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June 12, 2025

ALPR National Lookup Policy Enforcement and Illinois Data Use

The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police is aware of recent issues with the use of Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) data by out-of-state agencies through the National Lookup feature. We take these concerns seriously and are intently focused on the significant issues resulting from the situation.

As soon as reports of these incidents surfaced, we immediately communicated to our members the importance of continuing to manage data access in strict accordance with Illinois law. We also emphasized the need to ensure that any data sharing with external partners includes proper vetting and formal agreements that align with state regulations. These events are a reminder of the responsibility we all share in safeguarding sensitive data and upholding public trust.

ALPRs are essential public safety tools. The devices regularly assist law enforcement in preventing violent crimes, finding missing people and property, deterring criminal activity, providing much-needed support in emergencies, and providing objective data that strengthens investigations. Each and every agency that utilizes ALPRs can provide examples of crimes they have prevented or solved using these vital tools.

We are committed to working closely with those ALPR companies that funnel the data between agencies across the nation. All organizations we have contacted have been extremely responsive, readily available, and supportive. We look forward to continued collaboration to ensure ALPR data is used safely, legally, and effectively in service to keeping our communities safe.

We will be providing further details on the issue as well as options available to agencies soon.