Violent Crime Reduction using LPRs

Issues, answers, and challenges

September 18, 2024

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JSS
JUSTICE & SECURITY STRATEGIES

Introductions:

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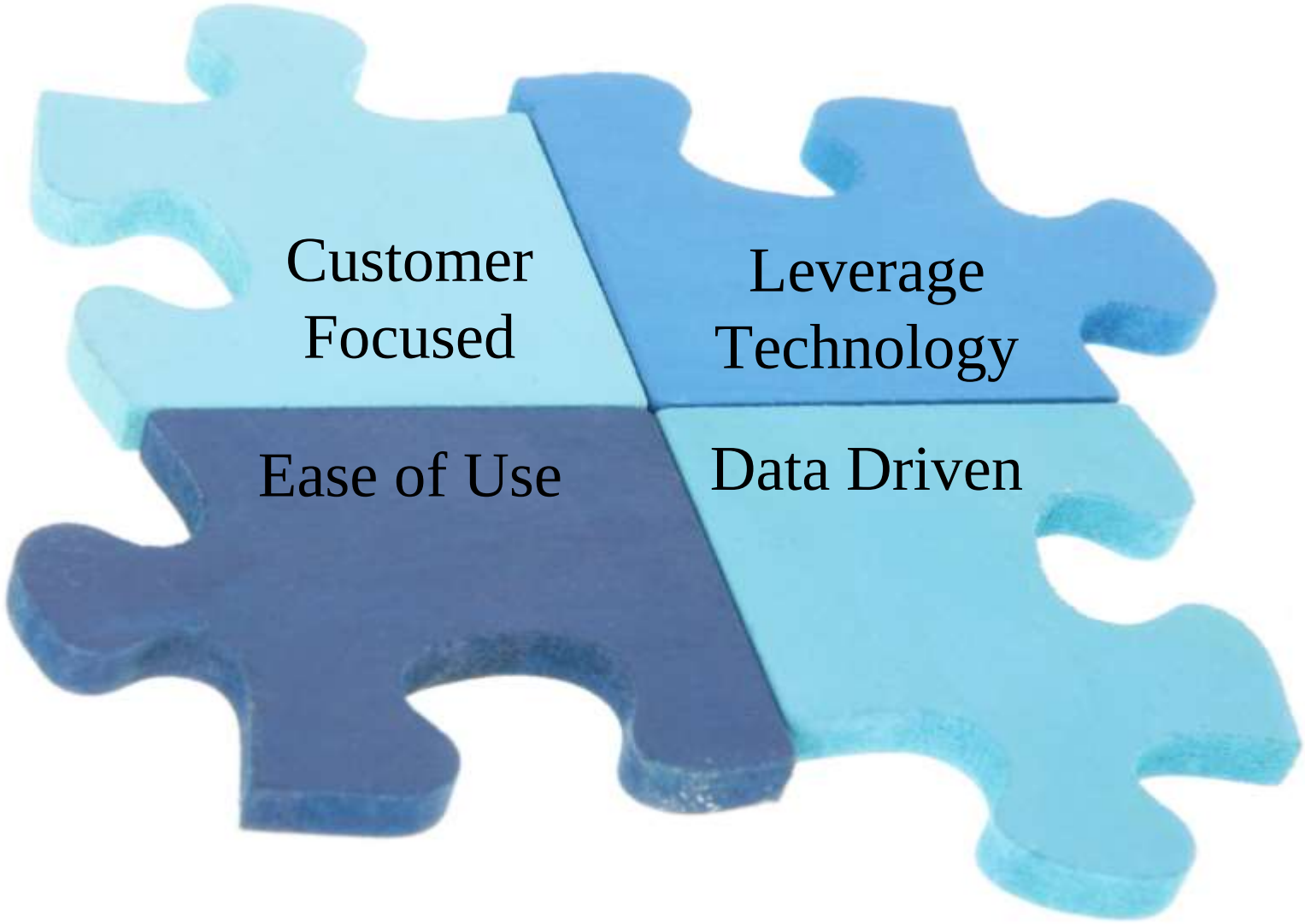
Cambridge (MA) PD

JSS Justice & Security Strategies, Inc. *Moving Organizations Forward*

SRT VCR Micro-Grant Principles



Overview

- What is an LPR?
- Concerns regarding LPRs
- Questions for Vendors
- Using LPRs
- Case Study

What is an LPR?

- An LPR (or ALPR) is a device that reads license plates.
- Vehicle mounted or stationary
- Triggered by motion or uses Optical Character Recognition (OCR) to scan for tags

