

Connecticut Citizen ALPR Toolkit

Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) & Public Act 26-14

A Practical Guide for Connecticut Residents and Community Organizations - August 2026

Section 1

Introduction

Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) systems are becoming increasingly common in Connecticut. These systems use specialized cameras and computer software to automatically read license plates and record information such as the license plate number, the date, time and location where a vehicle was observed. Many modern systems can also record additional information about the vehicle, such as its make, model, color and other observable characteristics.



Illustration of the types of vehicle information modern ALPR systems may collect. Capabilities vary by system.

ALPR technology can be a valuable public-safety tool. Law-enforcement agencies use these systems to assist in recovering stolen vehicles, locating missing persons, identifying vehicles associated with serious crimes, locating individuals with outstanding warrants, identifying unregistered vehicles or vehicles associated with tax delinquencies, and supporting other

legitimate criminal investigations. Used appropriately, ALPR systems can help improve public safety while making investigations more efficient.

At the same time, ALPR technology raises legitimate privacy questions. Unlike an officer observing a single vehicle at one moment in time, an ALPR system can create a historical record of where vehicles have been observed over time. Depending on how a system is configured and governed, questions naturally arise regarding:

- How long ALPR data is retained.
- Who is authorized to access ALPR data.
- What safeguards exist to help prevent unauthorized or inappropriate access to, or use of, the ALPR system and its data.
- How ALPR searches are logged, reviewed and audited to help detect unauthorized or inappropriate use.
- Whether information is shared with other governmental agencies.
- Whether vendors retain, use, disclose or otherwise handle ALPR data, and what contractual limitations govern those activities.
- The accuracy and reliability of ALPR data, including how potential errors or incorrect “hotlist” matches are verified before enforcement action is taken.

Recognizing both the public-safety benefits and the privacy implications of this technology, the Connecticut General Assembly enacted Public Act 26-14. Among other things, the Act establishes statewide standards governing the operation, oversight, retention and sharing of ALPR data by public agencies.

Purpose of This Toolkit

The purpose of this toolkit is not to encourage or discourage the use of ALPR technology.

Rather, it is intended to help Connecticut residents, neighborhood organizations, civic groups and community organizations access accurate information and better understand:

- What ALPR systems are.
- Whether their municipality uses them.
- What policies govern their operation.
- How Public Act 26-14 applies.
- What questions residents may wish to ask of their local officials.

This toolkit does not begin with assumptions. It begins with questions.

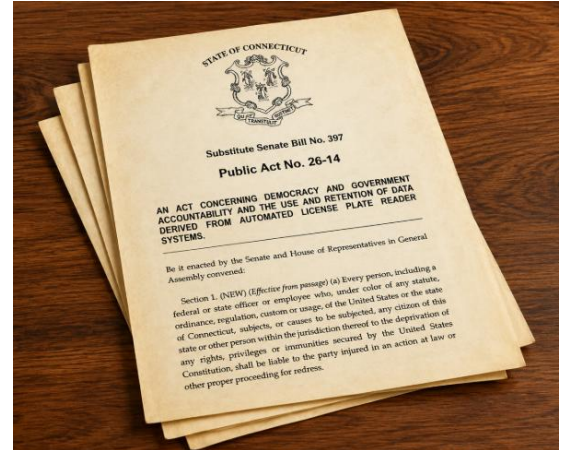
Our goal is to help residents find reliable information, ask good questions, and engage constructively with their local governments based on documented facts rather than speculation.

Section 2

Public Act 26-14 Explained

Frequently Asked Questions

The ALPR provisions of Public Act 26-14 span approximately fifteen pages of statutory language. Like most legislation, the law is written primarily for attorneys and government officials rather than the general public.



This section explains the law in plain English using the questions Connecticut residents are most likely to ask. It is intended as a practical guide - not a substitute for the law itself. Each FAQ identifies the relevant section(s) of the Act so readers can easily locate the original statutory language.

Want to read the law yourself?

The ALPR provisions are contained primarily in **Sections 13 - 15 of Public Act 26-14**. A link to the official Connecticut General Assembly copy is provided below:

Public Act 26-14 — Official Connecticut General Assembly PDF:

[Public Act 26-14](#)

ALPR provisions: Sections 13 -15, starting at page 26 of 42

Try reading the legislation – you’ll be happy we did this!

🔍 ? FAQ 1

What information does an ALPR system collect?

Relevant section of Public Act 26-14: Section 13(a)(1) - (2) (Definitions)

Short Answer

Modern ALPR systems collect much more than a license plate number. They can also record information about the vehicle, where it was observed and when it was observed.

The Details

Public Act 26-14 defines ALPR data broadly. It can include:

- **License plate characters**
- **Still photographs or video images of vehicles**
- **Vehicle attributes**
- **Location data**
- **Time stamps**
- **Metadata**

The Act also recognizes that ALPR systems may use computer programs or algorithms to convert images of **license plates or vehicle descriptors** into computer-readable data.

