



Revised Annual Report

Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR)
San Diego Police Department

Department/Division: Police – Special Project and Legislative Affairs

Related Policy/Procedure:

- DP 1.51 Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR)
 - DP 3.02 Property and Evidence
-

Revised October 23, 2025

DESCRIPTION

This revised Annual Report provides an overview of how Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) technology enhances public safety in the City of San Diego (City). It explains how the system works, how the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) uses it responsibly, and how it supports investigations while protecting privacy and civil liberties. The report also highlights improvements developed in collaboration with the Privacy Advisory Board (PAB).

Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) technology uses cameras and software provided by the vendor, Flock, to automatically identify and record rear-mounted license plates. Cameras mounted on streetlights at 500 locations across the City capture images of passing or parked vehicles in public places.

The system reads each plate number, notes the time, date, and location, and may record general vehicle characteristics such as make, model, and color. This information is encrypted and transmitted to a secure database that only authorized SDPD personnel can access. The technology operates continuously, not to monitor individuals, but to help locate vehicles linked to crimes, missing persons, or public safety alerts quickly and accurately. A plate that seems ordinary today may become crucial evidence tomorrow when a crime is reported.

Although the system collects a large amount of data, the vast majority is never viewed by approved SDPD personnel and is automatically deleted within 30 days unless it becomes evidence in an active case.

In 2024:

- Officers conducted more than 140,000 investigative searches of ALPR data, which played a key role in 294 cases.
- The technology supported the arrest of 208 suspects and the recovery of 10 firearms and approximately \$3 million in stolen property, including 223 stolen vehicles.
- Of the 35 homicides San Diego experienced in 2024, ALPR technology aided in a third of them and helped lead to six apprehensions. Four of those cases would not have been solved without the technology's assistance.
- ALPR also helped locate a missing man with dementia, apprehend a suspect wanted for the attempted kidnapping of two children, and identify suspects in a series of hate crimes in Hillcrest.
- Beyond arrests, ALPR improves precision policing – helping officers rely on verified



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information rather than broad patrols, which reduces unnecessary community contacts, conserves resources, and increases safety for both officers and residents.

SDPD's use of ALPR technology is guided by clear policy standards that were developed in partnership with the PAB and strictly define when and how the system may be used. These safeguards are codified in the ALPR Use Policy, ensuring that the technology serves legitimate public safety purposes while protecting privacy and civil rights.

The Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) system may only be used for official law enforcement purposes such as locating vehicles connected to investigations, supporting responses to critical incidents, and assisting in efforts to find at-risk missing persons. These uses ensure that ALPR technology remains a focused investigative and public safety tool rather than a system for general surveillance. A complete description of authorized uses is provided in the ALPR Use Policy.

The Use Policy also establishes clear prohibitions to prevent misuse and protect individual rights. ALPR data and cameras may not be used to invade personal privacy, discriminate or target individuals or groups, violate constitutional or statutory protections, or serve any personal or non-law enforcement purpose.

These restrictions are reinforced through SDPD training, audits, and system access controls. Each authorized user must complete ALPR-specific training on lawful use, privacy, and data handling before being granted system access. Violations of these provisions are subject to disciplinary action and review.

By codifying these standards, SDPD ensures ALPR use remains narrowly focused on legitimate law enforcement needs. The Use Policy's structure, clearly distinguishing authorized and prohibited uses, creates transparency, consistency, and accountability. Together with California Senate Bill 34, California Senate Bill 54 and the City's Transparent and Responsible Use of Surveillance Technology (TRUST) Ordinance, these internal protections demonstrate SDPD's commitment to balancing public safety with the privacy and civil rights of all San Diegans.

ALPR has proven to be a force multiplier for SDPD. Although it is difficult to measure precisely how much time or labor the system saves because no standardized baseline existed before its implementation, case examples and investigator feedback consistently show that ALPR improves efficiency and investigative success. Please see Addendum B, which provides a monthly breakdown of system use and specific case examples where ALPR technology assisted investigations.

Through continued collaboration with the PAB and strict adherence to City and State privacy laws, San Diego remains a national leader in the transparent, accountable, and effective use of ALPR technology.

SHARING OF DATA



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In addition to providing ALPR data to the District Attorney's Office for criminal prosecution, SDPD accessed or shared ALPR images or data with other law enforcement agencies after a qualifying crime had occurred, such as a homicide or shooting, and when there was a legitimate investigative need.

In a few serious cases in 2024, involving crimes such as human trafficking, an assault against an officer and crimes against children, SDPD shared ALPR data with out-of-state and federal law enforcement agencies. None of the qualifying crime cases were related to immigration enforcement. (See Addendum A for a comprehensive list of outside agency data sharing.)

After receiving guidance from the California Department of Justice, SDPD immediately ended all such sharing with federal and out-of-state departments. This decision was formalized in a Department-wide order in May 2025.

Additionally, SDPD identified a brief period after system launch during which other California law enforcement agencies could temporarily access SDPD's ALPR data. As SDPD discussed in a memo issued to the PAB and each member of City Council on June 13, 2025, this period was mistakenly left out of the original Annual Surveillance Report and has been added to the Unauthorized Access section below.