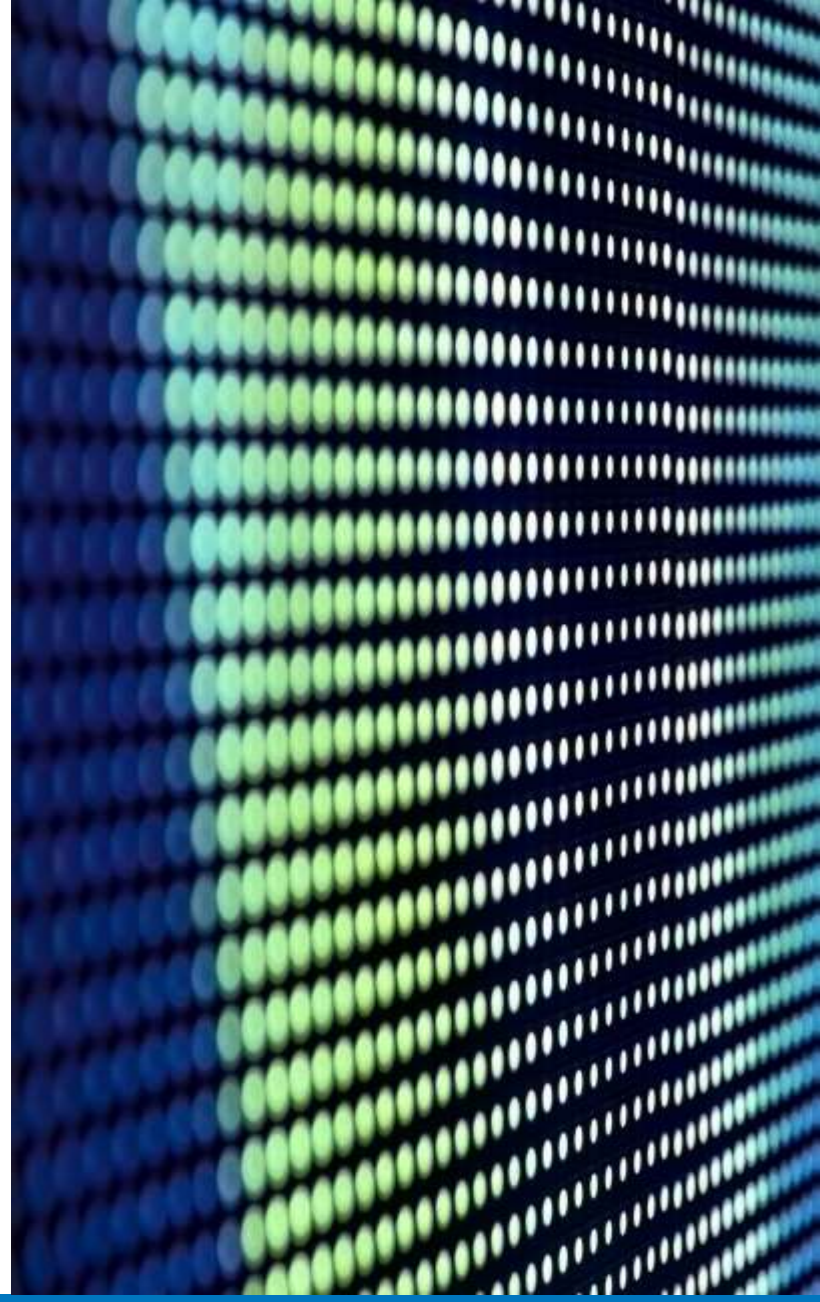
What is an LPR?

Imagine a person on the side of the road, taking pictures of vehicles as they pass and then comparing the license plates in those images against a list of all the stolen cars, missing persons, wanted persons etc.

Law Enforcement Use of LPR

Investigative Applications

- Producing Investigative Leads
- Facilitating crime scene analysis
- Identifying suspects
- Facilitating interrogation
- Corroboration of victim/witness statements
- Integration of other technologies