Depending on the particular system, this can provide considerably more information than simply identifying a license plate. Modern systems may use computer analysis to identify additional observable vehicle characteristics.

Why This Matters

Many people assume an ALPR system simply records a license plate number. **Understanding what information is actually collected helps explain why Connecticut enacted rules governing the retention, use, sharing and protection of ALPR data.**

FAQ 2

How long can my municipality keep ALPR data?

Relevant section of Public Act 26-14: Section 13(b)(2) (Data Retention), as amended.

Short Answer

Beginning October 1, 2026, the general limit is 21 days. A municipality's contract with its ALPR vendor can require an even shorter period.

There are specific exceptions that allow certain ALPR data to be kept longer.

The Details

The 21-day limit applies to ALPR data collected, acquired, held or stored by a public agency or by a private vendor under contract with a public agency.

The principal exceptions are:

- **Court or evidence preservation:** Data may be retained when required by a warrant, court order or court rules governing preservation of evidence.

- **Active criminal investigation or prosecution:** Relevant ALPR data may be retained beyond 21 days, but a supervisory law-enforcement officer must approve the retention and the agency must document the reason and associated case number. If no charges are filed, the data must be deleted when the investigation ends. If charges result in a criminal case, how long the evidence may be retained depends on the disposition of that case, including whether a defendant is sentenced to imprisonment.
- **Repeat offenses or violations:** Data may be retained longer when necessary to establish that a future offense, motor-vehicle violation or infraction is a subsequent violation for which the law provides an increased penalty.
- **Highway usage fees:** Data used to collect such fees may be retained longer, but must be deleted **within 30 days after the fees are collected**.
- **Traffic analytics:** Data may be retained beyond 21 days if it is maintained as **de-identified, aggregated or summarized data**, rather than as information that can be used to track individual vehicles.
- **Municipal motor-vehicle tax compliance:** Data retained specifically for this purpose may be kept for up to **90 days, or until the municipal tax assessor determines compliance, whichever comes first**. The law also restricts who may receive this data.

Why This Matters

For most ALPR data, **21 days is the rule, not the starting point for indefinite storage**. Keeping identifiable data longer requires a specific reason allowed by law.

? FAQ 3

Who can my municipality share ALPR data with?

Relevant section of Public Act 26-14: Section 13, especially the provisions governing disclosure and access to ALPR data.

Short Answer

ALPR data cannot simply be shared with anyone who asks for it. Connecticut agencies may share data with other Connecticut public agencies and, under specific conditions, with certain law-enforcement agencies outside Connecticut. The law places additional restrictions on sharing when the data could be used for immigration enforcement, certain health-care investigations or other prohibited purposes.

The Details

Public Act 26-14 generally allows ALPR data to be provided to:

- **An individual requesting data concerning a vehicle registered in that person's own name**, subject to requirements when a vehicle has multiple owners or regular users.
- **Another Connecticut public agency.**
- **Certain law-enforcement agencies outside Connecticut**, but only under conditions established by the Act.

The Act also restricts standing access to ALPR data. A public agency generally may not give another public agency real-time, bulk or automatic access to its ALPR data. Sharing must instead be in response to a documented, case-specific request and must otherwise comply with the Act.

The law specifically prohibits using ALPR systems or data to identify someone engaged in activity protected by the First Amendment, to investigate suspected immigration violations or assist in immigration enforcement, or to investigate or prosecute someone for seeking, receiving or providing reproductive or gender-affirming health care that is legal under Connecticut law.

What About ICE or Other Federal Agencies?

A Connecticut agency generally cannot provide ALPR data to an outside law-enforcement agency simply because that agency requests it.

For federal agencies and law-enforcement agencies from states other than Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island, the Act generally requires a **judicially issued probable-cause warrant for the specific ALPR data requested.**

So, a routine request from ICE for ALPR data to investigate or enforce an immigration violation would **not** be a permitted use.

What About Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island?

The Act treats law-enforcement agencies in Connecticut's three adjoining states somewhat differently.

ALPR data may be shared with a state or municipal law-enforcement agency in **Massachusetts, New York or Rhode Island** if the requesting agency provides the required written affirmation that it will comply with Connecticut's restrictions—including that it will not use the data for immigration enforcement or prohibited reproductive or gender-affirming health-care investigations, and will not further disclose the data except as permitted by law.

This allows ordinary regional law-enforcement cooperation to continue while placing conditions on how Connecticut ALPR data may be used.

What If the Purpose of a Request Isn't Clear?

Suppose an out-of-state agency requests ALPR data to locate a reported missing person. That could be an entirely legitimate law-enforcement request.

But if information accompanying the request gives the Connecticut agency reason to believe that the actual purpose may involve something prohibited by Connecticut law - for example, locating someone in connection with reproductive health care that is legal in Connecticut - the stated purpose of the request matters.

If the purpose of a request is unclear, a municipality may seek additional information or clarification before deciding whether the data can be shared. The Act does not require Connecticut agencies to automatically accept every request at face value; they still must determine whether the requested disclosure is permitted under Connecticut law.

