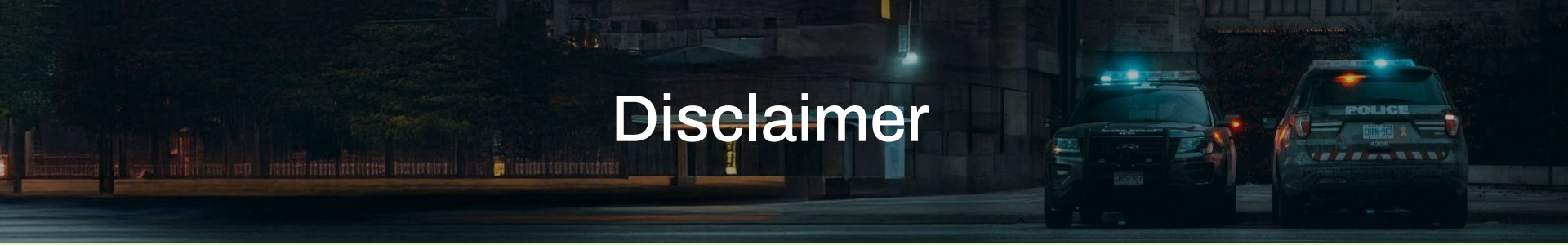


Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR)



- Used for criminal investigations, locating missing and endangered persons, stolen vehicles, etc.
- Is a force multiplier, allowing law enforcement to do more, faster.
- Most importantly, ALPRs are a focused tool to solve real cases. That means missing people come home faster, more justice for victims, and overall more safety for everyone.

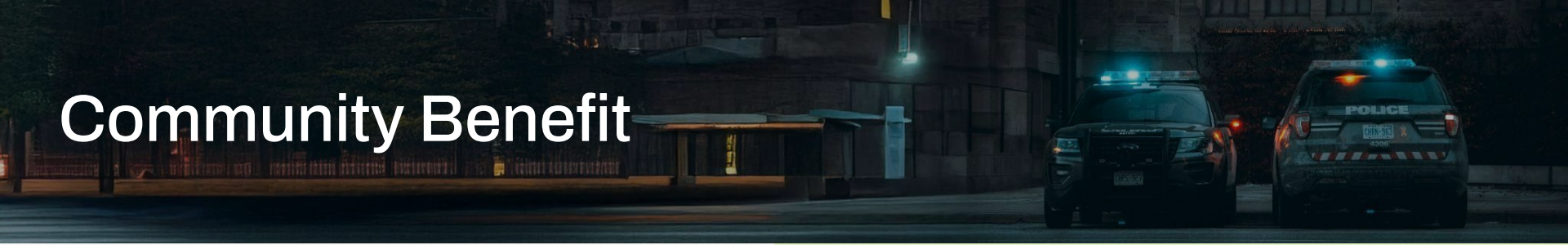


Disclaimer

The Newtown Police Department is built on a foundation of integrity and public trust. While we recognize that nationwide incidents of misuse are extremely rare, affecting fewer than 0.01% of law enforcement officers, we do not rely solely on these statistics. We are committed to rigorous oversight and proactive measures to maintain your confidence.

With new, strengthened state laws signed this past May, Connecticut has further reinforced the legal guardrails protecting our residents. We are proud to share that in over 18 years of utilizing this technology, the Newtown Police Department has had zero incidents of ALPR misuse.

As your Chief, I assure you that we remain steadfast in our vigilance. Should any violation of policy or law occur, the Board of Police Commissioners and this department will hold those responsible accountable to the fullest extent of the law and our department policy.



Community Benefit

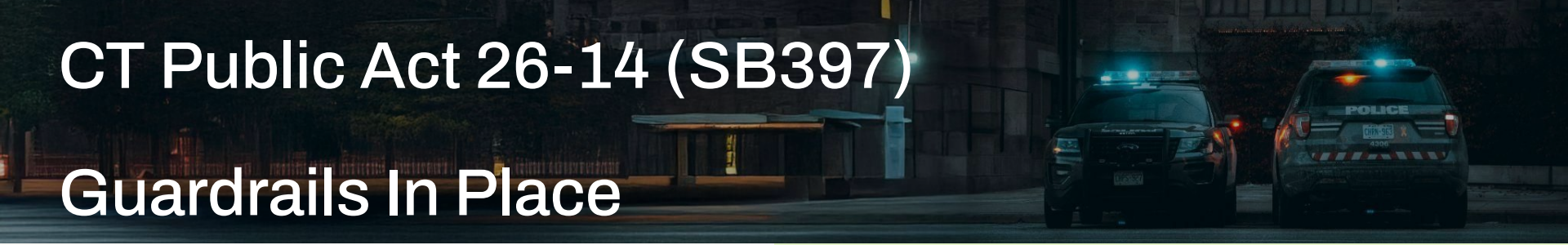
The following case summaries illustrate representative instances wherein ALPR technology significantly aided departmental investigations and most would not have been solved without this technology in the last two years.
This list is not fully inclusive list of all success stories from the Newtown PD.

- Three Newtown juveniles were robbed by force in the parking lot of Walgreens. They had a description of the vehicle, but no plate. A check of the ALPR system identified the plate, leading to the arrest of multiple individuals in Waterbury, CT, later that night.

- The Walgreens was robbed, an individual threatened to shoot the store clerk; a plate wasn't given by witnesses, video surveillance from the store was cross-referenced with an ALPR search that identified a suspect vehicle. This vehicle was a rental car obtained under a false ID and linked to crimes in Massachusetts.

- A victim reported a road rage incident where another vehicle tried to run him off the road, then smashed out his window with a tire iron at 2 am. The suspect's vehicle was identified through an ALPR search, leading to the suspect's arrest.

- A vehicle followed a Newtown resident off the highway after a road rage incident into their own driveway. The suspect allegedly produced a rifle from the trunk of his vehicle in the victim's driveway. The vehicle fled prior to police arrival, and a description was provided with no plate number. A check of the ALPR system was able to identify the vehicle and eventually the suspect, who had an extensive criminal history for violent crimes. The suspect was located and arrested in a timely manner due to this lead.



