



Resolution Opposing the Expansion of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Mass Surveillance in Virginia

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WHEREAS, Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) are high-speed, artificial-intelligence-enabled cameras capable of capturing and processing detailed images of vehicles, including license plates, make, model, color, occupants, and surrounding areas, along with precise time and GPS location data; and

WHEREAS, these systems capture and store data from all vehicles scanned, not just those connected to investigations, creating vast databases of information that can be retained indefinitely and shared with private companies, federal agencies, and out-of-state law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Police Department in 2023 launched a pilot program using ALPR technology from Flock Safety, today it operates 67 devices strategically placed on public roads and major access points across the city.

WHEREAS, there have been examples from around the country where ALPR data has been misused, including through unauthorized access by federal agencies for immigration enforcement activities without consent; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia State Crime Commission has acknowledged that ALPR deployment can disproportionately target Black and Brown communities, exacerbating racial disparities in policing and the criminal legal system; and

WHEREAS, the lack of meaningful restrictions or penalties for ALPR data misuse, coupled with the integration of artificial intelligence into surveillance practices, heightens the potential for abuse, false identifications, and suppression of lawful dissent;

WHEREAS, while consistent with new Virginia law, the City of Alexandria has adopted a policy restricting access to data from ALPR cameras to Virginia law enforcement

agencies unless federal or out-of-state agencies obtain a warrant or court order to access it, the underlying technology and data-sharing infrastructure remain in place and is subject to future expansion;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that while the Alexandria Democratic Committee (ADC) acknowledges and is grateful for the City of Alexandria's effort to restrict access to local ALPR data, the Committee remains deeply concerned that Alexandria's 67 ALPR cameras are part of a nationwide surveillance infrastructure with capabilities, retention systems, and cross-agency access that exceed any one locality's ability to control; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ADC calls on members of the Virginia General Assembly to limit any future legislation or funding that expands this surveillance architecture, and to continue to follow the lead of Alexandria's own delegate, Leader Charniele Herring, and the immigrants rights organizations she collaborated with to enact rigorous statutory protections ensuring strict limits on data sharing, sharply reduced retention periods, robust public transparency, meaningful civil-rights safeguards, and enforceable penalties for misuse; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the ADC urges local governments, law-enforcement agencies, and community leaders in Alexandria and across the Commonwealth to continue to strictly enforce all limits on ALPR use and data sharing; to refrain from entering into new or expanded agreements with private surveillance companies; and to continue to prioritize the safety, liberty, and privacy of all Virginians over the interests of corporate surveillance profiteers or the expansion of mass-data systems that threaten democratic accountability.

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