Why This Matters

Connecticut law no longer treats every request for ALPR data the same. Public agencies must consider both **who is requesting the information and how it will be used**, helping ensure that ALPR data is disclosed only in circumstances permitted by law.

Another Connecticut Resource

The ACLU of Connecticut has also examined ALPR technology closely. The organization has raised concerns about privacy, interstate data sharing and potential misuse of ALPR data, while describing Public Act 26-14 as a significant step forward in establishing safeguards, accountability and transparency for ALPR use in Connecticut. Readers who would like to explore those concerns and recommendations further can find additional information on the ACLU of Connecticut's website.

[ACLU of Connecticut — ALPR Data & Privacy Concerns](#)

? FAQ 4

What prevents someone with access to ALPR data from using it for personal reasons?

Relevant sections of Public Act 26-14: Sections 13 and 14 (Access, Accountability, Auditing and Misuse)

Short Answer

An authorized user cannot legally use ALPR data for personal purposes simply because he or she has access to the system. Public Act 26-14 requires access controls, logging and auditing

safeguards and provides for disciplinary action against law-enforcement officers who knowingly misuse ALPR data with malicious intent.

The Details

ALPR databases can reveal where a vehicle has been observed and, potentially, patterns in its movements. That creates the possibility of misuse by someone who legitimately has access to the system but uses that access for an illegitimate personal purpose.

For example, an authorized user should not use ALPR data to:

- see where an ex-spouse or former partner has been;
- locate someone in whom the user has a personal or romantic interest;
- check on a neighbor, friend or family member out of curiosity; or
- track someone's vehicle for any unauthorized personal purpose.

Public Act 26-14 addresses this risk in several ways.

Access and logging. The law requires accountability surrounding access to ALPR systems and data. The model policy required of the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) must establish **audit and logging requirements**, including creation and retention of access logs sufficient to ensure compliance and allow independent review.

Supervisory responsibility. The POST model policy must establish a supervisory responsibility and accountability structure, including designation of an officer or unit responsible for overseeing ALPR use and compliance. It must also establish internal access controls and supervisory review.

Auditing. The Act requires the POST model policy to establish **audit requirements**, not merely the creation of logs. **Audits must be conducted at least quarterly**, providing a regular means of reviewing system use and identifying possible misuse.

Consequences for misuse. A law-enforcement officer found to have **knowingly accessed, used or disseminated ALPR data with malicious intent for purposes outside those permitted by the law** is subject to disciplinary action. That can include suspension, cancellation or revocation of the officer's certification by POST.

The Act also makes information derived from system audits, system-usage logs and data-access logs generally available as public records, provided the underlying ALPR data itself is redacted.

Why This Matters

The potential for misuse does not necessarily involve an entire police department or public agency. **Individuals with legitimate system access could misuse that access for an illegitimate personal purpose.**

Public Act 26-14 therefore requires more than rules governing how ALPR data is collected and shared. It establishes logging, auditing, supervisory oversight and accountability requirements intended to help prevent - and identify - improper use.

? FAQ 5

What rules must my municipality have in place for its ALPR system?

Relevant sections of Public Act 26-14: Sections 13 - 15, especially Section 14 (Policies, Oversight and Accountability).

Short Answer

Connecticut law requires agencies using ALPR systems or data to operate under written policies and statewide standards governing how the technology is used.

For law-enforcement agencies, the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) must develop a statewide model ALPR policy. Each law-enforcement agency must then adopt that model policy or a policy that provides **greater privacy protections**.

Other public agencies that operate ALPR systems or use ALPR data must also adopt and publicize written usage and privacy policies that comply with the Act.

When Do These Requirements Take Effect?

The Act uses several different implementation dates:

- **October 1, 2026:** Many of the Act's new operational restrictions governing ALPR use, retention and sharing begin to apply.
- **December 1, 2026:** POST must develop and publish its model ALPR policy.
- **January 1, 2027:** Law-enforcement agencies must adopt and implement the POST model policy or a policy providing greater privacy protections. Other public agencies using ALPR systems or data must also have their required written policies in place.
- **January 31 each year:** Agencies that used an ALPR system during the preceding calendar year must publish their annual ALPR usage report.

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) must subsequently adopt statewide ALPR regulations by **January 1, 2028**.

The Details

What About ALPR Use Outside the Police Department?

The Act also applies to public agencies other than law-enforcement agencies that operate an ALPR system or use ALPR data.

This could include, for example, certain **municipal parking operations or tax-related functions**. Their particular uses may be quite different from police use, but they are still subject to the Act's restrictions and must adopt and publicize an appropriate written ALPR usage and privacy policy.

What Information Must Be Reported?

Agencies using ALPR systems must prepare annual reports containing information about how the technology was used. Depending on the type of agency, this includes statistics such as the number of license plates scanned, searches performed and the reasons for those searches, instances in which ALPR data was shared, and certain instances in which data was retained beyond the normal retention period.

These reports must be published on the agency's website.