Protection, Preservation & Retention

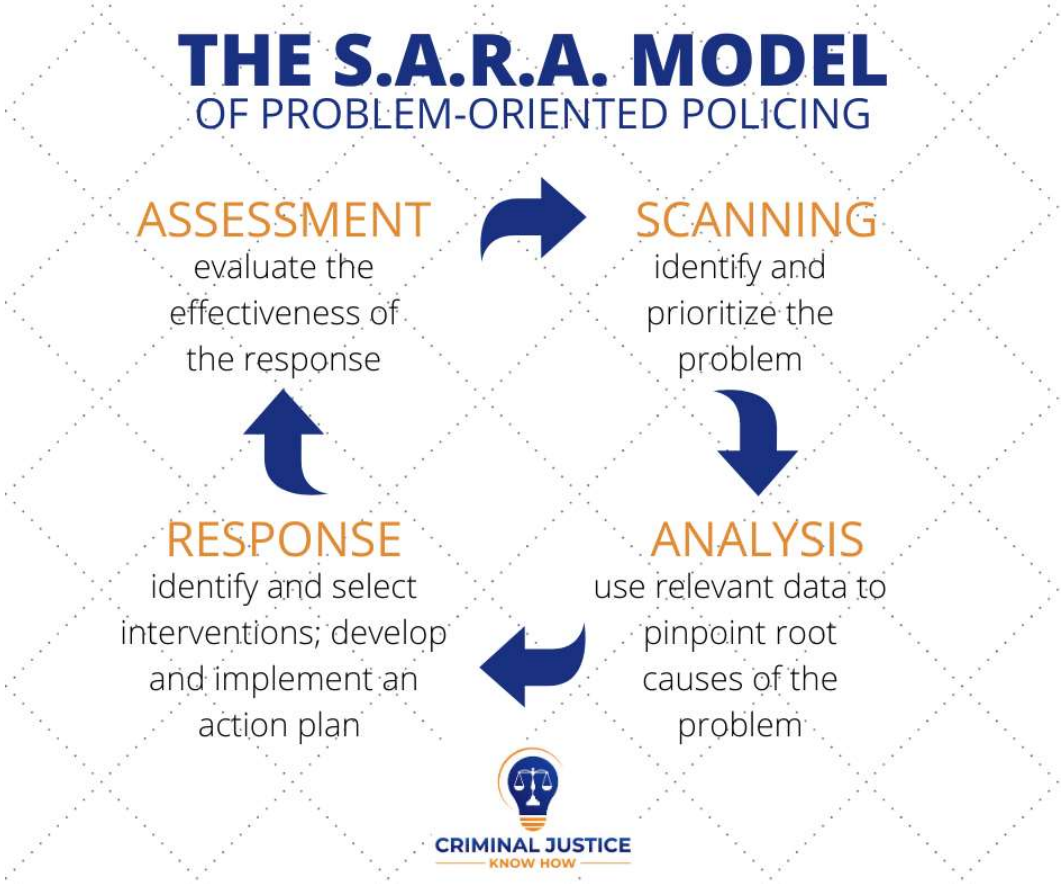
Data Retention

Auditing, Data Collection, and Reporting

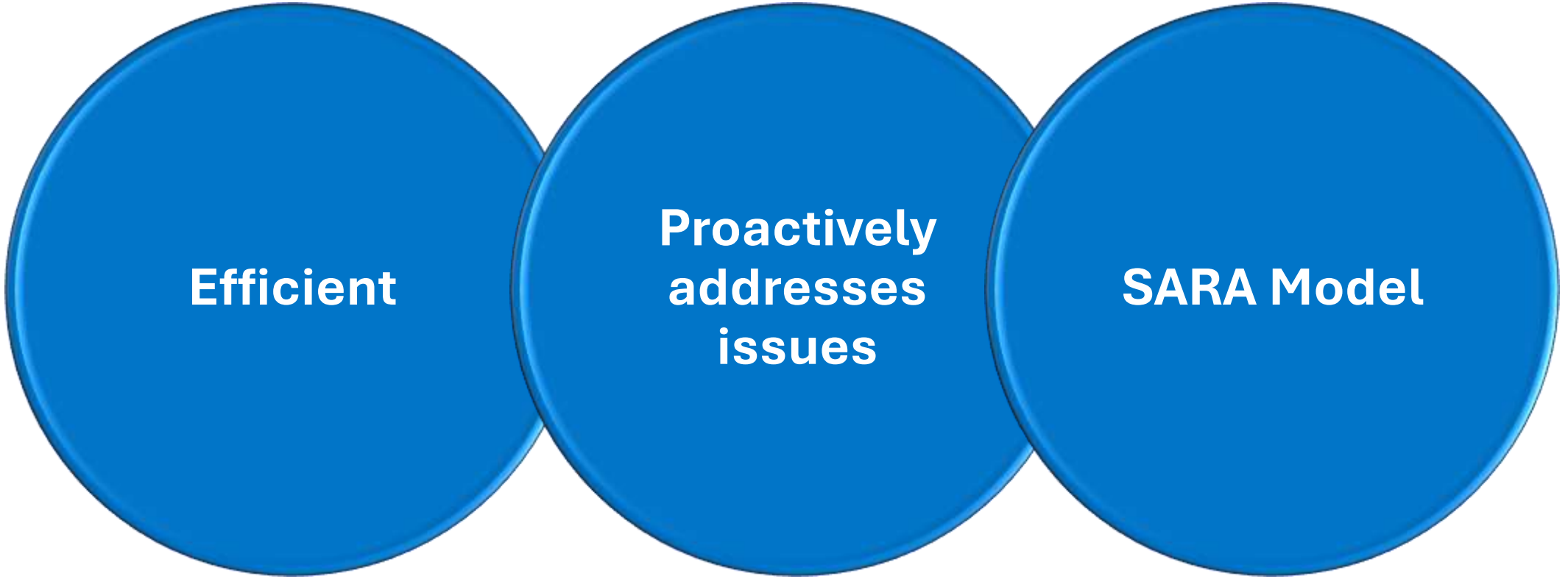
Security

SARA Process

- Scanning-identified pursuit problem
- Analysis- decided to change tactics
- Response-Trained trainers and then officers
- Assessment- Continually updated tactics and training



Why LPR?



Why LPR?

Multiple capabilities

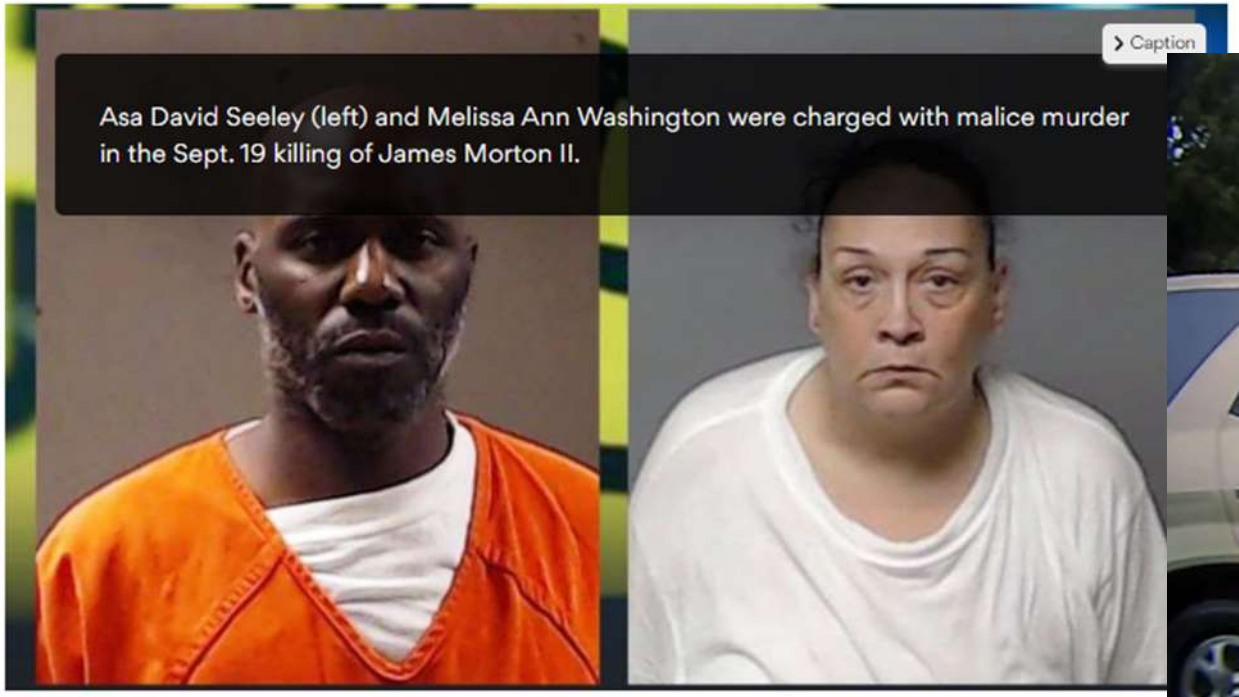
Immediately actionable alerts

Video only in pedestrian spaces

Why stationary LPR?

