BRIGHTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
ALPR EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & FAQ

LICENSE PLATE READER TECHNOLOGY:
A TARGETED PUBLIC SAFETY TOOL

WHAT IS AN ALPR / LPR?

An ALPR (Automatic License Plate Recognition), also called LPR (License Plate Reader), is a camera system that automatically captures images of vehicle license plates and converts them into searchable text data.

HOW DOES AN ALPR WORK?

1. A mounted camera (on a patrol car, at an intersection, or at a fixed location) captures images of passing vehicles.
2. Software, provided by the ALPR vendor, reads the license plate number against law enforcement databases (e.g., stolen vehicles, wanted persons, AMBER Alerts).
3. If there is a match, officers are notified in real time.

WHAT ALPR SYSTEMS DO THE BRIGHTON POLICE DEPARTMENT UTILIZE?

1. **Axon** – This is mobile ALPR system that is integrated into every patrol vehicle as part of Axon's Fleet 3 technology, an advanced in-car video system.
2. **Leonardo ELSAG** – This is comprised of one fixed ALPR unit placed at an intersection and one mobile ALPR system in an unmarked police vehicle.
3. **Flock** – The Flock network is comprised of seven fixed ALPR units placed at various intersection and one mobile unit which can be moved as needed.

WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY BENEFITS OF THE BRIGHTON POLICE DEPARTMENT UTILIZING ALPRS IN THE CITY OF BRIGHTON?

1. Stolen Vehicle Recovery
   - ALPR systems quickly identify stolen vehicles and aid in increasing the recovery of stolen vehicles.

2. Public Safety & Crime Prevention
   - ALPRs can help identify vehicles connected to violent crime, people crimes, and property crimes.
   - Assists in locating suspects in active investigations.
   - Helps enforce protection orders or locate missing persons in urgent situations.

3. Officer Safety
   - Real-time alerts inform officers before they approach a vehicle that may be stolen or associated with a wanted or dangerous party.

4. Investigative Efficiency
   - Detectives can search historical plate data to:
     - Confirm whether a suspect vehicle was in a specific area.
     - Identify vehicles near a crime scene.
     - Establish timelines in ongoing investigations.
   - This reduces hours of manual video review and investigative labor.
   - The goal is to solve crimes within a limited investigative window.

5. Traffic & Community Safety
   - Assists with identifying habitual traffic violators.
   - Helps locate vehicles involved in hit-and run incidents.
   - Can support parking enforcement.

6. Resource Optimization

- Automates routine checks, allowing officers to focus on proactive policing rather than manually running plates.

WHAT DOES AN ALPR NOT DO?

- ALPR systems do not stop vehicles automatically; they simply provide alerts to officers, who then decide how to respond after verification of information.
- ALPRs do not track people in real time without cause; plates are only flagged when connected to a legitimate law enforcement purpose. (Most scans never trigger an alert.)
- ALPRs do not capture personal identity, driver information, or biometric data. The system reads a plate number, not who is inside the vehicle.
- ALPRs only read visible license plates which are public information displayed on vehicles.
    - Courts have consistently held that license plate displayed in public have no reasonable expectation of privacy. ALPR systems document what an officer could already observe from a public roadway.

WHAT SAFEGUARDS ARE PUT IN PLACE FOR ALPR USE?

- Access controls and user authentications.
- Defined permissible use policies tied to legitimate law enforcement purposes.
- Search justification, such as an offense type, is required for each search.
- Audit trails showing who accessed what and when are logged.
- Search filters are in place that are designed to remove BPD's devices from any search that appears to indicate that the search is connected to either immigration enforcement or reproductive care.
    - The filter applies to all searches performed that would include any of BPD's networks, whether by BPD's users or other agencies BPD shares with.
- Data retention limits.
- Supervisory oversight and review.

WHO DOES THE BRIGHTON POLICE DEPARTMENT SHARE ALPR DATA WITH AND WHO SHARES WITH THE BRIGHTON POLICE DEPARTMENT?

- The Brighton Police Department currently shares Flock data with 1563 vetted Flock law enforcement agency networks across the country, inclusive of Colorado networks.
    - BPD does not share data with private companies or the public.
    - BPD does not share with the Federal Government.
- The Brighton Police Department can access 1137 cameras in the state of Colorado, which is 84.34% of the cameras in the state.

WHY DOES THE BRIGHTON POLICE DEPARTMENT SHARE ALPR DATA WITH OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES?

In sharing ALPR data, BPD and other agencies expand the effectiveness of the system beyond city boundaries. If agencies do not share ALPR data, each jurisdiction sees only a small piece of the picture. Shared data creates a regional intelligence network.

- Crime crosses jurisdictions
- Faster stolen vehicle recovery
- Stronger investigations
- Officer safety
- Disruption of organized and repeat offenders
- Cost efficiency and return on investment

Sharing does not mean unlimited access; it means controlled, accountable collaboration.

**Information above was copied exactly as given to me from a Brighton City Council member on 2/18/26. It was in a Microsoft Doc that I copied to a shareable Google Doc. The exception is the highlights, which were mine. If you want the rabbit hole…..*

1/2025 Brighton City Council Flock documents

10/24/2025: ACLU: Flock Can Share Driver-Surveillance Data Even When Police Departments Opt Out, And Other Flock Developments

8/13/26: In response to Flock's announcement of operational changes, the ACLU breaks down why many fall short.
8/26/26: ACLU: FIght Creepy ALPR Cameras
8/2026: Flock Cameras Don't Keep Us Safe (short video 0:28)
DeFlock Brighton, Colorado (Facebook)
2026: Benn Jordan: We Hacked Flock Safety Cameras in under 30 Seconds.