CT Public Act 26-14 (SB397)

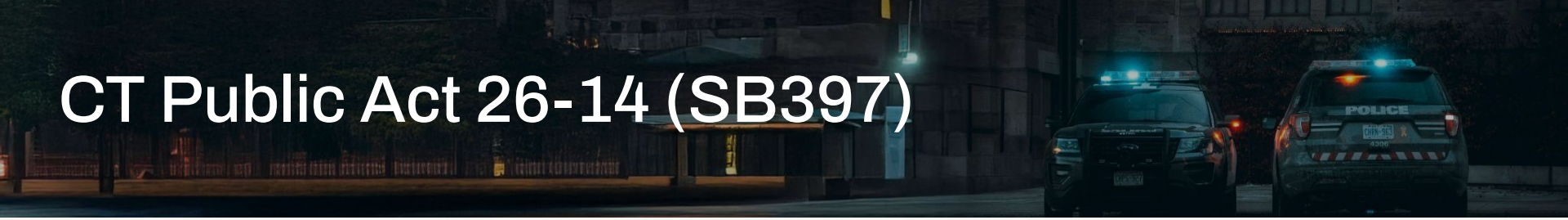
Guardrails In Place

Signed into law May 4, 2026 –

“An Act Concerning Democracy and Government Accountability and the Use and Retention of Data Derived from Automated License Plate Reader Systems”

Collaboration:

- Governor’s Office
- Bipartisan partnership
- ACLU
- CT Chiefs of Police Association
- Vendors



CT Public Act 26-14 (SB397)

A New Legal Framework for ALPR Use

1 Oct. 2026

Core provisions take effect: permissible/prohibited uses, 21-day retention, data sharing limits, private right of action.

1 Jan. 2027

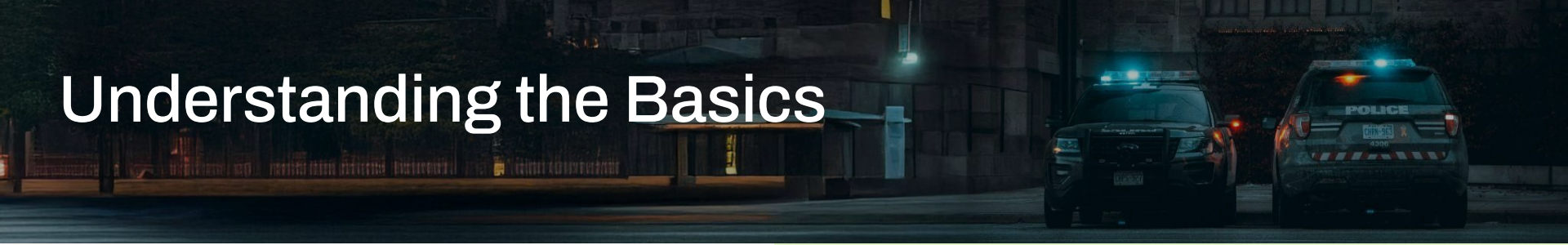
Every police department must adopt that policy, or one with greater privacy protections.

POSTC must adopt the statewide model ALPR policy.

1 Dec. 2026

First annual usage reports due to IMRP and posted on the agency web site.

31 Jan. 2027



Understanding the Basics

CT Public Act 26-14 (SB397)



Permitted vs. Prohibited Uses

Allowed uses center on **legitimate law enforcement purposes**, such as comparing plates against “hotlists” (stolen vehicles, wanted persons, missing persons, AMBER alerts, etc.).

Prohibited uses include:

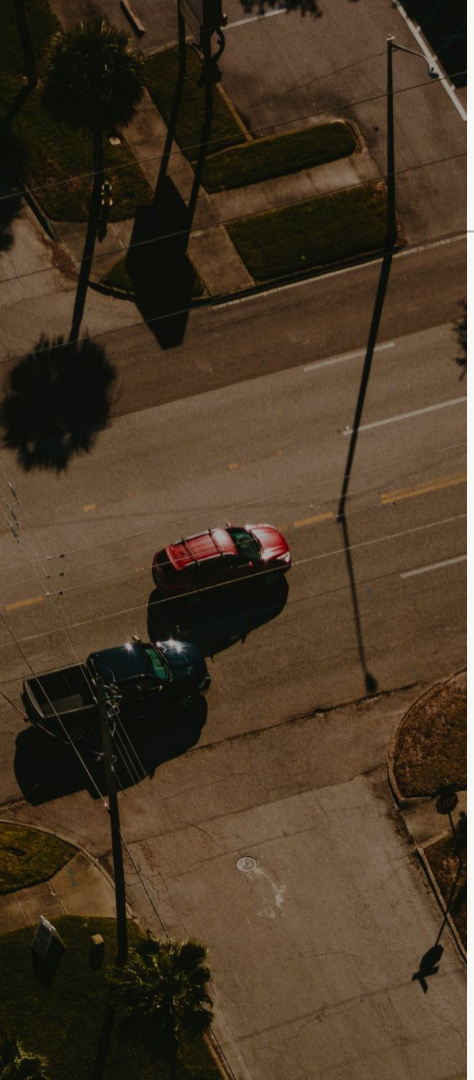
- Immigration enforcement.
- Investigations related to reproductive healthcare or gender-affirming care.
- Monitoring or investigating people based on protected characteristics (race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, political beliefs, etc.).
- First Amendment-protected activities (e.g., protests, religious services).

