SALT LAKE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

License Plate Reader Presentation for the Personal Privacy Oversight Commission

August 2023

Automated License Plate Reader Technology (LPR)

License Plate Recognition (LPR) technology is a **computer-based**, data-**gathering** system.

The LPR system utilizes specially designed cameras to rapidly capture an image of a vehicle's **license plate** only and convert the plate characters into a text file using optical character recognition technology.

Because the LPR system is programmed to check all vehicles in the same manner, they are an **objective,** non-discriminatory public safety tool.

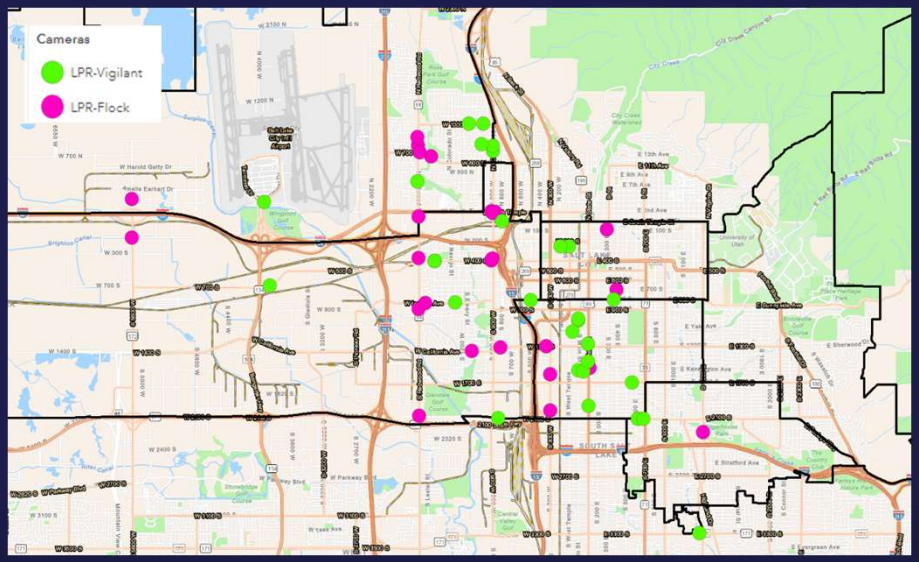






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SLCPD currently runs 57 LPR cameras with data sharing agreements with 21 other agencies from Ogden to Provo

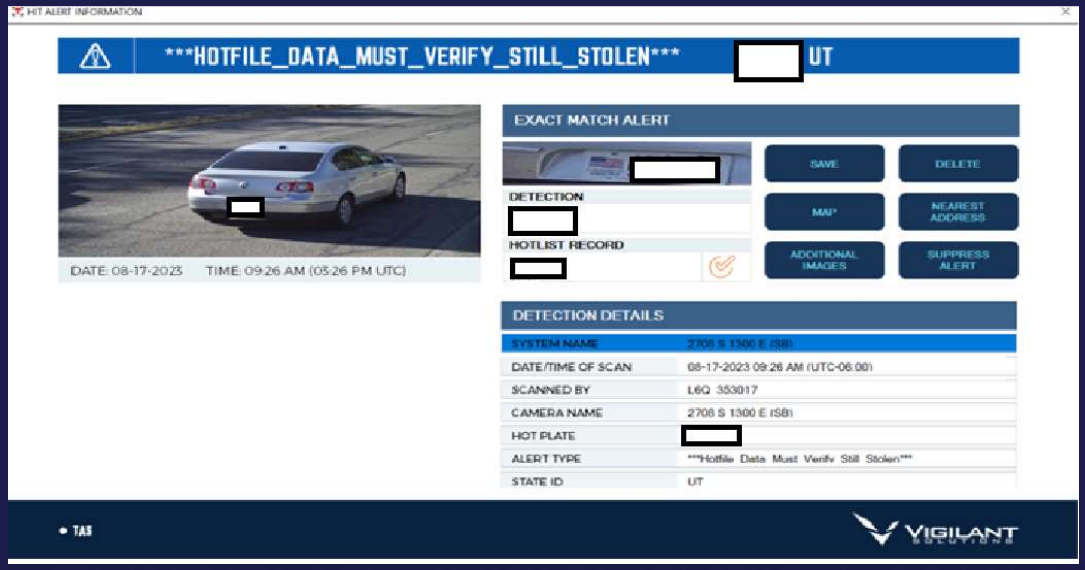


- This extensive coverage allows law enforcement to build and further investigations, such as developing timelines and travel patterns, and to locate suspects and others, such as missing persons.

