Supporting Materials - Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Technology in Milwaukee

Submitted by Alderman Peter Burgelis

Vice Chair, Public Safety and Health Committee – City of Milwaukee

Date: May 21, 2025

Technology in Use

- ALPR System: Flock Safety
- Total ALPR Cameras in Milwaukee: 31 units across all police districts
- Standard Operating Procedure (SOP): MPD ALPR policy effective October 7, 2024
- Technology Limitations:
 - No facial recognition
 - o No personally identifiable information (PII) collected
 - Data not stored permanently; retained only as needed for active investigations

Current Usage Metrics

- 13,734 searches conducted between April 18 May 18, 2025
- **O faces searched or recognized-** technology is not capable of facial recognition
- 9,914 stolen vehicle alerts issued over the past year
 - Actionable use varies—response may be deprioritized due to concurrent assignments
- Daily reliance by:
 - o Criminal Investigation Bureau
 - o Gun Crimes Division
 - o Major Crimes Division
 - District patrol units

Investigative Impact – Selected Case Examples

- May 2024 Homicide at 57th & North solved by linking vehicle to Chicago crew
- January 2025 Witness misidentification corrected via ALPR in Mill Rd. homicide
- May 2025 ALPR and ShotSpotter together led to arrest in fatal shooting at 1912 S. Amy Pl.; two
 children were present in the home
- November 2024 Clerk homicide at 43rd & Burleigh solved through vehicle tracing
- Oakland Gyros shooting, robbery investigations, and reckless driving incidents resolved with critical leads from ALPR data

Need for Additional Investment

- Coverage Gaps Remain: Current ALPR deployment does not meet the full demand of investigations
- Demand Outpaces Supply: Officers routinely rely on ALPR data, but effectiveness is limited by geographic camera placement
- Funding is Primary Barrier: Expansion is not feasible without external grant assistance

Legislative Solution

- LRB 2599 (Authors: Rep. Todd Novak & Sen. Jesse James)
 - Establishes a DOJ-administered grant program to fund ALPR purchases
 - o Guarantees at least 50% of funds for rural agencies
 - Opens opportunities for urban expansion in cities like Milwaukee

Contact:

Alderman Peter Burgelis peter.burgelis@milwaukee.gov | (414) 286-3768