CAD & Evidence Systems



Cloud Storage, same

- Names
- DOB
- DL #
- Address
- Phone #’s
- Police Reports
- BWC videos



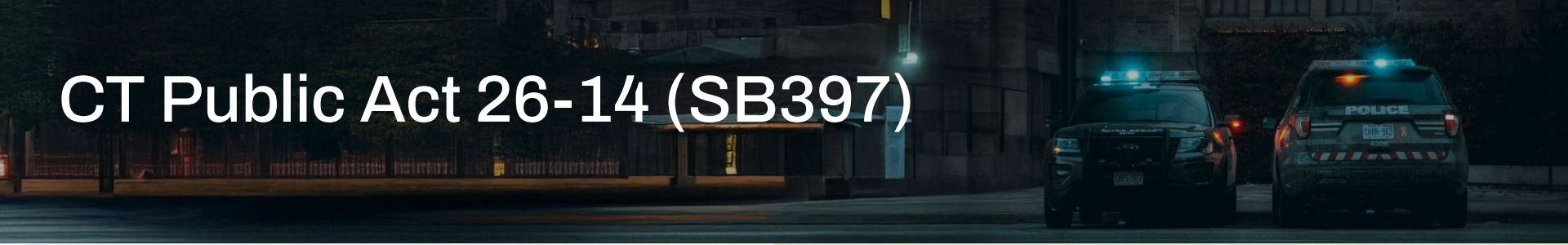
Built with Privacy in Mind

Protecting privacy by design

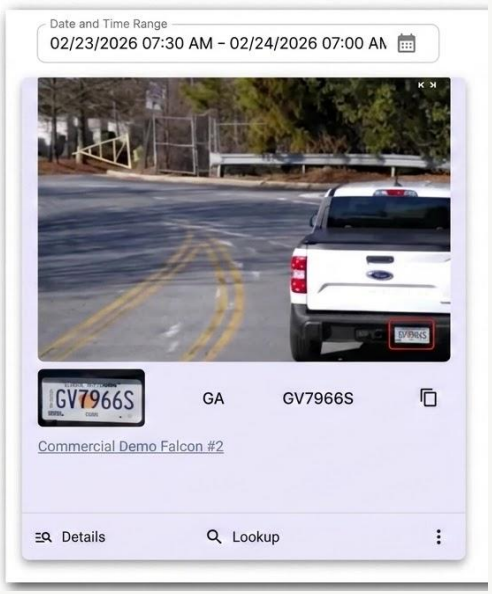
- Data is 100% owned by Newtown PD and will **never** be sold.
- Data is 100% anonymous
- 21 day deletion automatically tested annually by independent auditors (SOC 2 Type II)
- ALPRs only takes images of publicly available information (US v. Knotts 1983).
- Only Newtown PD decides who to share with, not Flock (CT State Law).
- No facial recognition.

All data is encrypted in transit and at rest including and aligned with:

- FBI Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Compliant
- NDAA
- SOC2 (Type II) Independently audited controls covering security, availability, and confidentiality.
- ISO 27001 (Data Security and Privacy) Information security management aligned with international standards.
- ISO 42001 (AI)
- Higher Education Community Vendor Assessment Tool (HECVAT)
- Aligned with the security protocols established by NIST Cybersecurity as well as the Cloud Security Alliance CAIQ framework. Stored on the AWS GovCloud.



CT Public Act 26-14 (SB397)



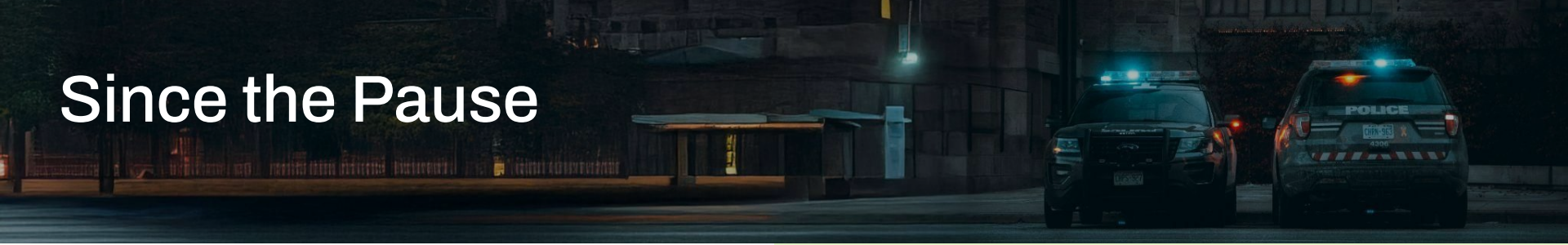
What is Data?

- 100% anonymous
- Picture of a government issued registration plate
- Point-in-time picture of a motor vehicle
- Newtown PD **owns** all data (images) collected
- 21 day deletion automatically tested annually by independent auditors (SOC 2 Type II)

What Data is NOT….

- **No** Owner or passenger information
- **No** tracking
- **No** destination or origin identification
- **No** facial recognition

Since the Pause



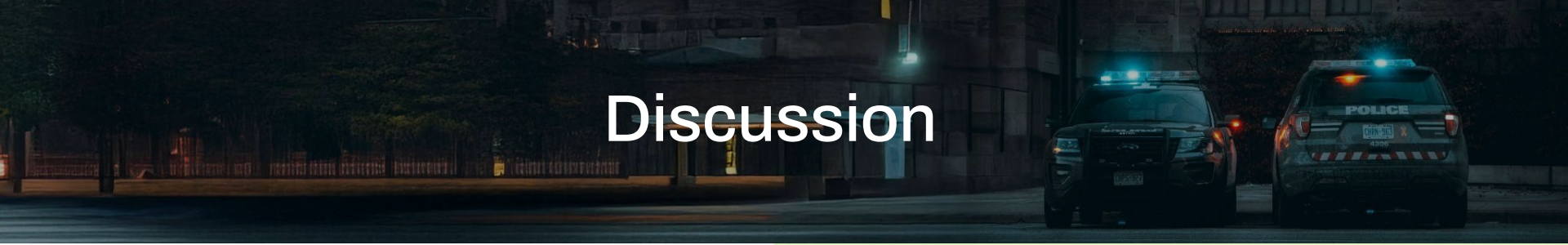
2600011298	8/6/2026	Evading	$6,500	Arrest made	1		
2600011555	08/11/2026	Stolen Vehicle assist outside agency	$90,835	Assiting outside agency on LPR hits in our town			1
2600011583	08/25/2026	Stolen car/Plate	$30,000	Car recovered by Hartford PD, Plate stolen, Unable to access ALPR for further investigation	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		
2600013764	9/24/2026	Property Damage	$700	Unable to access ALPR	1		
2600001443	10/6/2026	Suspicious activity- 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		
			$110,356	**Total Value Since Pause (8/21/26)**			
			$355,542	**Overall Total Value (since 2022)**	**32**	**8**	**3**
		Color Code Identifiers					
		Human Related Crime/Need					
		Incidents since pause					

CT Public Act 26-14 (SB397)

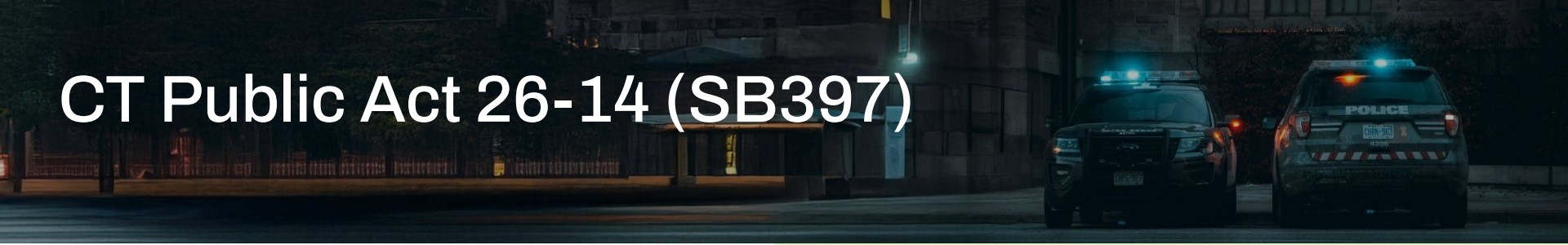


Data Sharing

- CT state law only allows sharing is with:
  - Law enforcement
  - Connecticut, New York, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts.
- Broader sharing (including most federal agencies or other states) generally requires a judicial warrant or court order.
- ALPR vendors **cannot sell** Newtown's data or **share it**.