Alerts

Alerts provide **real-time information** to SLC911 (dispatch) and officers in the field. The alerts are mainly generated by NCIC functions that could be, cases such as stolen vehicles, stolen plates, wanted persons, felony vehicles, missing persons, and FBI terrorist watchlist.

An alert can be added for a specific case if the vehicle is known to be involved in a case being investigated, such as a drive by shooting, theft, missing persons, drug dealing, etc. These alerts can be controlled by the police officer adding the plate to the hot plate alert.



Data obtained by LPR systems provide immediate alerts to patrol officers

These alerts consist of:

- Stolen vehicles, stolen license plates
- Wanted/suspect vehicles
- Missing persons and Silver Alerts
- Amber Alerts, kidnapping and child abductions
- FBI alerts related to terrorist threats

Sample of 1 week in January of NCIC - LPR hits(alerts) just in SLC

January 8 – 14, 2023

• Stolen Vehicles	59
• Stolen License Plates	80
• Wanted Person	1
• Missing Person	2
• Possible Terrorist Subject (at airport)	1

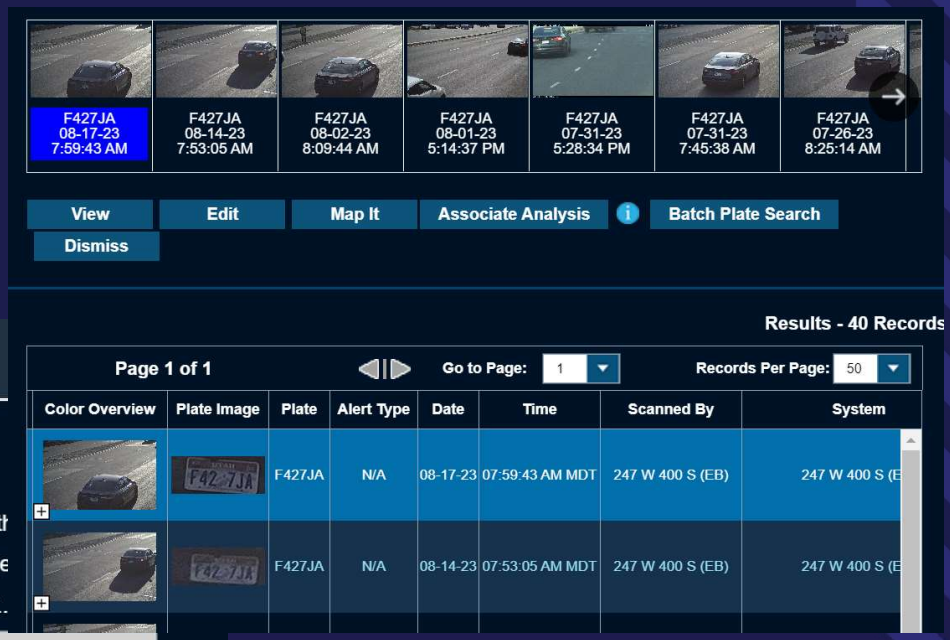
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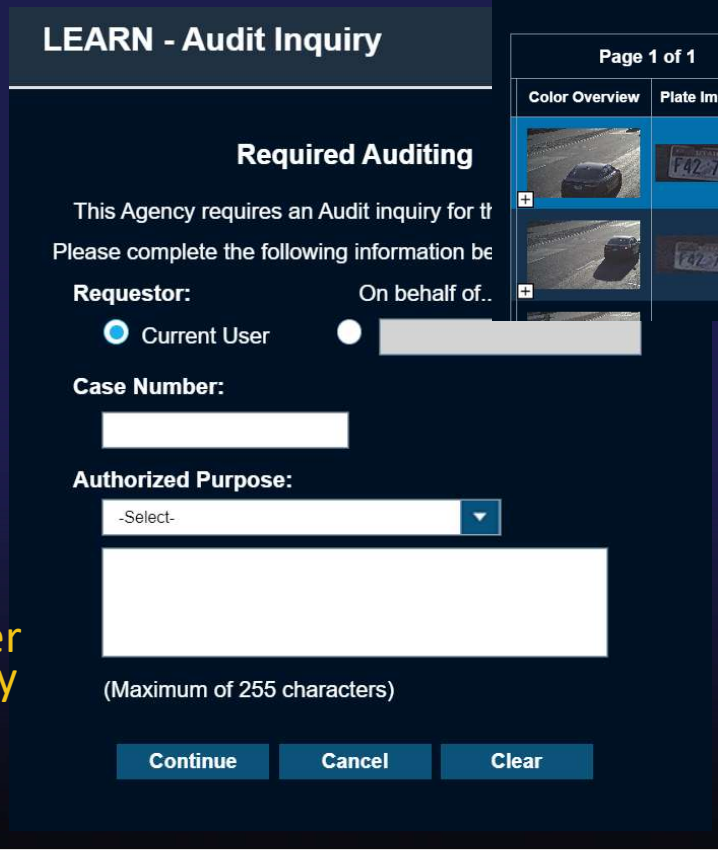
Data Searching