Why This Matters

Residents do not have to rely solely on assurances that an ALPR system is being used appropriately. **There should be written rules governing how the system operates, records documenting its use, regular audits, and publicly available reports providing statistical information about the system's use.**

These requirements give residents concrete information they can look for when trying to understand how ALPR technology is being used in their own community.

? FAQ 6

What responsibilities does a private ALPR vendor have?

Relevant section: Public Act 26-14, Section 13(g) - (i) (Contracts with Private Vendors and Enforcement), as amended by Public Act 26-76, §46.

Short Answer

A private ALPR vendor cannot simply treat data collected for a Connecticut public agency as its own commercial data.

Public Act 26-14 establishes significant restrictions on how private vendors may handle ALPR data collected in Connecticut. It also requires new or renewed contracts between public agencies and private ALPR vendors to contain specific protections governing what vendors may do with the data.

Among the most important protections: **the vendor may not sell the ALPR data.**

The Details

A public agency may not enter into or renew a contract with a private ALPR vendor unless the contract prohibits the vendor from:

- **Selling ALPR data.**
- **Sharing or transferring ALPR data to a third party** without prior express written authorization from the contracting public agency for a specific purpose.
- **Allowing anyone other than the contracting agency to access the data**, unless access is required by a state or federal judicial warrant or court order. A subpoena or grand-jury demand does not qualify as such a warrant or court order.
- Sharing, transferring or allowing access to ALPR data when the vendor reasonably believes it may be used for prohibited purposes, including certain **immigration enforcement**, reproductive or gender-affirming health-care investigations, or efforts to identify or impose liability on someone based solely on activity protected by the **First Amendment**.
- **Storing or transmitting the data without industry-recognized data-security protections**, including encryption.

These contractual protections apply regardless of broader permissions that might otherwise appear in the vendor's standard terms of service, usage agreements, policies or procedures.

What About an Existing Vendor Contract?

The requirement that these protections actually be written into the contract applies when a public agency **enters into or renews** a vendor contract after the provision takes effect.

However, that does not mean a vendor operating under an older contract is simply free to sell, improperly share or otherwise misuse Connecticut ALPR data until its contract is renewed. **The Act provides enforcement mechanisms against contracted private vendors that engage in prohibited conduct involving ALPR data collected in Connecticut.**

What About Retention?

A private vendor storing ALPR data for a Connecticut public agency is also subject to the Act's retention requirements. **Using a private company's servers does not allow a municipality to avoid Connecticut's retention limits.**

For most ALPR data, that means the same **21-day general retention limit** discussed in FAQ 2, subject to the specific exceptions established by law.

Can the Vendor Build a Larger Commercial Database From the Data?

A vendor cannot sell the agency's ALPR data and cannot share or transfer that data to another party without the required authorization.

In other words, ALPR data collected under a municipal contract **cannot simply be turned into another commercial product or sold to another customer because the vendor sees value in it.**

Connecticut Law and Enforcement

New and renewed vendor contracts must also provide that the vendor **consents to personal jurisdiction in Connecticut** for legal proceedings and that **Connecticut law controls the contract.**

The Connecticut Attorney General may bring an action against a contracted private vendor that engages in conduct prohibited by these provisions. A court may grant appropriate relief, including injunctions, declaratory relief and damages.

Why This Matters

Many municipalities do not build and operate their own ALPR technology. They contract with private companies that may provide the cameras, software, data storage and network infrastructure.

That makes the municipality's **vendor contract an important public document.** It can show who controls the data, how it is stored, what the vendor is permitted to do with it, and whether the agreement contains the protections required by Connecticut law.

? FAQ 7

Can I find out how my municipality is using its ALPR system?

Relevant sections of Public Act 26-14: Sections 13 - 15, especially the provisions governing public records, policies, audits and reporting.

Short Answer

Yes - but finding the most useful information may require some digging.

Public Act 26-14 requires agencies using ALPR systems to make certain information publicly available, including their written ALPR policies and annual usage reports. The annual reports provide required statistics about the system's use, but they may not answer more detailed questions about how a particular municipality operates its ALPR program.

What Other Information May Be Available?

Other public records may provide a more complete picture. These can include:

- **locations of ALPR cameras or recording devices**, subject to a limited exception for certain federally funded installations whose funding requires the location to remain confidential;
- vendor contracts and amendments;
- purchasing and expenditure records;
- municipal meeting agendas and minutes;
- ALPR policies and procedures; and
- information derived from system audits, system-usage logs and data-access logs.

Public Act 26-14 generally treats information derived from ALPR audits, usage logs and access logs as public records **when the underlying ALPR data is redacted**.

The actual ALPR data showing where individual vehicles were observed is generally protected from public disclosure.

Why This Matters

The information needed to understand a municipality's ALPR program may not be found in one document or one place. **The required policy and annual report are useful starting points, but they may be only part of the picture.**

The next section of this toolkit explains practical ways residents can learn more - including municipal websites, meeting and purchasing records, vendor contracts and, when necessary, **Freedom of Information requests**.

Section 3

Does My Town Have ALPR Cameras?

