

# Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Public Awareness Program

## Dickenson County Sheriff's Office

### Program Overview

Consistent with its mission to *Serve with Courage, Honor, and Integrity by Protecting, Maintaining Trust, and Building Community Partnerships*, the Dickenson County Sheriff's Office utilizes Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology as a lawful and accountable tool to enhance public safety, support investigations, and promote proactive policing practices.

The Sheriff's Office recognizes that technology must be implemented responsibly and transparently. This public awareness program is intended to inform the community about the purpose, governance, oversight, and safeguards associated with the agency's use of ALPR systems.

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### Mission Alignment and Professional Standards

The deployment and operation of ALPR technology supports the agency's strategic vision and professional policing standards by:

- Enhancing crime prevention and investigative capabilities
- Supporting data-informed and intelligence-led policing
- Promoting officer safety and operational effectiveness
- Strengthening community trust through transparent and ethical use of technology

All ALPR operations are conducted in accordance with applicable federal and state laws, constitutional protections, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) guidance, and agency policy.

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### Policy Governance and Supervisory Oversight

The Dickenson County Sheriff's Office maintains written directives governing the acquisition, deployment, and use of ALPR technology. These directives establish clear expectations for lawful use, operational accountability, and supervisory review.

Key governance measures include:

- Defined authorized purposes for ALPR use aligned with legitimate law enforcement objectives
- Assignment of program oversight to designated supervisory personnel
- Documentation requirements for system use and investigative queries
- Compliance monitoring through supervisory review processes
- Administrative controls designed to prevent misuse or unauthorized access

Supervisors are responsible for ensuring personnel adhere to policy requirements and professional standards during ALPR operations.

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## **Training and Personnel Authorization**

Only trained and authorized personnel may operate or access ALPR systems. Training includes:

- Legal and constitutional considerations, including privacy rights
- Agency policies and procedures governing ALPR use
- Ethical responsibilities and professional conduct standards
- Data security and information management protocols
- Appropriate investigative applications and limitations

Training supports consistent, lawful, and professional use aligned with accreditation standards.

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## **Data Management, Privacy Protection, and Security**

The Dickenson County Sheriff's Office is committed to protecting civil liberties while using technology to enhance public safety.

Safeguards include:

- Collection limited to license plates visible from public vantage points
- Use restricted to legitimate law enforcement purposes
- Secure storage and controlled access to ALPR data
- Established data retention schedules consistent with legal requirements and agency policy
- Prohibition of unauthorized sharing, dissemination, or non-law enforcement use

The agency does not use ALPR technology to conduct surveillance based solely on protected characteristics or lawful activities.

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## **Audit, Accountability, and Compliance**

To ensure responsible use and adherence to professional standards, the Sheriff's Office implements ongoing accountability measures, including:

- Regular audits of system access and usage logs
- Supervisory review of ALPR-related activities
- Documentation and corrective action processes when necessary
- Continuous evaluation of policies and practices to maintain compliance with evolving legal and professional standards

These measures reinforce organizational accountability and support continuous improvement consistent with accreditation principles.

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## **Community Transparency and Engagement**

The Dickenson County Sheriff's Office values transparency and community partnership. Through this public awareness program, the agency provides information about how ALPR technology is used, why it is deployed, and the safeguards in place to protect privacy.

Community members are encouraged to contact the Sheriff's Office with questions or concerns regarding the ALPR program. Public engagement and open communication are essential components of maintaining trust and fostering collaborative relationships with the community.

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## **Commitment to Professional Excellence**

The Dickenson County Sheriff's Office remains committed to responsible innovation, ethical policing practices, and adherence to recognized professional standards. The use of ALPR technology reflects the agency's dedication to improving public safety while maintaining the highest levels of integrity, transparency, and accountability.