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Violent Crime Reduction
Small Rural Tribal

SPOTLIGHT

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3 • November 19, 2024

License Plate Readers to Reduce Violent Crime: A Strategic Approach



License Plate Readers (LPRs) are special cameras designed to capture and record license plates from passing vehicles. While some are mounted on police cars, most agencies now place them at key spots around town, where they can scan license plates 24/7. These cameras instantly check the plates against databases to flag cars involved in crimes, stolen vehicles, or people with outstanding warrants. They are also useful for sending out alerts about missing persons and assisting with traffic enforcement. Beyond real-time use, LPR data is stored securely and can help track vehicles connected to crimes, study traffic patterns, and boost investigations.

Best Practices for Using LPRs to Reduce Crime

To get the most out of LPR technology in reducing violent crime, law enforcement should follow a few key practices that respect both commu-

nity concerns and legal guidelines.

Strategic Placement of LPRs: LPRs work best when placed in the right locations. This includes areas with high crime rates, known trouble spots, busy roads, and major intersections. Putting LPRs in these places increases the chances of collecting useful information.

Data Sharing and Cooperation:

When properly protected, sharing LPR data between neighboring police departments can make it even more effective. Criminals often travel across city lines, and working together helps ensure violent offenders cannot escape detection just by moving between towns.

Protecting Privacy and Being

Transparent: People might be concerned about their privacy when it comes to LPR use, so it is important to have clear rules on how data is col-

lected, stored, and accessed. Being open about how LPR data is used and how long it is retained can help build public trust and ease concerns about misuse or government overreach.

Regular Audits and Officer Training:

LPR systems should be regularly reviewed to make sure they are being used properly and efficiently. Police officers also need proper training on how to use LPR data in investigations, so they apply it correctly and ensure any evidence gathered can be used in court.

License Plate Readers provide law enforcement with a powerful tool to help reduce violent crime. By using LPR technology strategically and transparently, police can balance public safety with protecting individual privacy rights.

For more on LPR's, visit the [JSS webinar on LPRs](#).

Benefits of LPRs:

1. Locating wanted persons
2. Identifying criminal suspects
3. Locating missing persons (child or elderly)
4. Recovering stolen vehicles