Discussion



CT Public Act 26-14 (SB397)



Policy, Transparency & Oversight Requirements

- The Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC) must adopt a model ALPR policy by December 1, 2026.
- Each law enforcement agency must adopt and implement a policy (at least as protective as the model) by early 2027.
- Required elements include:
  - Standards for hotlists (sources, supervisory approval, validation, time limits).
  - Data access controls and audit logs.
  - Quarterly audits (Newtown/Monthly)
  - Public transparency (publishing usage policies and annual statistical reports).

CT Public Act 26-14 (SB397)



Additional Protections

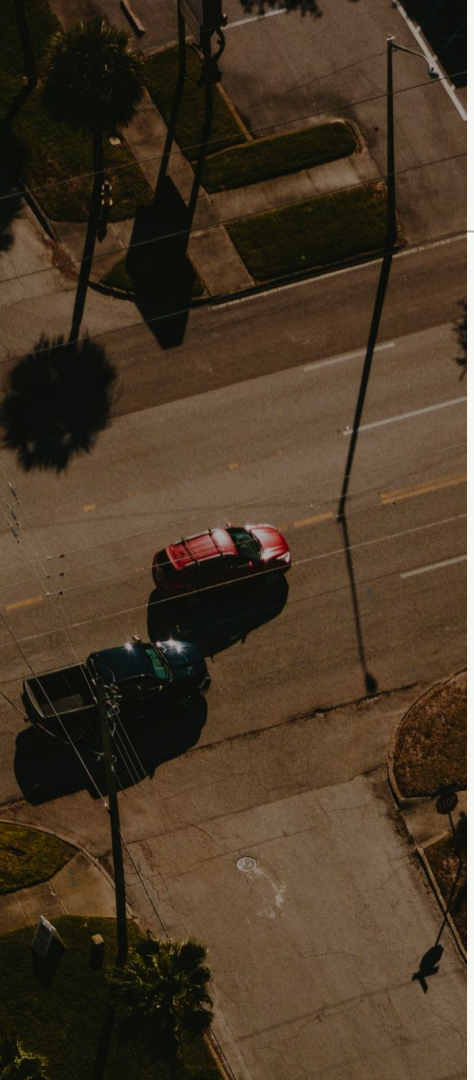
- Restrictions on placing fixed ALPRs near certain sensitive facilities (e.g., those providing reproductive or gender-affirming care).
- ALPR data is treated as confidential and not subject to routine Freedom of Information Act disclosure (with limited exceptions for device locations and redacted audit logs).

Bottom line: 2026 update to CT law allows continued use of ALPRs for traditional crime-fighting purposes (stolen cars, wanted persons, missing persons, etc.) while imposing some of the stricter statewide limits in the country on data retention, sharing, and prohibited uses.

Supported by; US Supreme Court ruled that on a public roadway citizens do not have an expectation of privacy (US v. Knotts 1983)

How the System is Used

& Guardrails to Protect our Residents



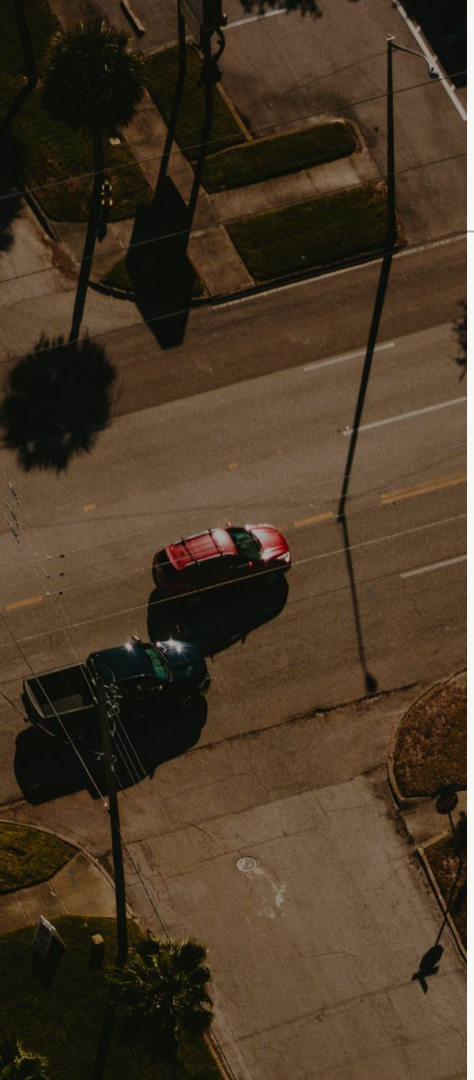
Built with Protections in Place

Misuse & Oversight

- CT law enforcement takes these violations seriously; it is a **felony** to misuse an ALPR system.
- Officers would be **arrested** for misuse of these systems and/or disciplined up to and including termination based on the severity of the violation.
- **Audit Assistance** is used identify unusual or improper usage patterns more quickly and strengthen oversight before problems escalate.
- Newtown will deploy **proactive lockout once available.**
- Newtown PD discipline policy places these types of violations in categories depending on their seriousness, which carry penalties from an unpaid suspension up to termination.

What is Newtown PD Doing?

- Launched transparency portal.
- Responded to residents inquiries.
- Open house presentations at the Police Department, Community Center, and Senior Center, providing community education on this topic and similar.
- Posted General Order 3.20 (ALPR Policy) on the department's transparency portal/website.
- Supplied multiple fact sheets to the BOS, LC, BOF on ALPR and Red Light and Speed Management cameras.
- Borough Presentation.
- Invited Newtown Elected Officials to two ALPR symposiums.
- ALPR discussions w/ LC during budget prep, as well as offline conversations.
- Coordinated w/ LC to host a roundtable discussion for Sept.