You may have seen something along the road that looked like an ALPR camera. Maybe someone told you your municipality has them. Or perhaps you simply want to find out.

Start simple.

At this stage, you do not need to know how many cameras your municipality has, who has access to the data, or exactly how the system is being used.

The first question is simply:

Does my municipality use ALPR cameras?

If you already know the answer is yes, you can take a shortcut. **You do not need to locate every camera before moving on.** The later sections of this toolkit will show you how to learn considerably more from municipal records, contracts, policies and other sources.

But if you aren't sure, here are some good places to start.

Is What I'm Seeing an ALPR?

There is no single “ALPR look.” Cameras vary considerably by manufacturer, model and installation.

Some are mounted on their own poles. Some may be attached to existing utility or traffic-signal structures. Some installations use solar panels; others may obtain power from another source. Equipment boxes, communications equipment and other components may also be visible.

Here are some examples of ALPR equipment you may encounter:





Flock Safety ALPR: Flock cameras are frequently mounted on roadside poles and often use a solar panel (above) for power. Flock LPR cameras can be solar-powered or electrically-connected.



Rekor ALPR - Edge Series Camera



Rekor ALPR - Edge Max

Torrington, Connecticut: This installation is mounted on an existing traffic-signal span pole. ALPR equipment does not necessarily have its own dedicated pole or solar panel.

Photo: NWCT Indivisible member



Motorola Solutions - L6Q license plate reader camera: Designed for quick deployment.



Genetec: Stationary ALPR system and also mobile system (lower right).

Don't Rely on Appearance Alone

Not every camera beside a road is an ALPR.

Traffic-monitoring cameras, vehicle-detection equipment, speed-enforcement cameras and other roadway equipment may look similar. ALPR systems themselves also vary considerably by manufacturer and installation. If you see a camera you suspect may be an ALPR, **take a photograph from a safe, public location.** A clear photograph showing the camera and how it is mounted may help you identify it.

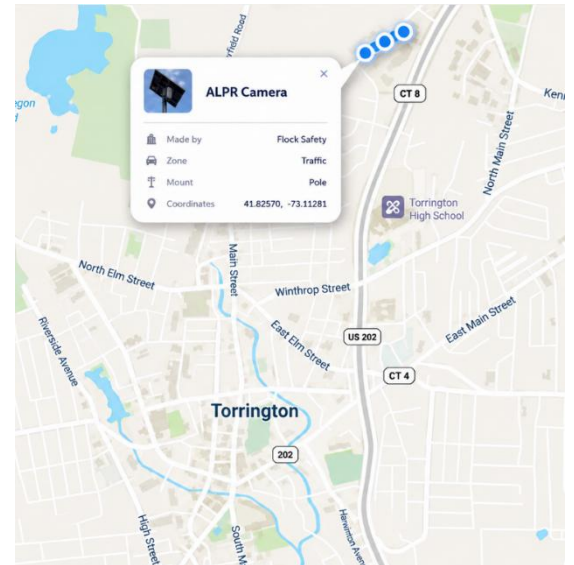
Check the Online Maps

Several community-maintained websites can help determine whether ALPR cameras have already been identified in your area.

DeFlock

DeFlock provides a community-maintained map of ALPR and other surveillance-camera locations. Its mobile tools also allow users to identify and submit devices they encounter. DeFlock supports manufacturer-specific profiles for several major ALPR vendors.

[De Flock](#)



ALPR Maps

ALPR Maps provides another searchable map of reported ALPR camera locations.

[ALPR Maps](#)

A Very Important Limitation

If one of these maps shows no ALPR cameras in your municipality, that does not mean your municipality doesn't have them.

These are community-maintained resources. Coverage varies considerably from place to place, and cameras may have been installed without anyone yet adding them to the map.

We encountered exactly this problem while developing this toolkit: **known ALPR installations were not shown on the available community maps.**

Use the maps as **leads - not proof that you have found every camera.**

Didn't find your camera on the map? Help put it there.

Both DeFlock and ALPRMaps.com depend on community contributions. If you positively identify an ALPR that isn't shown, you can submit its location and help make the maps more complete for other residents.

Before submitting a camera, **make sure you are reasonably confident that it really is an ALPR and record its location accurately.** If you can identify the manufacturer, include that information as well.

I Found One. Want to find more? Where Else Should I Look?

ALPR cameras are often placed along **major routes entering or leaving a community**, where they can observe a large portion of the vehicle traffic traveling through the area.

If you identify an ALPR installation on a major roadway on one side of town, it may be worth checking other major routes into and out of the community as well. For example, if your town has four heavily traveled points of entry, check all four.

In bigger Towns/Cities, also look at major highway interchanges, heavily traveled intersections and other locations where significant amounts of vehicle traffic pass.

Practical Tip: Finding one ALPR can sometimes help you find others. Ask yourself: *If this camera is watching vehicles entering/exiting the town on the south end, where would another camera logically be located?*

Safety Tip: Have a partner. Don't try to drive while YOU look for cameras!

I Found some ALPRs Now What?

