessible.
- **September 1, 2026:** Evading accident ($200 damage). ALPR not accessible.
- **September 2, 2026:** Major burglary and larceny involving $23,697 in stolen property. Suspect vehicle passed a static ALPR node, but officers were unable to access reader data.
- **September 3, 2026:** Commercial oil larceny ($700 loss). Unable to access ALPR.
- **September 5, 2026:** Domestic dispute escape. Suspect fled the scene; ALPR unavailable.
- **September 15, 2026:** Property damage incident ($200 value). ALPR inaccessible.
- **September 16, 2026:** Stolen car and handbag ($37,800 value). While the primary vehicle was recovered using a tracking app, officers could not access ALPR to track a secondary accomplice vehicle operating alongside it.
- **September 24, 2026:** Property damage hit-and-run ($700 value). ALPR offline.
- **October 6, 2026:** Attempted luring/abduction of a minor into a vehicle. Suspect fled past inactive ALPR; camera inaccessible.
- **October 8, 2026:** Larceny ($659 value). Unable to access the Newtown ALPR system.
- **October 9, 2026:** Larceny ($300 value). ALPR inaccessible.
- **October 17, 2026:** Enticing a minor by an adult. Unable to access Newtown ALPR system.
- See full list attached.

6. The Path Forward:

The evidence compiled over 18 years shows that Automated License Plate Readers are not a tool for casual surveillance; they are a targeted, vital public safety tool designed to protect human life, solve violent crimes, and deter dangerous offenders from operating in our town. They have the proven legal guardrails in place to protect residents and hold those who misuse the system accountable.

The 12-week pause has created an unnecessary vulnerability in Newtown's security infrastructure. Behind the **$156,666** in unrecovered stolen property are real local residents. Behind the stalled case files are parents whose children were targeted by predators, domestic assault victims seeking protection, and community members whose welfare has been compromised.

As Chief of Police, my primary commitment is to keep our community safe and ensure our officers have the technology needed to do so. The data shows we are failing our residents and our victims.

Not using this constitutionally and statutorily lawful use of technology has opened our elected officials and town to liability of unimaginable proportions and the emotional weight of not protecting victims of domestic violence, returning a lost child, an endangered person, or potentially solving hundreds of crimes a year.