Searching the collected data is requires **separate permissions** and is closely monitored. Not all officers in SLC have the permissions to search data. A **case number** and **reason** are required to be added when requesting the data, for auditing purposes

Data is saved for 9 months as limited by State Code, then automatically purged

LPR data is considered CJIS data by the FBI. Thus, the same requirements are put into place as when an officer accesses BCI criminal history databases.





Data obtained by LPR systems helped solve cases for all aspects of police work

Data is from the first 9 months using the LPR program. More cases are being solved now that Detectives are getting used to using the technology.

1 Homicide, 6 robbery, & 1 car-jacking cases
1 Shooting & 4 drive-by shooting cases
149 Stolen Vehicles recovered, 4 Burglaries, 1 Fraud, & 6 larceny/thefts
9 Hit and Run cases, 3 with serious injuries
2 Kidnapping cases and 1 allegation of an abduction quickly proven false due to LPR data, 3 Rape/Sex assaults
1 Rape suspect located so DNA warrant could be served
2 Amber Alerts, 16 Missing Persons located
13 Possible Terrorists alerts at the Airport, 8 additional throughout the City. 1 Suspicious vehicle with possible chemical bomb contents
25 cases assisting other agencies, including 1 homicide investigation assisting South Jordan PD

Not only does the license plate data with the searchable database help solve cases, but the photos taken at the time allows police to prevent computer scan errors and increases solvability with the actual vehicle in the pictures.