Once you have reasonably established that your municipality uses ALPR technology, **you do not need to locate every camera before moving on.**

You have already answered the first important question:

Yes - my municipality uses ALPR technology.

From here, you have a choice:

You can ambitiously do more digging to find out how many cameras there are, who the vendor is, when the system was approved and what information is already publicly available.



Or take a shortcut...

Go directly to **Section 4 - Asking Your Municipality About Its ALPR Program.**

The sample letter in Section 4 asks municipal officials for the information you really want to know - including what equipment the municipality has, how the system is being used, who may access its data, what policies govern it, and how the municipality is preparing to comply with Public Act 26-14.

Section 4

Sample Letter to Your Municipality

One of the simplest ways to begin learning about ALPR use in your community is to ask your municipal officials directly.

The following letter is intended as a starting point. It can be sent by **an individual resident, a group of residents, a community organization, or a combination of residents and organizations**. Modify the opening and signature lines to fit your circumstances.

Depending on how your municipality is organized, appropriate recipients might include the **Town or City Council, Board of Selectmen, Board of Public Safety, Police Commission, Police Chief, Town or City Manager, or other officials responsible for public safety and municipal contracts**. Consider copying the municipal clerk so the correspondence becomes part of the municipal record.

Do not assume that every municipal official is already familiar with the new ALPR requirements. It may be helpful to include a copy of **Sections 13 - 15 of Public Act 26-14**, or provide information on where the legislation can be found.

The questions below are suggestions. **Add, remove or modify them based on what you already know about ALPR use in your community.**



Sample Letter

[Date]

[Name of Municipal Board or Officials]

[Municipality]

[Address]

CC: [Police Chief, Board of Public Safety/Police Commission, Municipal Clerk, etc.]

Subject: Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Systems and Public Act 26-14

Dear [Members of the Town Council / Board of Selectmen / Board of Public Safety / etc.]:

We are residents of [municipality] and/or members of [organization(s)] with an interest in public safety, privacy and transparent local government. We are writing to better understand how

our municipality uses Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology and how it implements the requirements of Connecticut Public Act 26-14.

We recognize that ALPR systems can be valuable law-enforcement tools. They can assist in recovering stolen vehicles, locating missing persons, identifying vehicles involved in serious crimes and other legitimate public-safety investigations.

At the same time, ALPR technology raises legitimate privacy concerns. Because these systems can create records of where vehicles have been observed, questions naturally arise about how long the information is retained, who may access it, how it may be shared, what role private vendors play, and what safeguards exist to prevent inappropriate or unauthorized use.

Recognizing both the public-safety benefits and the privacy implications of this technology, the Connecticut General Assembly enacted Public Act 26-14, establishing statewide standards governing the use, retention, sharing and oversight of ALPR systems and data.

We recognize that implementing these new requirements may require policy review, contractual review and administrative changes. We would appreciate any information you can provide regarding the following:

1. **Does our municipality currently operate or use ALPR systems or ALPR data?** If so, how many ALPR cameras or recording devices are currently in use and where are they located?
2. **Has the municipality or police department adopted or updated a written ALPR policy to implement the requirements of Public Act 26-14?** If so, is that policy available for public review?
3. **Have the municipality's ALPR data-retention practices been reviewed or modified to comply with the Act?**
4. **Have policies governing access to and sharing of ALPR data - including sharing with out-of-state or federal agencies - been reviewed or modified to comply with the Act?**
5. **What procedures are in place for logging, auditing and supervisory oversight of ALPR system use to help ensure that the system is used only for authorized purposes?**
6. **If a private vendor provides ALPR equipment, software, data storage or other services, has the vendor agreement been reviewed for compliance with the requirements of Public Act 26-14?**
7. **Does the municipality anticipate purchasing or installing additional ALPR equipment?** If so, how will future expansion of the system be considered and communicated to the public?

We appreciate your service to our community and your consideration of these questions. We look forward to learning more about how **[municipality]** is implementing Public Act 26-14.

Respectfully,

[Name(s)]
[Organization(s), if applicable]
[Contact information, if desired]

For reference, the links below are to PA 26-14 and PA 26-76 (which subsequently amended the private-vendor provision in PA 26-14 §13(g)(5).) Together, these Acts establish the current State of Connecticut policy on this issue:

Connecticut Public Act 26-14:

Subsequent amendment — Public Act 26-76, §46:

[Official Public Act 26-14 PDF](#)

[Official Public Act 26-76 PDF](#)

Optional Paragraph: Voluntary Pause on Additional ALPR Installations

Residents or organizations that support a temporary pause on additional ALPR installations can insert the following paragraph **before the paragraph beginning “We recognize that implementing these new requirements...”**

In light of the ongoing statewide discussion regarding ALPR technology, we would also support a voluntary pause on additional ALPR installations while the new statewide requirements and guidance are being implemented. Whether or not the municipality chooses to participate in such a pause, we would appreciate knowing how it intends to approach any future expansion of its ALPR system.