Sincerely,



David Kullgren, Chief of Police

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CALL FOR SERVICE	DATE	INCIDENT TYPE	MONITARY VALUE IF APPLICABLE	CASE RESOLUTION	Newtown Crime=1	Hot List/Alert=1	Agency Assist=1
2400011126	7/26/2024	Reckless Driving		Arrest made	1		
2400018919	12/15/2024	Threatening/Road Rage Threat of WPN		Arrest made	1		
2400019441	12/26/2024	Stolen Vehicle	$4,300	Recovered Vehicle/Wallet-Arrest made		1	
2500000632	01/13/2025	Stolen Vehicle	$3,000	Recovered Vehicle-Arrest made		1	
2500001513	02/04/2025	Person At Risk-Medical		Located and Transported to Hospital	1		
2500006043	04/22/2025	Robbery	$2,000	Arrest made-Multiple Warrants Served	1		
2500006786	5/5/2025	Evading	$8,000	Arrest made	1		
2500007972	5/28/2025	Robbery of Juveniles-Strongarm	$8	Arrest made	1		
2500010447	7/17/2025	Robbery/Threatened to Shoot	$619	Awaiting DNA results	1		
2500012254	08/24/2025	Fatal MV Collision	$24,000	Offender Apprehended	1		
2500013306	09/15/2025	Assisted outside Agency		Person of Interest Identified/Assisted FBI			1
2500017201	11/25/2025	Evading	$8,000	Arrest made	1		
2500017289	11/30/2025	Missing Juveniles		Juveniels Located safe	1		
2600000294	1/9/2026	Welfare Check		Person located	1		
2600001612	2/5/2026	Wanted for thefts West Hartford	?????	Arrest made in Newtown		1	
2600001850	2/9/2026	Stolen Car	$14,000	Car recovered due to "hit" on LPR for Danbury		1	1
2600002879	03/03/2026	Stolen Car	$14,033	Arrest made	1		
2600004322	03/27/2026	Stolen Plates/unreg vehicle	$20	Arrest made/plate recovered		1	
2600005011	04/08/2026	Evading Accident-Injury	$1,000	Arrest made	1		
2600005323	4/14/2026	Lost Plate	$20	Returned to owner			
2600007201	5/18/2026	Suspicious Activity/Stolen Vehicle	$18,000	Arrest made	1	1	
2600008731	06/15/2026	Stolen License Plate	$20	Recovered License Plate/Arrest made -drugs			
2600009536	06/30/2026	Missing Elderly/Confused Person		Person located after Flock determined town/state			
2600009935	07/08/2026	Larceny	$791	Arrest made-Multiple Warrants Served	1		
2600010053	7/10/20226	Stolen Plates	$20	Plates recovered		1	
2600010649	7/22/2026	Stolen Car	$40,000	Car recovered	1		
2600010844	7/26/2026	Stolen Plates	$20	LPR "hit" for Stolen plates		1	
2600011137	08/02/2026	Evading Accident	$10,000	Arrest made	1		
2600011298	8/6/2026	Evading	$6,500	Arrest made	1		
2600011555	08/11/2026	Stolen Vehicle assist outside agency	$90,835	Assiting outside agency on LPR hits in our town			1
2600011583	08/25/2026	Stolen car/Plate	$30,000	Car recovered by Hartford PD, Plate stolen, Unable to access ALPR for further investigation	1		
2600012192	08/25/2026	Burglary/Larceny	$100	Unable to access ALPR	1		
2600012254	08/27/2026	Evading	$8,000	Unable to access ALPR	1		
2600012351	08/292026	Evading	$8,000	ALPR not accessable	1		
2600012421	09/01/2026	Evading	$200	ALPR not accessable	1		
2600012601	09/02/2026	Burglary/Larceny	$23,697	Unable to access ALPR	1		
2600012692	9/3/2026	Larceny-oil theft	$700	Unable to access ALPR	1		
2600012772	9/5/2023	Domestic Dispute		Unable to access ALPR	1		
2600013232	9/15/2026	Property Damage	$200	Unable to access ALPR	1		
2600013327	9/16/2026	Stolen Car and handbag	$37,800	Unable to access ALPR to track 2nd car- Car recovered with tracking App	1		
2600013495	9/19/2026	Stolen car with gun inside	$20,000	Unable to access ALPR use of several officers to attempt to locate			1
2600013764	9/24/2026	Property Damage	$700	Unable to access ALPR	1		
2600014434	10/6/2026	Attempt to lure a minor into a car		Unable to access ALPR	1		
26000014547	10/8/2026	Larceny	$659	Unable to access Newtown ALPR	1		
2600014555	10/9/2026	Larceny	$300	Unable to access ALPR	1		

CALL FOR SERVICE	DATE	INCIDENT TYPE	MONITARY VALUE IF APPLICABLE	CASE RESOLUTION	Newtown Crime=1	Hot List/Alert=1	Agency Assist=1
2600014902	10/17/2026	Inticing a minor		Unable to utilize ALPR, If a registered sex offender, ALPRs would have alerted Officers that a regis	1		
2600015153	10/22/2026	Stolen Car	$24,000	Unable to access ALPR for assistance		1	
2600015802	11/3/2026	Stolen Vehicle from Monroe		Using ALPR would have reduced risk			1
2600016253	11/13/2026	Stolen Merchandise	$10	Unable to access ALPR for assistance			1
2600016205	11/12/2026	Evading	$500	Unable to access ALPR for assistance	1		
2600016196	11/11/2026	Scammed at the ATM	$1,800	Unable to access ALPR for assistance	1		
			$156,666	**Total Value Since Pause (8/21/26)**			
			$375,542	**Overall Total Value (since 2022)**	**35**	**9**	**6**
	Color Code Identifiers						
		Human Related Crime/Need					
		Incidents since pause					