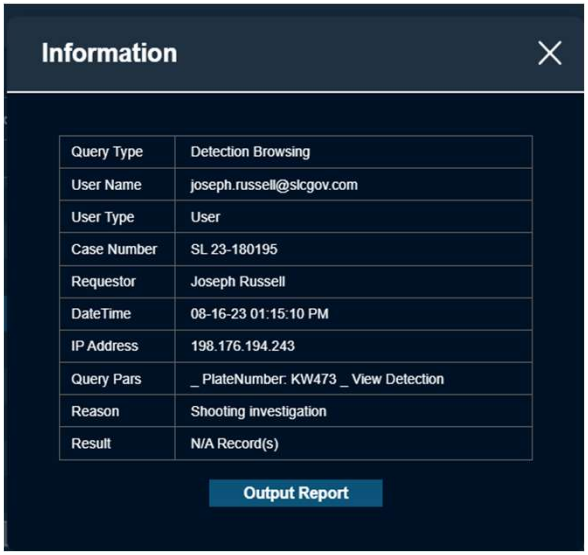


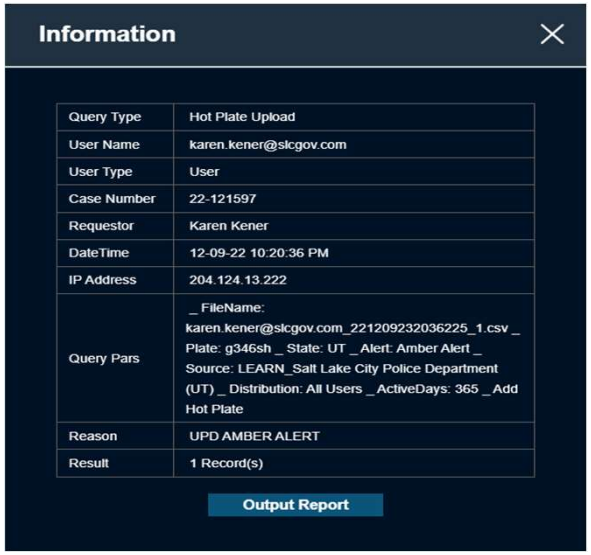


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SLCPD Policy Overview

- Access and usage mimics procedures already set into place by the state for accessing BCI/UCJIS databases.
- Authorized users must have completed initial training, along with policy review and annual training updates. Annual testing is also done to follow UCJIS practices.
- SLCPD Audit Unit completes quarterly audits of data searches.
- Camera locations requests must be approved through the Auto Theft Sergeant and installed through the SLIC Unit.
- Users are given permissions based on their job responsibilities. Access and permissions can be customized by account managers.
- SOP for data access and retention follow State Code requirements 41-6a-2002 – 41-6a-2005.





- **Audits are done not only on what data is searched, but also on what plates are being added as hot plates.**
- **Audits can also by done on our data that is used by other agencies to make sure they are compliant with our MOU.**

Summary

- The LPR technology and systems have proven their effectiveness and value in *all* aspects of police work.

- Much of the hard work SLCPD officers have been publicly recognized for over the past year has ties back to the use of LPR technology by the units receiving the awards. (NAACP award, Rotary Club award)

- This technology is proving successful in large part due the placement of cameras in positions blanketing the City and saturating high crime areas. Without these cameras, the successful case conclusions would not be as possible, especially due to industry wide staffing shortages. The more cameras deployed, the more leads and evidence will be available to help solve cases.

- SLCPD values personal privacy and has implemented policies and procedures to prevent misuse of the systems. SLCPD has implemented checks and balances on all usage of the LPR systems.

Salt Lake City Compliance (Parking Enforcement)

SLC Compliance (Parking Enforcement)

- 6 Vehicles outfitted with LPR Systems
- Used primarily for Time Marking
- Secondarily to detect bootable vehicles
- Tertiarily to report stolen vehicles



Time Marking

- The LPR can be used to virtually chalk tires to enforce time restrictions.



Bootable Vehicles

- **12.96.020**

- A. Two Or More Notices Of Unauthorized Use Of Streets (Parking Tickets): Any vehicle that has two (2) or more notices of "unauthorized use of streets" within the city, as defined at section 12.56.550 of this title, which notices are forty (40) days old or older and have not been dismissed pursuant to subsection 12.56.570E of this title, or dismissed or reduced to judgment by a court of competent jurisdiction, shall be subject to immediate impoundment by towing or by means of an immobilizing device.



Stolen Vehicles

- If in the course of enforcement LPRs detect a stolen vehicle, the Compliance Officer is notified by their computer system, and they call PD.
- Compliance Officers do NOT have access to raw LPR data.



The Data

- LPR system data is deleted every 90 days.
- All notifications on LPRs of stolen vehicles and bootables are incidental
- The LPR data is accessible by:
  - Select City IT staff
  - Compliance Supervisors
  - Select Public Services IT staff