Before You Send the Letter

Some additional guidance for your letter:

- **Personalize it.** If you already know your town uses ALPRs, replace Question 1 with what you know. If you know the vendor, name it. If the town recently approved additional cameras, mention that.
- **Send it to the people who can actually answer it.** Municipal government structures differ. Consider both the governing body and whichever board, commission or police department oversees public safety.
- **Consider copying the municipal clerk.** This can help establish a record of the correspondence.
- **Attach or reference the law.** Some recipients may be very familiar with PA 26-14; others may be seeing its ALPR provisions for the first time.
- **You don't necessarily need to start with an FOI request.** Give officials an opportunity to answer the questions and provide documents that are readily available. A more targeted Freedom of Information request can follow if important information is missing.
- **Keep the response.** The municipality's answers, policies and documents can become useful starting points for the later steps in this toolkit.

Section 5

So You Really Want to Get Into It?

By this point, you may already know that your municipality uses ALPRs. You may have identified some of the cameras, checked the available maps, and sent—or be preparing to send—the letter in Section 4.

For many residents, **that may be enough.**

But perhaps the answers you received raised more questions. You want to know where ALL the ALPRs are! Perhaps you want to see the actual vendor contract rather than simply being told that it complies with Connecticut law. Or perhaps you're just the kind of person who sees a strange camera on a pole and suddenly wants to know everything about it.

Welcome to Section 5.

The good news is that much of the information you want may be a **public record.**

Start With the Documents That Already Exist

Before filing a Freedom of Information request, see what you can find online.

Municipal websites can be surprisingly useful. Look at:

- Town or City Council agendas, minutes and meeting packets
- Board of Selectmen, Police Commission or Board of Public Safety records
- Police Department policies
- Purchasing and procurement records
- Budgets and capital expenditures
- Vendor contracts and contract amendments
- Annual ALPR reports, when available

Search not only for “ALPR” and “Automated License Plate Reader,” but also:

license plate reader • LPR • camera • vehicle detection • public safety camera • surveillance • Flock • Rekor • Motorola/Vigilant • Genetec

If you know the vendor, **search for the vendor's name.** Sometimes that will find a purchase or meeting record that never uses the term “ALPR.”



Follow the Money

One of the easiest ways to learn about a municipal technology system is to find out **who paid for it and who approved the expenditure.**

Look for:

Purchase approved → Amount spent → Vendor → Equipment purchased → Contract

Meeting minutes may also tell you **what municipal officials were told the system would be used for when they approved it.**

That can be worth saving.

A municipality may initially have purchased ALPRs for a limited purpose - such as locating stolen vehicles or assisting with serious crimes. Later, you may want to compare that original explanation with the municipality's current policy and actual use of the system.

Also look for later purchases. A program that began with two cameras may have expanded considerably.

Find the Current ALPR Policy

If your police department or municipality has an ALPR policy online, download it.

Start with some basic questions:

- Who is allowed to use the system?
- What purposes are authorized?
- How long is data retained?
- Who may search the data?
- Who may the data be shared with?
- Are outside agencies given access?
- What does the policy say about logging and audits?
- Who supervises the program?

And **check the date.**

A policy written before Public Act 26-14 may still describe the municipality's current practices, but it may also be awaiting revision as the new Connecticut requirements take effect.

Find the Vendor Contract

This may be one of the most interesting documents you find.

The contract can tell you considerably more than the manufacturer's advertising page. Look for provisions concerning:

Data ownership • retention • storage • access • sharing • security • vendor access • other-agency access • contract length • renewal • cost

Don't assume the original contract is the whole story. Look for **amendments, renewals, addenda and later purchases** as well.

And remember what we learned in FAQ 6: Public Act 26-14 places specific restrictions on contracts between Connecticut public agencies and private ALPR vendors.

“We Don't Share With ICE” Doesn't Answer the Whole Question

This is an area where it pays to be precise.

Before October 1, 2026, with a networked ALPR system, another law-enforcement agency may be granted continuing access to search another agency's ALPR data. The camera-owning municipality may not receive and individually approve a new request each time an authorized outside agency performs a search. Beginning October 1, 2026, PA 26-14 restricts this type of real-time, bulk or automatic access and generally requires a documented, case-specific request.

That means there are several different questions worth asking:

Who is currently authorized to access our municipality's ALPR data?

Who has actually searched or accessed our municipality's ALPR data?

Who can add or remove outside agencies from the access list?

How often are those access relationships reviewed?

This distinction has become particularly important in Connecticut. Reporting based on Flock audit records found that out-of-state law-enforcement agencies had repeatedly searched Connecticut ALPR data, with recorded search reasons including “ICE”, “ICE Assist”, “ICE Support”, and “Immigration Violation.”

CT Insider, February 3, 2026:

[Out-of-state police are using Connecticut license plate camera data for immigration enforcement](#)

Public Act 26-14 creates significant new restrictions governing this type of access and sharing. But if you are trying to understand your municipality's ALPR program, don't look only at **what the policy says should happen**.

Try to determine **what access actually exists**.