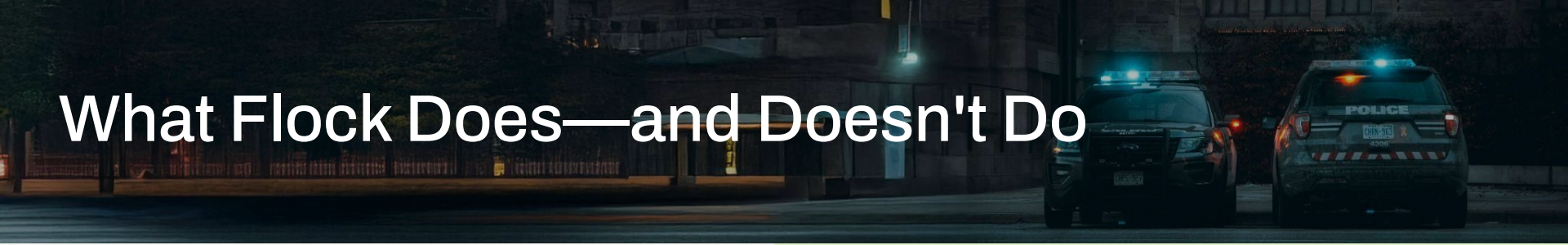


Operational Deployment & Use

- Placed at locations so that hotlist vehicle entering town can be identified quickly.
- All hits must be **verified** prior to taking action.
- Require multi factor authentication on sign-in.
- Officers are alerted to hotlist vehicles entering town allowing officers to flood the area preventing crime and catching criminals.
- ALPRs are a force multiplier.
- Newtown PD has had NO misuse of ALPR's in over 18 years.
- Technology is part of everyday life, we as law enforcement must embrace it to keep up with the changing world.

Benefits:

- Since the full implementation of static ALPRs, auto thefts in Newtown dropped 44%.
- Closure rates on criminal cases have increased.
- Reduction in investigative time.
- Solving many crimes that would have gone **unsolved**.
- Locating missing & endangered persons.
- Locating and recovering stolen vehicles.
- Just to name a few.



What Flock Does—and Doesn't Do

Flock ALPR Does

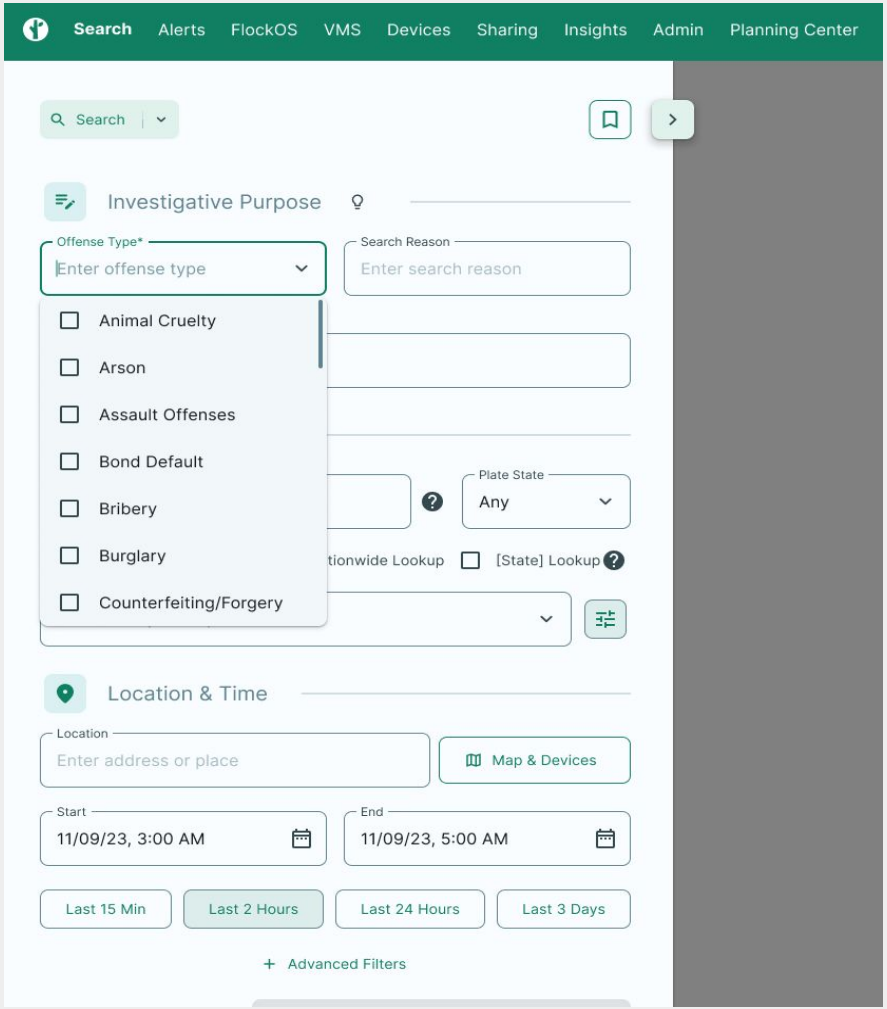
- Take a point in time picture of a vehicle traveling on a public road
- Capture make, color, model, and license plate at the rear of a vehicle
- Support only criminal investigations
- Keep permanently a log of every search made by local law enforcement

Flock APLR Does Not

- Use facial recognition
- Allow for the search of people, pets, clothing
- Connect to DMV systems or contain any information about the driver or the vehicle
- Generate automatic traffic enforcement tickets
- Track a vehicle continuously
- Sell or share data