These changes reflect SDPD's commitment to responsible technology use and public trust.

UPDATES, UPGRADES, AND CONFIGURATION CHANGES

There have been no updates, upgrades, or configuration changes that expanded or reduced the surveillance technology's capabilities.

ANNUAL COST

**These costs are duplicates of the Smart Streetlight (SSL) costs as this is a partner technology, and the cost is built into the SSL costs.*

San Diego's Smart Streetlight system includes two partner technologies: situational awareness video cameras and Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) cameras.

In 2024, the City of San Diego paid a one-time installation and activation fee of \$1,500,000. This fee covered:

1. Installation of 500 Smart Streetlight units, along with any future units approved by City Council, at designated locations.
2. Removal of existing CityIQ units from locations where the new system was deployed, and the safe transfer of those units to City storage.
3. Installation of the new units and initiation of service in accordance with the project milestone schedule.

No additional activation fees will be required for any future units authorized by City Council.



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The annual service cost for the two integrated technologies is \$2,012,500, based on a per-unit rate of \$4,025.

On December 26, 2023, the City issued an initial payment of \$3,512,500, which included the \$1.5 million installation fee and the first year of service for all 500 Smart Streetlights and ALPR cameras.

Due to City infrastructure needs, a \$6,800 payment was made on June 24, 2024, to relocate several Smart Streetlight units. The relocation cost was \$450 per camera, as specified in the contract.

Between installation, activation, and relocation costs, the total amount paid for the 2024 Smart Streetlight Program was \$3,519,300.

Under the contract, all service fees are billed and paid in advance. On December 11, 2024, the City of San Diego paid the 2025 annual service fee.

Because not all 500 units were installed by the end of 2024, the vendor adjusted the fee to reflect the number of operational units, reducing the total from \$2,012,500 to \$1,449,602.08.

All funding for the Smart Streetlight program was provided through the City's General Fund.

A copy of the full contract, COSD Public Safety Agreement – Ubicquia, is available at [cosd-public-safety-agreement-ubicquia.pdf](#).

LOCATION

The Smart Streetlights System, which includes the situational cameras and the ALPR cameras, were attached to City of San Diego streetlight poles.

DEPLOYMENT LOCATION

The cameras were deployed Citywide in all police divisions.

Current camera deployment locations can be found at the link below.

- <https://webmaps.sandiego.gov/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html>

COMMUNITY COMPLAINTS OR CONCERNS

Since SDPD's ALPR program launched, some community members have raised concerns over how the technology protects people's privacy, if it could be used in immigration or reproductive rights investigations, and whether the data collected would be vulnerable to outside access.

SDPD has taken these concerns seriously. SDPD has worked to educate the public, strengthen policies, and partner closely with the PAB to ensure the community can feel confident this technology is being used responsibly to keep our neighborhoods safe.



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Additionally, SDPD received a letter dated July 31, 2024, from the Community Advocates for Just and Moral Governance titled “Notice of Violations of the TRUST Ordinance – Smart Streetlights and Automated License Plate Readers.” No other written complaints or concerns have been filed with SDPD.

SDPD remains committed to working with community groups, the Privacy Advisory Board, and elected officials to ensure continued public education and transparency around this technology. The Use Policy continues to outline clear safeguards to protect civil rights and civil liberties.

AUDITS OR INVESTIGATIONS

An ALPR system administrator, holding the supervisory rank of Sergeant, conducts weekly audits of the ALPR program. These audits ensure compliance with State and local laws, such as SB 34 and the TRUST Ordinance, SDPD’s Use Policy, and proper system operation. The administrator verifies that all equipment is functioning correctly, data is not retained beyond the established retention period, and that all users with access have received the required training and authorization.

Each week, the audit also confirms that every search includes a valid and complete case or incident number in the “reason for search” field. The administrator checks that numbers are current, properly formatted, and not reused across multiple days or by multiple users. Although it is common for several officers to investigate the same case, resulting in multiple searches with the same case number, the administrator verifies that these searches are legitimate. This typically occurs during active incidents when multiple patrol officers are attempting to locate a suspect vehicle immediately after a crime. (Please see Addendum B for examples of such cases.)

The audit process also reviews for case numbers originating outside the San Diego Police Department. Case numbers from other law enforcement agencies may appear in valid circumstances, such as when SDPD assists in a regional search or responds to California agency bulletins or wanted flyers. When this occurs, the system administrator confirms the request and verifies the validity of the search.

To maintain certification, all authorized users must complete annual ALPR training through the City’s training portal. If training is not completed on time, system access is automatically suspended until the user submits a valid certificate of completion to the program administrator.

These regular audits and training requirements ensure that SDPD maintains full accountability and compliance in its use of ALPR technology.

SDPD’s audit work drove key improvements to Flock’s software, including one piloted in San Diego that has since evolved into a network-wide standard.

In the Flock Safety interface, users conducting a search of ALPR data were required to enter a “Reason” for the search, but it did not prompt users to include a case or incident number.



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Because of this, users provided appropriate reasons for a search, which is in line with SDPD's Surveillance Use Policy, but because there was not a more detailed prompt, more specific information was omitted.