Murder Arrest x 2
from an ALPR Hot List Alert – Warrants

2 arrested in hotel shooting death of DeKalb bishop's 50-year-old son



Addressing Concerns

Communicate with the Community!

Concerns:

- Privacy Issues
- Data Retention
- Data Security and Use
- Error Rates
- Cost of LPRs
- Transparency
- Data Sharing
- Lack of Control

Legal Issues

- Laws vary state to state
- Consult your attorney
- Implement a strong policy

Questions for vendors:

- Does your LPR take a picture of a vehicle with no license plate?
- Can your LPR reliably determine the state of issue of a license plate?
- How many lanes can your LPR cover?
- Does your software have the ability to turn off alerts on nuisance tags?

Questions for vendors:

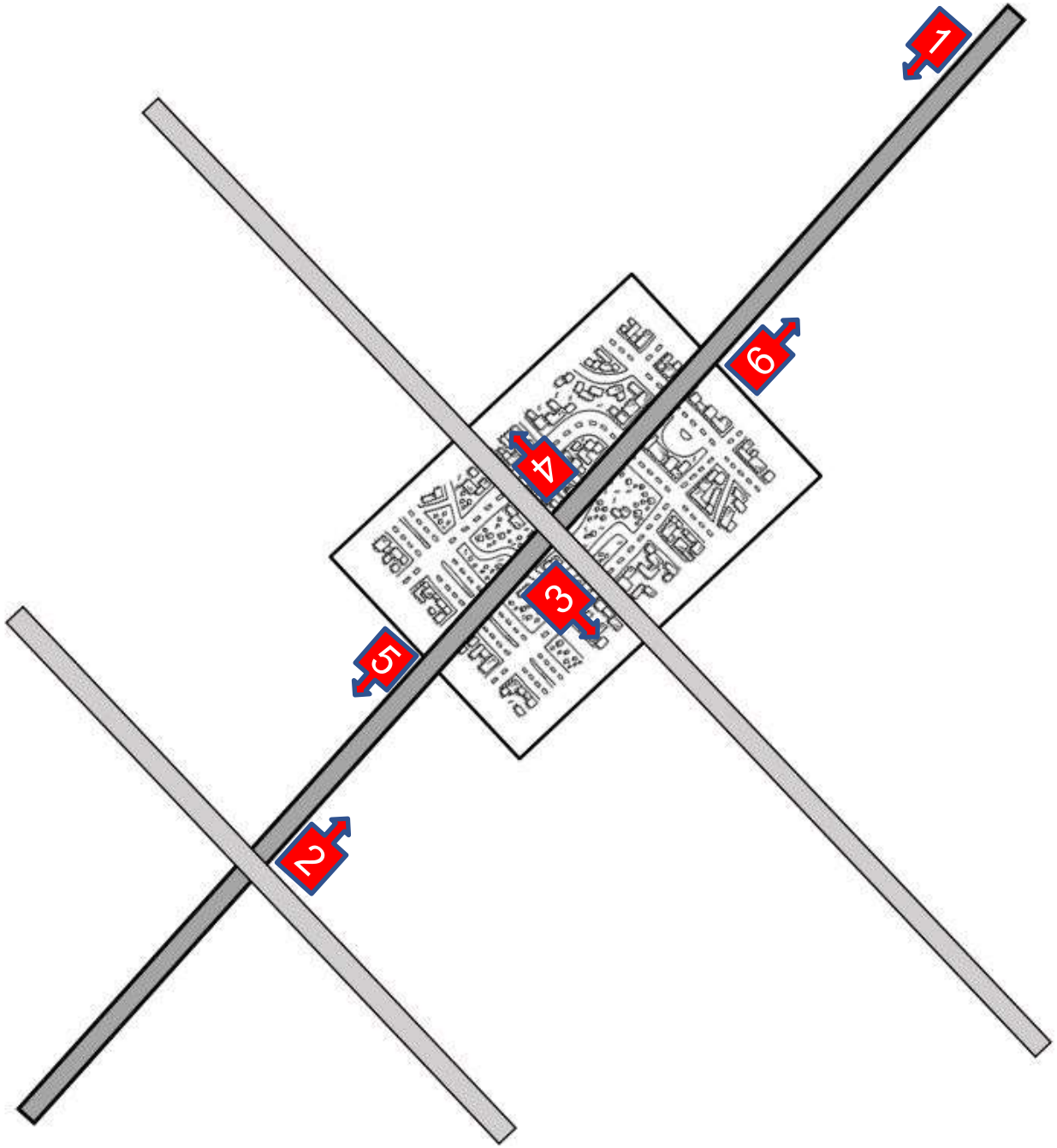
- Up to what vehicle speeds does the LPR work reliably?
- How many existing LPRs do you have in this area?
- What nearby agencies could you provide as a reference?
- Could we try out your software without purchasing LPRs?

Selecting Locations

Use SARA!

You may want to:

- Cover major routes in and out of your community
- Cover key intersections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COBB COUNTY, Ga. — Over the past two years in Cobb County, Georgia, police have had 62 homicides and solved every single one of them – an unheard of 100% solve rate.

The strongest technology tool the department has? Chief VanHoozer says it's license plate recognition technology.