Look for Audit and Access Information

As explained in the FAQs, PA 26-14 places considerable importance on logging and auditing.

That gives residents another useful avenue of inquiry.

You may want to know:

- Which outside agencies have searched the system?
- How many searches have been performed?
- What reasons were entered for those searches?
- Have unusual or prohibited searches been identified?
- What did the municipality's audits find?
- Were access privileges ever changed or revoked as a result?

The underlying ALPR data showing the movements of individual vehicles is generally protected, but PA 26-14 generally makes **information derived from system audits, system-usage logs and data-access logs public when the underlying ALPR data is redacted**.

That's potentially a very useful distinction.

You aren't asking:

“Show me everywhere Connecticut plate ABC-123 traveled.”

You're asking:

“Show me how this government surveillance system is being used and audited.”

When You Can't Find It - FOI

Eventually you may reach a point where searching municipal websites isn't getting you any further.

That's when Connecticut's **Freedom of Information Act** becomes useful.

A targeted FOI request might seek records such as:

- the current ALPR policy;
- vendor contracts, amendments and renewals;
- purchasing records;
- camera locations;
- records identifying agencies authorized to access municipal ALPR data;
- audit information;
- system-usage and access-log information that can be disclosed with the underlying ALPR data redacted; and
- records concerning proposed expansion of the system.

Don't ask for everything just because you can.

A focused request is easier for municipal staff to understand, easier for them to fulfill, and more likely to give you information you can actually use.

Keep What You Find

Create a folder for your municipality.

Save copies of policies, contracts, meeting minutes, responses to your letter, FOI responses and other useful records. Include the date you obtained each item.

That becomes especially valuable over time.

You may eventually be able to compare:

What the town originally said the cameras were for

↓

What its written policy allows

↓

Who has access to the data

↓

What the audits show actually happened



What changes after Public Act 26-14

And if several residents or community organizations around Connecticut do the same thing, those individual municipal snapshots can begin to tell a much larger story.

Section 6

Freedom of Information -

Getting the Records

If you've reached this point, there may still be information about your municipality's ALPR system that you haven't been able to find.

Connecticut's Freedom of Information Act allows you to request public records from your municipality. **You don't need an attorney or a special FOI form.** Describe the records you want as clearly and specifically as possible.

Before filing a request, check whether the records are already available on the municipality's or police department's website. If not, an emailed FOI request is an easy way to ask for them while keeping a record of your request.

What Should I Request?

Don't automatically request everything. **Choose the records that will answer the questions you actually have.**

Possible ALPR records include:

1. **The current ALPR policy**, including usage, privacy, access, sharing, retention and auditing policies.
2. **The current ALPR vendor contract**, including amendments, addenda and renewals.
3. **ALPR camera locations**, including cameras operated by or on behalf of the municipality.
4. **Agencies or other entities currently authorized to access or search the municipality's ALPR data.**
5. **Records showing changes in ALPR sharing or network-access permissions** during a specified period.
6. **Information derived from ALPR system audits, system-usage logs and data-access logs**, with the underlying ALPR data redacted as required by law. If your municipality uses Flock, specifically request both the **Organization Audit (internal)** and **Network Audit records.**
7. **Purchasing and approval records**, including purchase orders, invoices and records concerning proposed expansion of the ALPR system.



Why #6 May Be Particularly Interesting

For a Flock system, the two audits can answer very different questions:

Organization Audit: What have users within our agency been doing?

Network Audit: What outside agencies have been searching our cameras/data?

If you are concerned about **outside access**, the Network Audit may be particularly useful.

Sample FOI Request

Subject: Freedom of Information Request - ALPR Records

Dear [Police Department / FOI Officer]:

Pursuant to the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act, I am requesting electronic copies of the following records concerning the municipality's Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) system:

[COPY THE NUMBERED ITEMS YOU WANT FROM THE LIST ABOVE.]

For records covering a period of time, please provide records from **[DATE] through [DATE]**.

Please provide the records electronically if available.

If any portion of a requested record is withheld or redacted, please identify the legal basis and provide any portion of the record that is subject to disclosure.

If fulfilling this request will result in fees exceeding \$____, please notify me before incurring the charge.

Thank you,

[NAME]

[EMAIL]

[PHONE — optional]

A Few FOI Tips

Be specific. “All records concerning ALPRs” may produce an enormous amount of material. Several focused requests can be more useful than one giant request.

You generally don't have to explain why you want the records. You're asking for public records, not applying for permission to investigate your government.

Ask for electronic copies. They are easier to search, save and share and may avoid paper-copy charges.

Save everything. Keep your request, the response and the records you receive. They may become particularly valuable for comparing what your municipality was doing **before PA 26-14** with what changes afterward.

If records you believe should be public are withheld, ask what legal exemption the municipality is relying upon. The Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission provides guidance and a complaint process.

[Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission](#)

***We think our Legislators did their job to help protect us -
Now it's our job to ensure our towns & cities are complying.***



ALPR Toolkit created by **INDIVISIBLE NWCT** and shared for Public Use throughout Connecticut