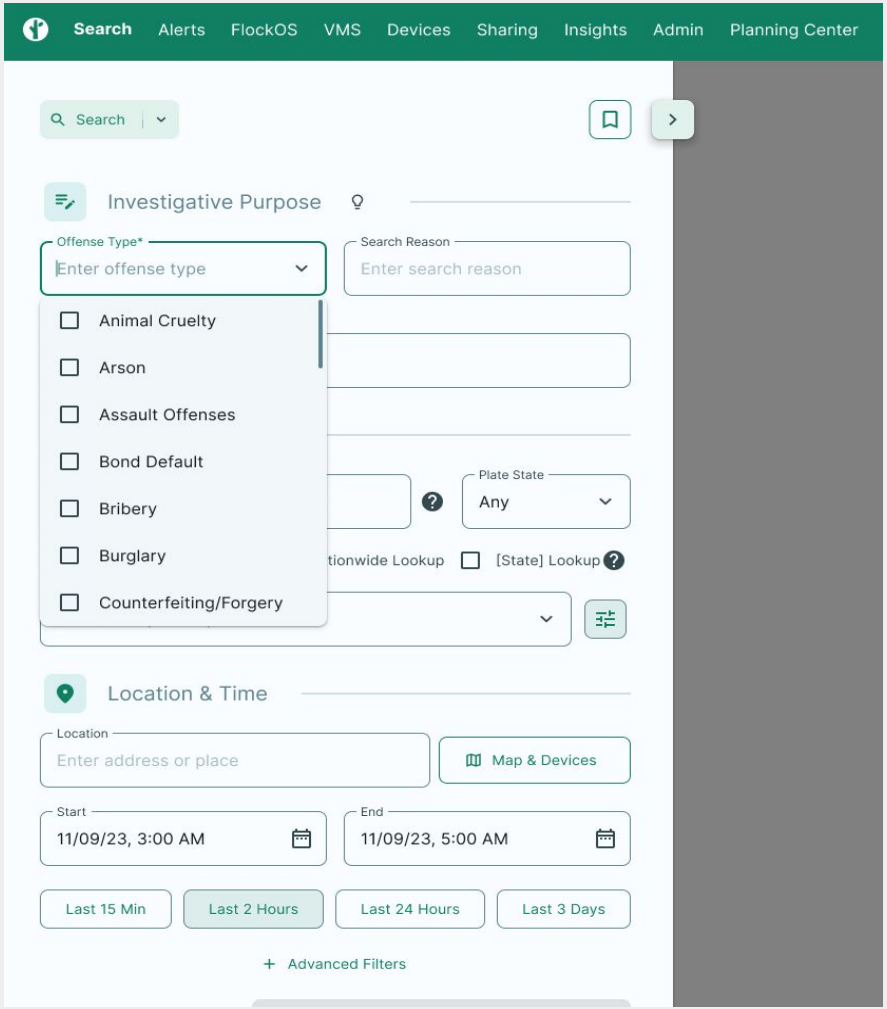
Offense Type Dropdown

- To query the system an Offense Type and Search Reason are required.
- The drop down list of Offense Types was pulled from National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).



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Flock Safety

ALPR Transparency Portal

- Success stories
- Display technology policies
- Publish usage metrics
- More at: transparency.flocksafety.com/newtown-ct-pd

Permanent Audit Log

- **Every query** requires a registered user ID with an offense type & reason code.
- User logs are saved in a **permanent audit trail.**
- Newtown PD conducts monthly **audits to ensure legal usage.**
- **Newtown PD uses Audit Assistance**, which detects abnormal activity and flags it for Administrator review.



Data & Usage Summary

Data Retention
The number of days data is retained.
30 days

Unique Vehicles Detected
Number of unique plate reads over the last 30 days.
352,752

Number of Searches
Total user search sessions over the last 30 days.
121

Hotlists Alerted On
National and statewide hotlist sources.
NCIC, NCMEC Amber Alert

Number of Hotlist Hits
Total hotlist hits over the last 30 days.
359

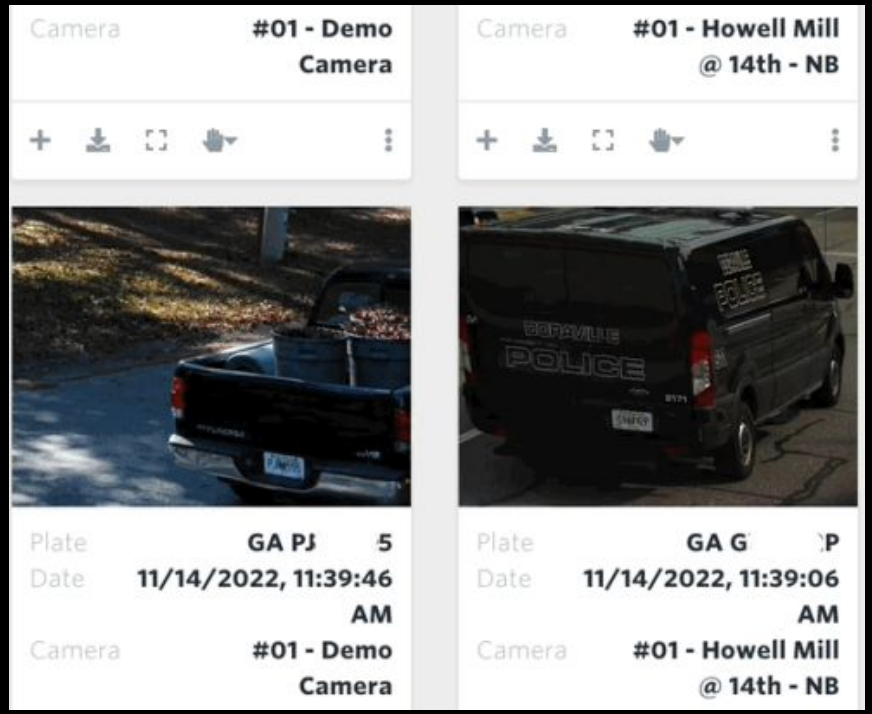
What's Detected
License Plates, Vehicles that are publicly available in plain view

What's Not Detected
Facial recognition, People, Gender, Race

Acceptable Use Policy
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Prohibited Uses
Immigration enforcement, traffic enforcement, harassment or intimidation, usage based solely on a protected class (i.e. race, sex, religion), Personal use.

Hotlist Policy
Hotlist hits are required to be human verified prior to action.



Myths and Facts

Myth

ALPRs can track people and show police everywhere they go.

Fact

LPRs take a point-in-time image of the rear of vehicles on public roadways. They **do not** continuously track vehicles. Any images not used for an investigation are deleted. Courts have consistently found that taking images of public documents (license plates) on public roads is not a violation of privacy.

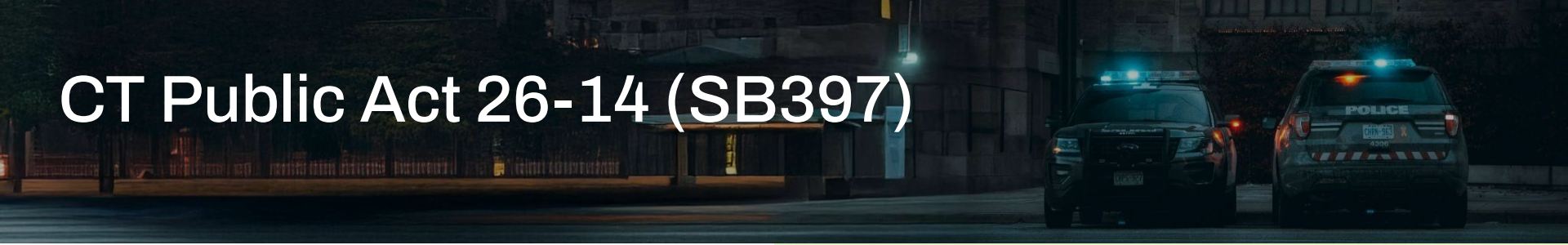
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CT Public Act 26-14 (SB397)