Source: Fox5atlanta.com

Creating your LPR Policy

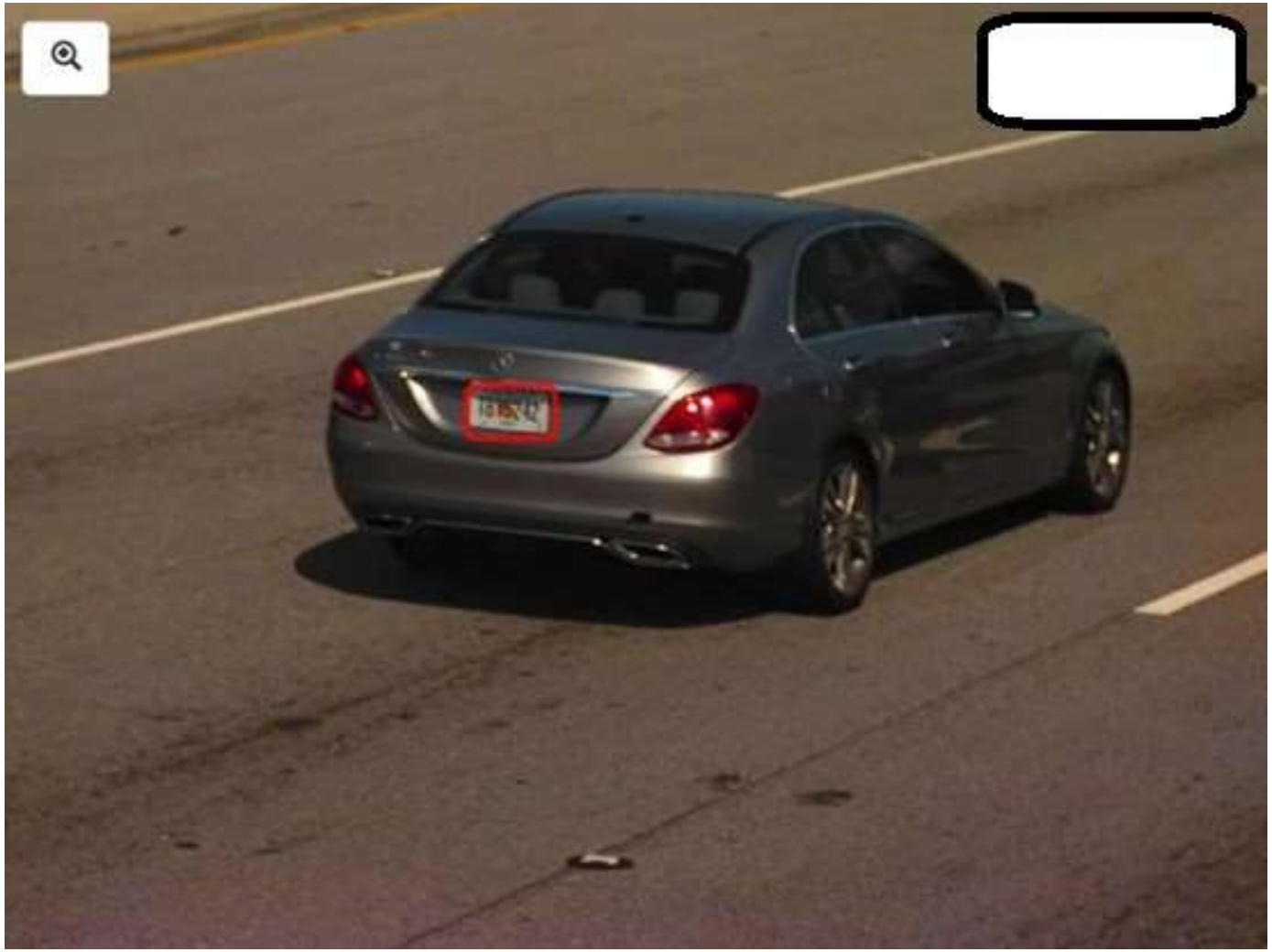
- You must create a comprehensive LPR policy.
- Should cover who has access and for what purpose
- Hotlists – How to add, how to respond to alerts and who is responsible for doing audits and enforcing compliance.

Getting ready for Deployment

+ Conduct refresher trainings on your felony stop procedures and your pursuit policy
+ Train everyone and start using the LPR software even before cameras are installed.
    - Training should cover using the software, how to hotlist vehicles, and handling alerts.
+ Request access to the LPR reads from nearby agencies

Neighboring agency – homicide suspect

Identified!



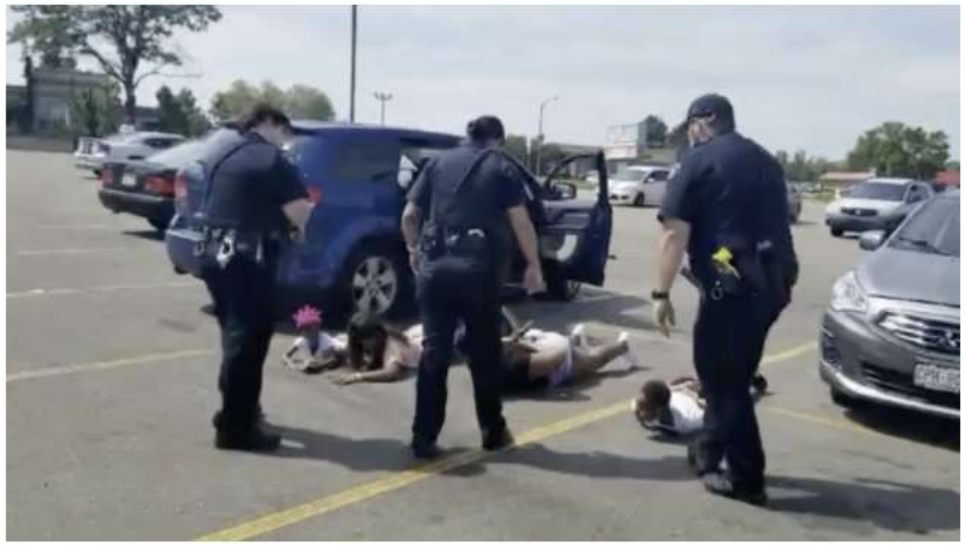
How to Handle Alerts

- Was tag read properly? Both digits and state of issue are critical.
- Confirm status by running through NCIC
- Then advise over the air before you look for vehicle, so backup is near if you locate

