

DARIEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community Information Bulletin

Serving and Protecting the City of Darien, Illinois



Frequently Asked Questions

Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Program

Department Message

The Darien Police Department is committed to using technology responsibly, transparently, and in a manner that maintains the trust of every resident we serve. This page exists, along with our Transparency Portal, because the department is committed to transparency, which is essential to community trust and effective law enforcement.

Transparency Portal - (<https://transparency.flocksafety.com/darien-il-pd>),

This page will be updated as new information becomes available. If you have a question not answered here, we encourage you to contact the Police Department directly.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What Is an Automated License Plate Reader?

A: An Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) is a camera system mounted at fixed locations on public roadways. As vehicles pass the camera, the system automatically captures an image of the license plate and records the plate number, along with the vehicle's make, model, color, direction of travel, and the date and time of the observation.

Q: When were ALPR's first installed?

A: The Darien Police Department began using ALPR technology in July 2024. Cameras are mounted at key entry and exit points of the city.

Q: Are these cameras red-light cameras?

A: No. ALPR cameras are not traffic enforcement cameras. They do not issue tickets, monitor speed, or enforce traffic signals.

Q: Is the Department watching me in real time?

A: No. The system does not have live monitoring. It is queried only when officers have a specific, documented law enforcement purpose, and only provides an image of the description of the vehicle that was searched.

Q: Does the system track where I go?

A: The system records when a vehicle passes a fixed camera location. It does not follow vehicles, track GPS location, or provide continuous monitoring. A vehicle that regularly passes a camera will have a record of those observations within the 7-day retention window.

Q: Can the camera identify me by my face?

A: No. ALPR cameras capture only what is already visible to any person on a public street. They do not record audio, use facial recognition, or identify the driver or passengers in a vehicle.

Q: How long is my data kept?

A: All ALPR records are automatically deleted after 7 days unless a specific record is relevant to an active criminal investigation, in which case it may be retained as evidence consistent with that investigation's requirements.

Q: Does a warrant need to be obtained to search the database?

A: No. Under current Illinois and federal law, a warrant is not required. License plates are required by law to be publicly visible and carry no recognized expectation of privacy on a public road.

Q: Who can search the ALPR database?

A: Access is limited to trained, authorized law enforcement personnel. Unauthorized access is subject to disciplinary action and potential criminal prosecution.

Q: Can immigration enforcement agencies access Darien's data?

A: No. Illinois law under 625 ILCS 5/2-130 prohibits sharing ALPR data with agencies that may use it for immigration enforcement. Darien does not authorize access to its data by federal immigration agencies or any out-of-state law enforcement.

Q: Was Darien involved in the data sharing violations identified in the 2025 Secretary of State audit?

A: No. Darien was not among the agencies identified in the Secretary of State's 2025 audit.

Q: Are the ALPR system and the in-car cameras (Axon Fleet) integrated?

A: No. These systems do not communicate with each other. ALPR data must be manually retrieved by authorized personnel and separately transferred into Evidence.com. There is no automated exchange of data between the two systems.