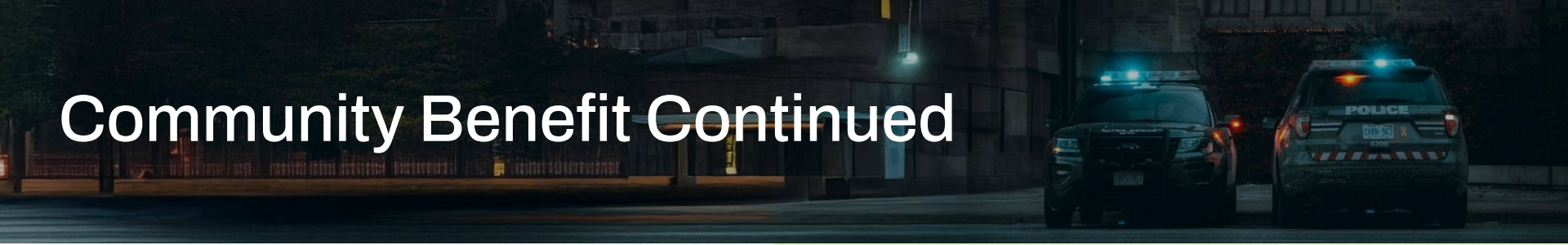


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Path Forward

1. The Newtown Police Department will put a moratorium on any new deployments of static ALPRs.
2. The Governor of CT signed legislation in May of this year which governs the use of ALPR systems in CT.
3. The Newtown Board of Police Commissioners and Newtown Police Department will continue to take guidance from the State moving forward.
4. The Newtown Police Department will continue to deploy all new audit tools to ensure legal compliance by all officers such as Proactive Lockout.
5. The Newtown Police Department will work with our elected officials and residents to ensure they understand the legal and departmental compliance requirements imposed on law enforcement's use of ALPRs.
6. The Newtown Police Department will regularly share success stories.
7. Offer ride-alongs or demonstrations so residents can see how the technology works in practice.
8. The Newtown Police Department will hold an open house to educate residents on the facts surrounding the use of ALPR systems and the protections in place.



Community Benefit Continued

- A man with no shirt was reported to be leaving items on the side of the road at 1 am, including his own cell phone, before driving away. Contact with family determined he was from Cape Cod, had no ties to Newtown, and suffered from both depression and diabetic illness. ALPRs helped identify his plate, which was entered to check his welfare. He was located by another agency in NY thanks to this and transported to the hospital for treatment.

- A Vehicle struck and injured a young pedestrian on Wasserman Way. She wasn't able to get the offender's full license plate before he drove off. The ALPR system allowed us to identify the vehicle and pursue an arrest warrant for the offender.

- A FedEx driver was robbed of packages by force in the Big Y parking lot (adjacent to My Place and across from Newtown Middle School. Based on a general car description, officers were able to obtain a specific vehicle and plate from the ALPR system and put surrounding departments on the lookout. Because of this, police in New York stopped and detained the individual shortly after the crime. The suspect also had multiple warrants for his arrest at the time of apprehension.

- A local retailer had more than $700 in product stolen by an unidentified offender. A person of interest was developed, and the ALPR system identified the suspect's vehicle from Winchester, CT, in Newtown at the date and time of the larceny. The suspect had 11 previous larceny arrests and 2 active warrants; an arrest is pending.

- A dementia patient unknowingly drove off from his caretaker leaving her stranded at a convenience store in NY. With the use of an ALPR, we were able to determine the patient returned to Newtown and was located safely and returned to his caretaker.

- Two 14-year-old girls claimed they were running away to another state, their families reported them missing to the Newtown Police Department. Utilizing the town's ALPR system, officers captured the license plate of a Lyft driver who had picked up the juveniles. This crucial lead allowed investigators to quickly track the vehicle's movements, establish contact with the driver, and ensure the missing girls were safely returned to their families.

Many, more success stories...



Flock Safety

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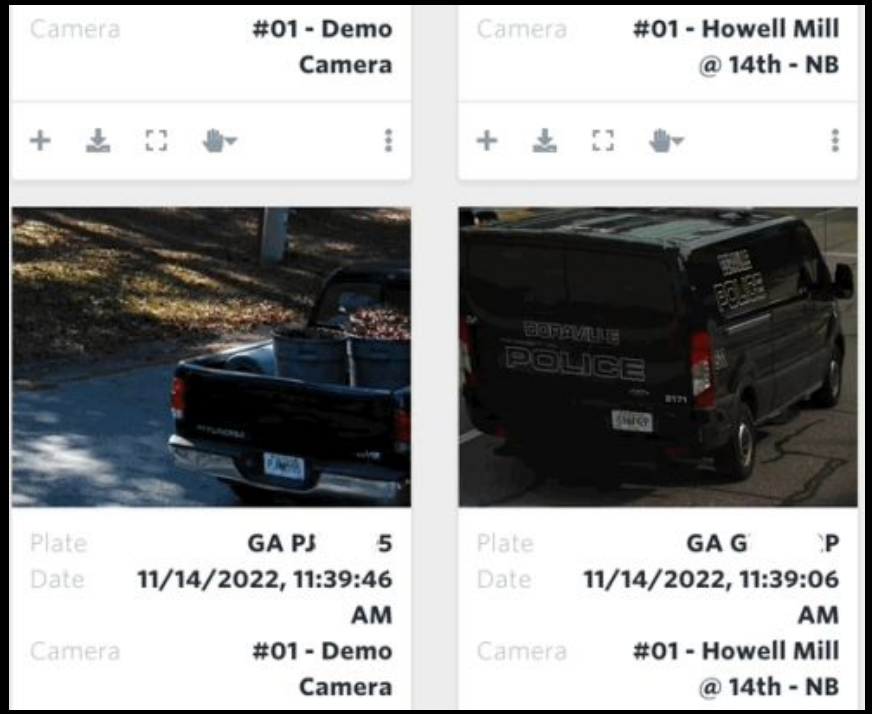
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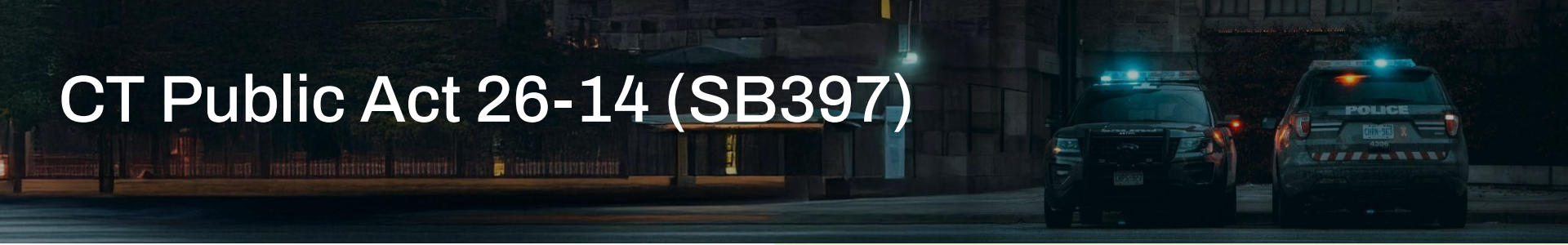
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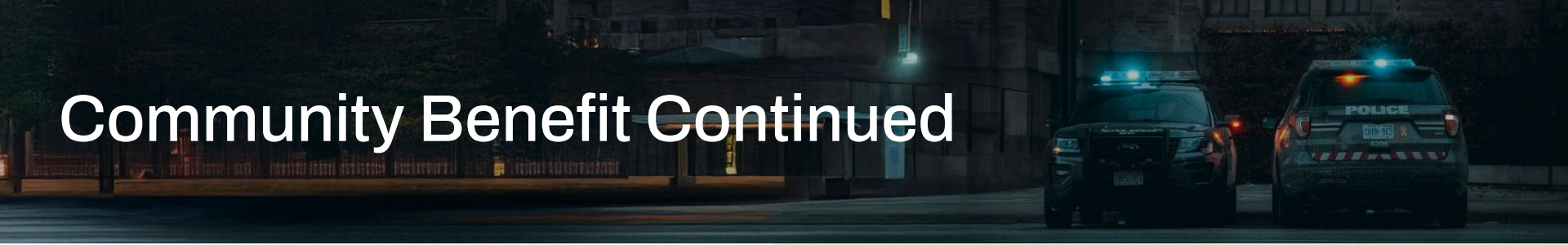