How Not to Handle Alerts

Cops Terrorize Black Family but Blame License Plate Reader for Misidentifying 'Stolen' Vehicle

By Matt Novak | 8/04/20 7:29AM | Comments (86)



- A Police Dept. received Vigilant TAS alert then felony stopped minivan with CO tag
- Actual stolen vehicle – a motorcycle with a MT tag with same digits
- Officers compared LPR image to vehicle, not image to NCIC Hit

Kidnapping of Mateo Saturday 08/29/20 12:33pm

Mateo is 12 months old, pictured here with Aunt Jessica.

Mother Leslie Barrera fought tooth and nail.

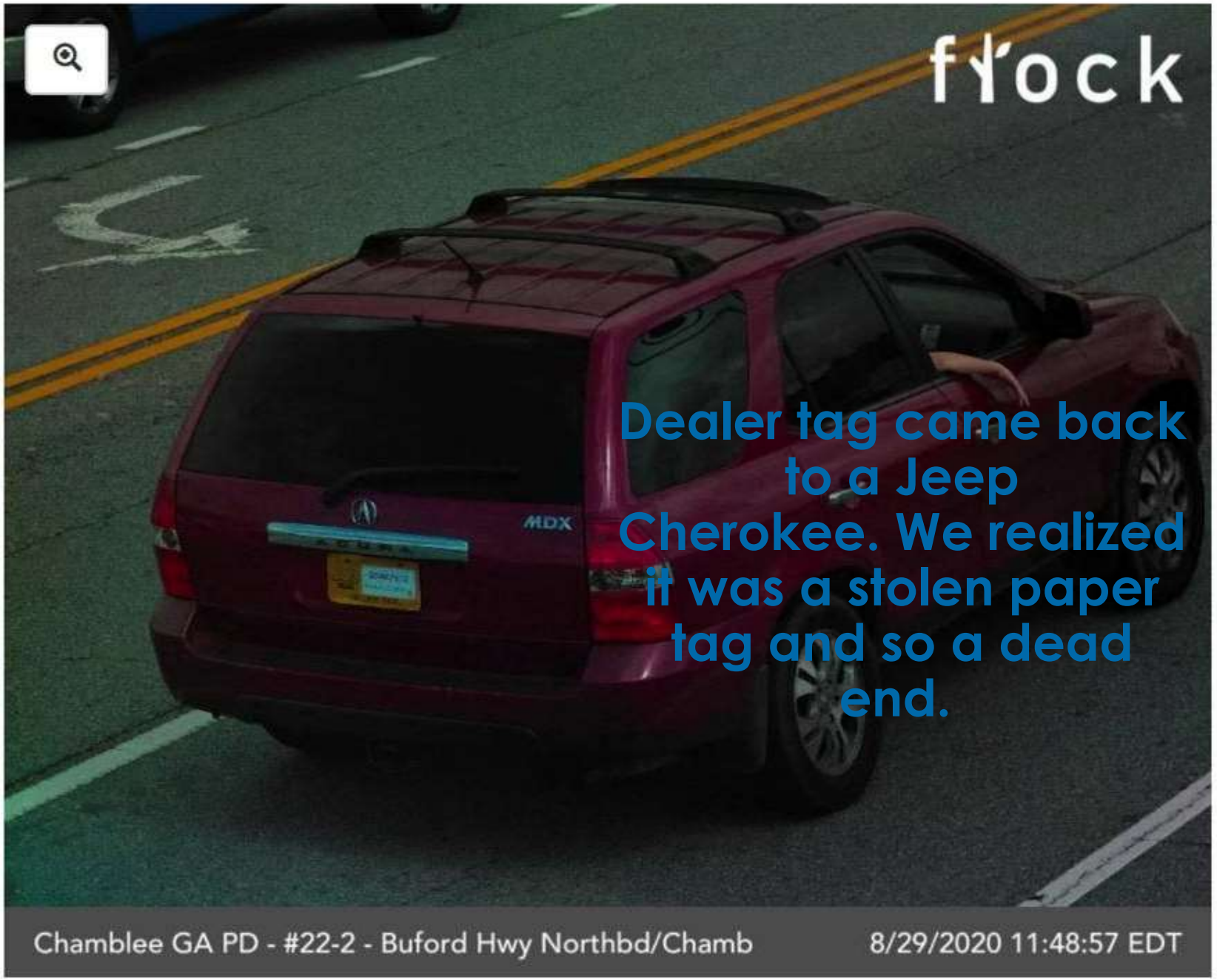
Image from Balfour Apartments surveillance

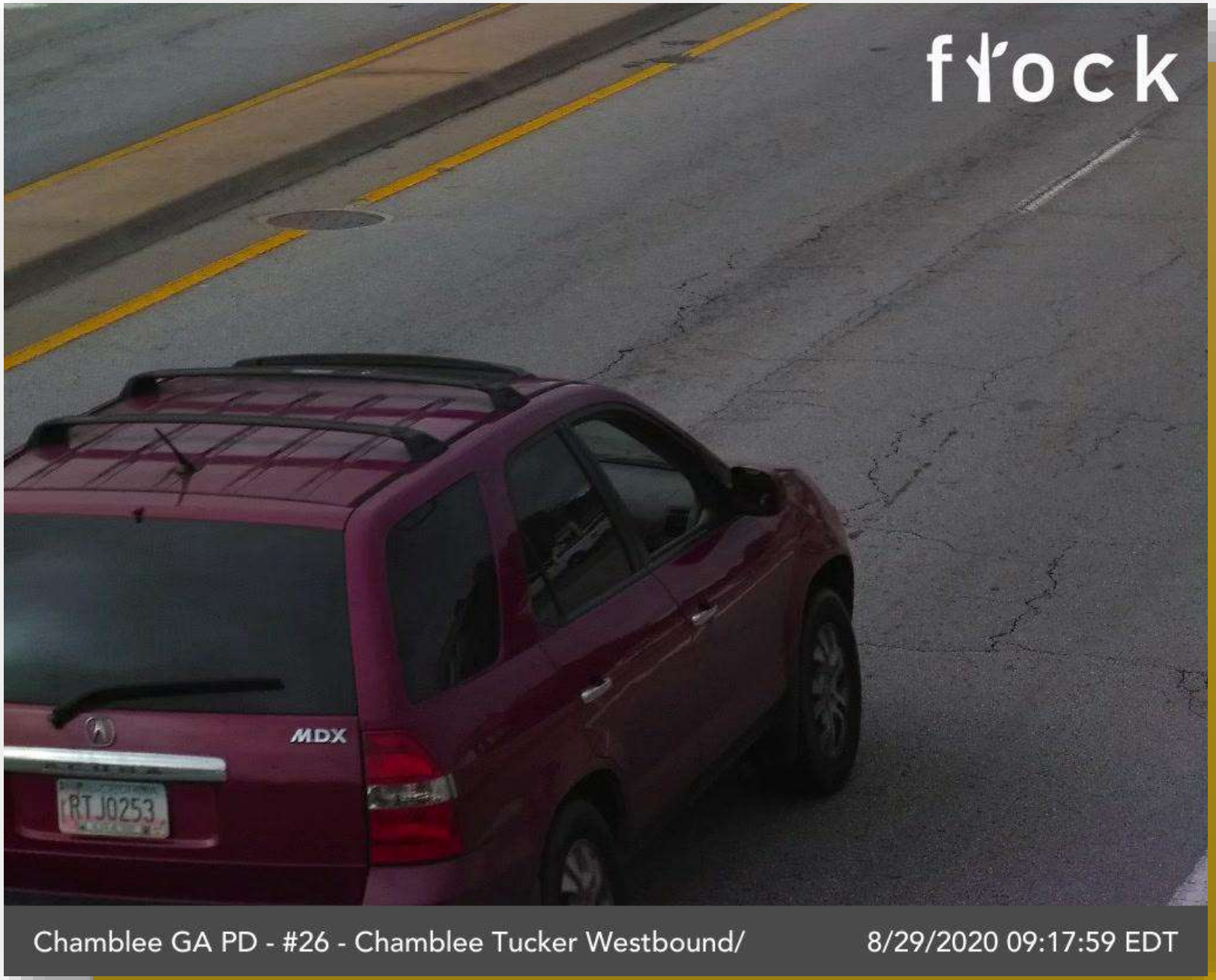
Vehicle

- License Plate: S0407812
- Build: SUV
- Make: Acura
- Color: Red
- First time captured
- Vehicle summary
- More like this