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  - Quarterly audits (Newtown/Monthly)
  - Public transparency (publishing usage policies and annual statistical reports).

Path Forward

1. The Newtown Police Department will put a moratorium on any new deployments of static ALPRs.
2. The Governor of CT signed legislation in May of this year which governs the use of ALPR systems in CT.
3. The Newtown Board of Police Commissioners and Newtown Police Department will continue to take guidance from the State moving forward.
4. The Newtown Police Department will continue to deploy all new audit tools to ensure legal compliance by all officers such as Proactive Lockout.
5. The Newtown Police Department will work with our elected officials and residents to ensure they understand the legal and departmental compliance requirements imposed on law enforcement's use of ALPRs.
6. The Newtown Police Department will regularly share success stories.
7. Offer ride-alongs or demonstrations so residents can see how the technology works in practice.
8. The Newtown Police Department will hold an open house to educate residents on the facts surrounding the use of ALPR systems and the protections in place.



Community Benefit Continued

- A man with no shirt was reported to be leaving items on the side of the road at 1 am, including his own cell phone, before driving away. Contact with family determined he was from Cape Cod, had no ties to Newtown, and suffered from both depression and diabetic illness. ALPRs helped identify his plate, which was entered to check his welfare. He was located by another agency in NY thanks to this and transported to the hospital for treatment.

- A Vehicle struck and injured a young pedestrian on Wasserman Way. She wasn't able to get the offender's full license plate before he drove off. The ALPR system allowed us to identify the vehicle and pursue an arrest warrant for the offender.

- A FedEx driver was robbed of packages by force in the Big Y parking lot (adjacent to My Place and across from Newtown Middle School. Based on a general car description, officers were able to obtain a specific vehicle and plate from the ALPR system and put surrounding departments on the lookout. Because of this, police in New York stopped and detained the individual shortly after the crime. The suspect also had multiple warrants for his arrest at the time of apprehension.

- A local retailer had more than $700 in product stolen by an unidentified offender. A person of interest was developed, and the ALPR system identified the suspect's vehicle from Winchester, CT, in Newtown at the date and time of the larceny. The suspect had 11 previous larceny arrests and 2 active warrants; an arrest is pending.

- A dementia patient unknowingly drove off from his caretaker leaving her stranded at a convenience store in NY. With the use of an ALPR, we were able to determine the patient returned to Newtown and was located safely and returned to his caretaker.

- Two 14-year-old girls claimed they were running away to another state, their families reported them missing to the Newtown Police Department. Utilizing the town's ALPR system, officers captured the license plate of a Lyft driver who had picked up the juveniles. This crucial lead allowed investigators to quickly track the vehicle's movements, establish contact with the driver, and ensure the missing girls were safely returned to their families.

Many, more success stories...

Proven Impact, Trusted Partners

NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN®

"By utilizing technology like Flock's License Plate Recognition (LPR) camera system, we have seen remarkable results. **Over 100 missing children cases have been resolved thanks to the swift action enabled by this technology."**
-NCMEC

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
NAACP
FOUNDED 1909
OAKLAND NAACP

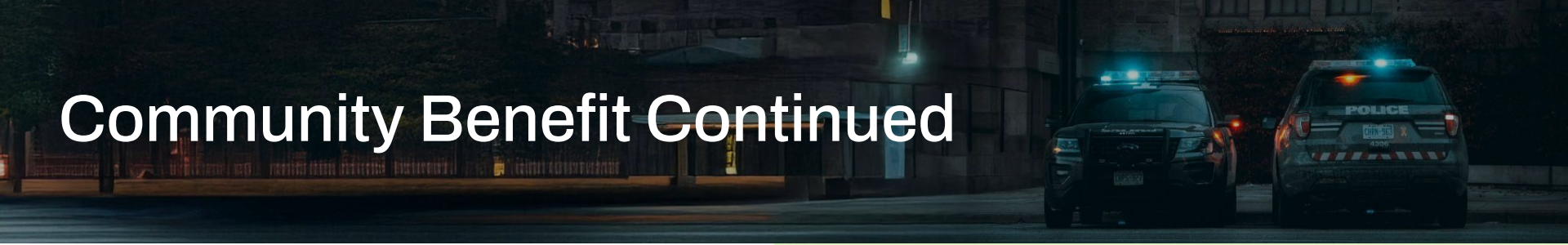
"In a moment when our communities are demanding both public safety and equitable justice, Flock Safety's LPR technology offers a **powerful tool to reduce bias in policing.**"
-Oakland Branch of the NAACP

MADD™

"We believe that any technology that **increases post-crash responsiveness and accountability** will help to raise awareness and change behaviors to avoid impaired driving"
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

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