Download Images

Request More Images

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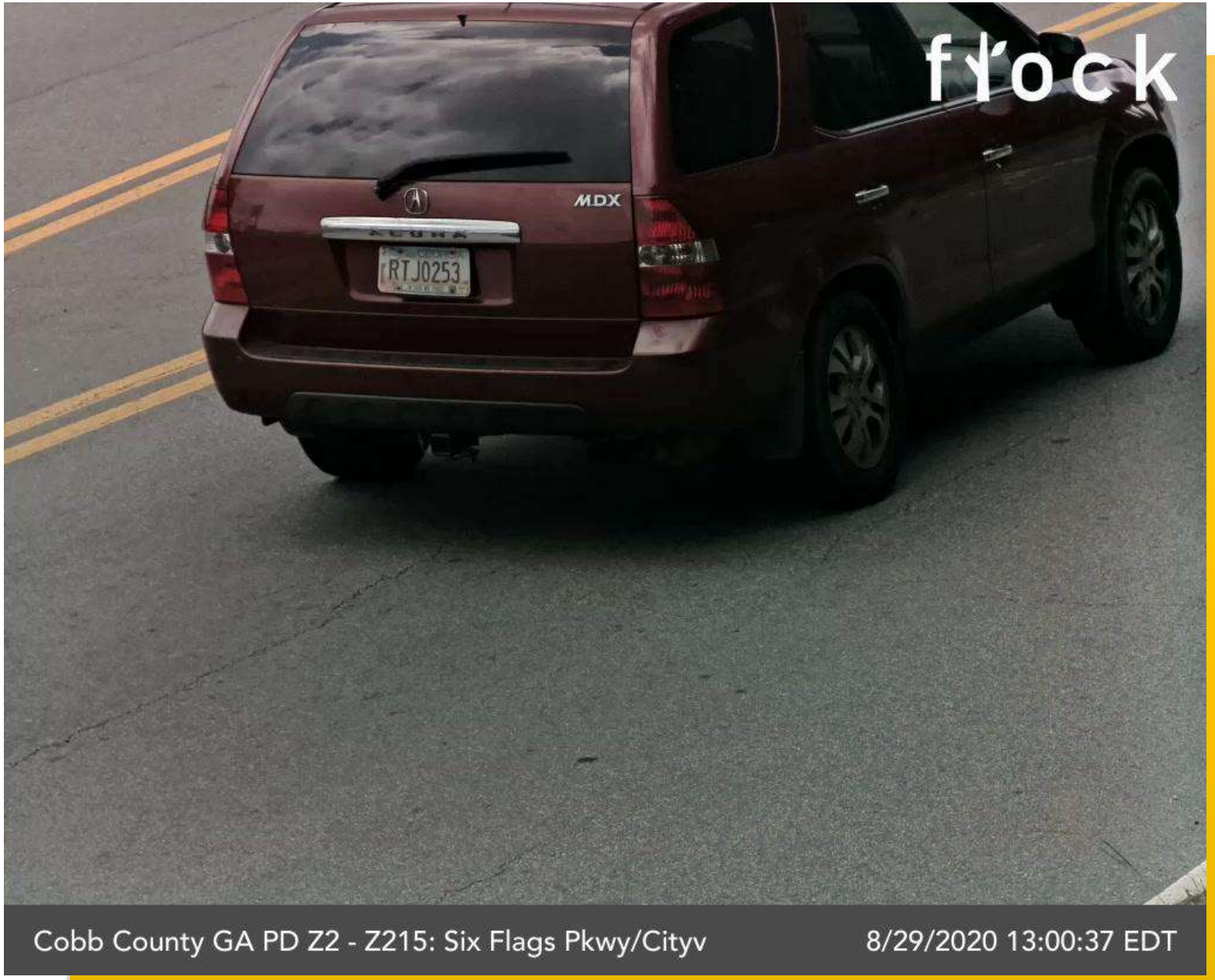
Chamblee GA PD - #26 - Chamblee Tucker Westbound/
8/29/2020 09:17:59 EDT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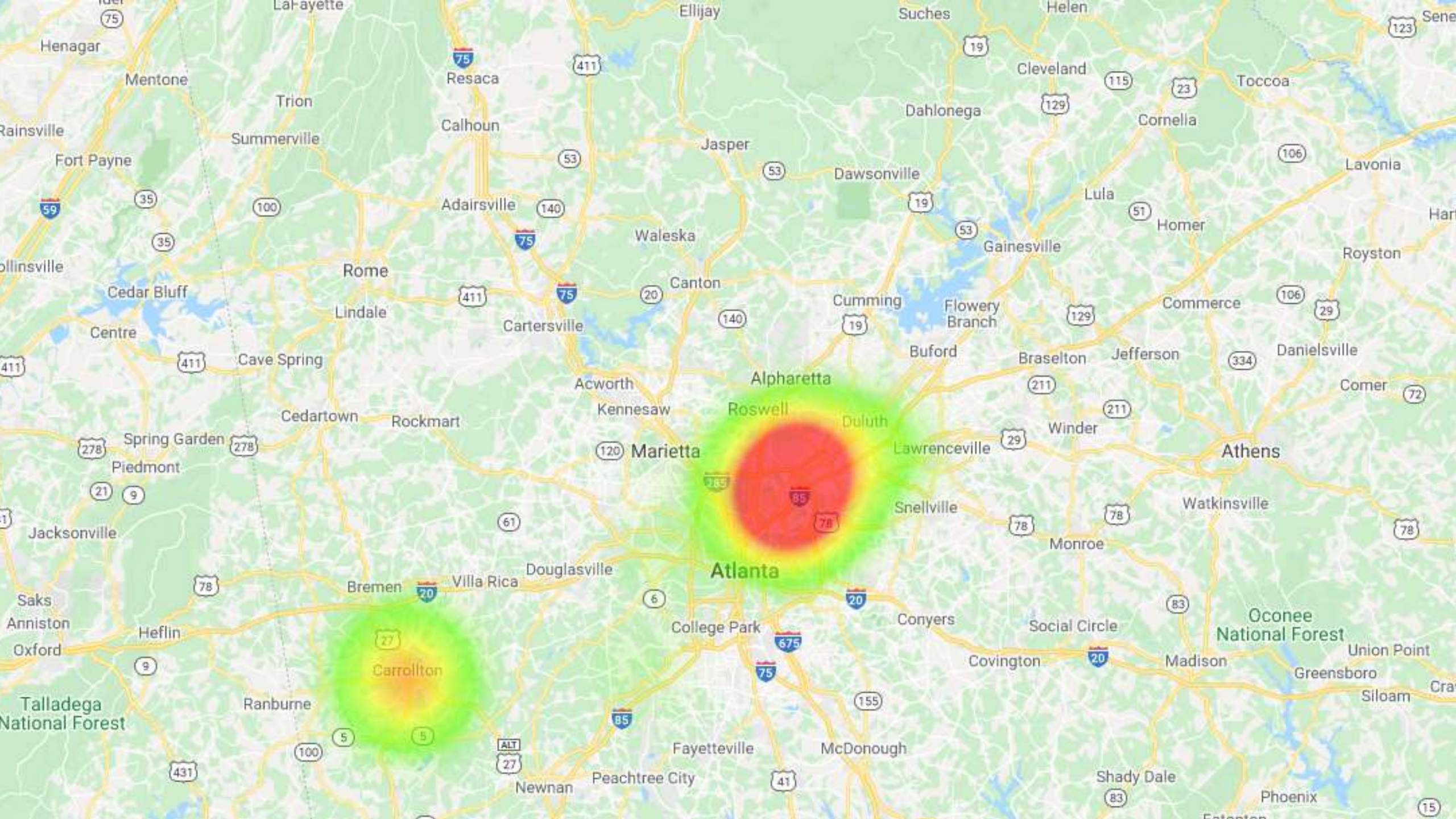
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IN GOD WE TRUST

What if we didn’t have LPR?
What have other agencies gone through?

thank you