To address this, on January 26, 2024, the audit issued ORDER OR 24-04, which requires all ALPR users to:

- Include a specific case number or incident number in the "reason" field when conducting searches.
- Ensure the event is linked to a specific crime (broad entries like "11-86" are no longer acceptable).
- Add relevant details to assist with investigative documentation and future court proceedings.

Because this update was implemented after the system launch, it took users time to adjust. However, any time a user conducted a search without the appropriate metadata, a supervisor immediately addressed the issue. Those searches were verified to be connected to an active case number or event number in compliance with the Use Policy.

After the Department Order was issued, fewer than one percent of searches were missing the required metadata.

SDPD worked with Flock Safety to create a new, dedicated "Case/Incident Number" field in addition to the "reason" field. This section was added to the Flock Safety interface nationwide, resulting in more thorough entries and audits.

The Department Order is part of this year's Annual Training related to the ALPR system and will be rolled into annual training moving forward.

As previously discussed, another type of internal audit identified the period at our system's launch when an improper setting mistakenly allowed California law enforcement agencies to access SDPD's ALPR data in late December 2023 to early January 2024. That setting was immediately corrected and hasn't occurred since.

This incident motivated SDPD to build on its audit process by including SDPD's Research, Analysis and Planning Unit (RAP) (SDPD's internal auditing and controls unit) earlier in the process and by mandating quarterly audits. On April 25, 2025, a Department Order was issued requiring surveillance technology Subject Matter Experts (SME) to conduct these enhanced audits.

As part of this process:

- All SMEs will conduct quarterly audits of the requirements in the Annual Report to enhance record keeping and ensure greater accuracy of the Annual Report.
- SDPD SMEs will conduct audits at random for uses of the technology.
- SDPD will create share logs to document what data is shared and why.
- RAP will conduct independent audits to confirm share logs are completed, ensure that use policies are current, and ensure that system user access is up to date.



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Any violation will be immediately reported to RAP for documentation and corrections.

DATA BREACH DETECTION

SDPD works closely with the City's Department of Information Technology (IT) to assess cybersecurity risks, approve technology, and ensure proper governance. Additional details about the City's IT governance processes can be found in the FY23–FY27 IT Strategic Plan.

Key safeguards include:

Secure Cloud Storage: All ALPR data is stored on the Amazon Government Cloud, which includes multiple layers of digital protection.

Encryption and Firewalls: Data is safeguarded with encryption, firewalls, and multi-factor authentication protocols to protect digital evidence.

Controlled Access: Access is limited to SDPD personnel assigned to investigative or enforcement roles. Only individuals authorized by the Chief of Police are permitted to access ALPR data.

Secure Access Management

ALPR data downloaded from a video management solution to a mobile workstation or to digital evidence storage (e.g., Axon Evidence) is only accessible through a City-controlled Single Sign-On (SSO), a password-protected system that logs every access by user name, date, and time.

The SSO password must be reset at each login and follow strict complexity requirements:

1. At least 12 characters long.
2. Contain characters from at least three of the following categories:
 - a. Uppercase letters (A–Z)
 - b. Lowercase letters (a–z)
 - c. Numbers (0–9)
 - d. Symbols: ~ ! @ # \$ % ^ & * () - _
3. May not repeat any of the previous 24 passwords.
4. Cannot contain three or more identical characters in sequence.

Users must comply with all City computer security settings, including password expiration, complexity, and the automatic password-protected screen saver feature. Users are required to lock or log off when leaving a workstation with sensitive information visible.

Vendor Security Standards

Flock Safety, the City's ALPR technology provider, follows strict cybersecurity protocols and undergoes regular third-party audits. Flock's system operates on Amazon Web Services (AWS), a cloud platform designed for government-level security. The company employs



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256-bit encryption, role-based access, and full Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) compliance.

Flock Safety maintains multiple third-party cybersecurity certifications, including:

- SOC 2 Type II – Systems and Organization Controls (AICPA)
- SOC 3 – Public report of internal controls for security and availability
- ISO 27001:2022 – Information security management systems (International Standards Organization)
- NIST 800-53 / Rev. 5 – Security and privacy controls for information systems (National Institute of Standards and Technology)
- HIPAA – Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act compliance
- VPAT – Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (Information Technology Industry Council)
- CISA Secure by Design Pledge – Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency initiative

IT Governance and Certification

In 2023 prior to installation, the Flock ALPR solution underwent review through the Department of Information Technology's Governance Process, in accordance with Administrative Regulation (AR) 90.68 – Procurement of Technology Solutions. Flock's system demonstrated alignment with the City's technical and security standards and received full approval.

In addition to meeting City IT governance requirements, Flock Safety adheres to all applicable cybersecurity industry standards, attestations, and frameworks listed above.

DATA BREACH OR UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS

Although California law permits ALPR database access between California agencies, the City's Contract and Use Policy for ALPR bars outside agencies from accessing SDPD's ALPR Flock database. While there was no data breach, there was a brief period of unauthorized access by other California law enforcement agencies due to a system configuration error at the system's launch.

As a result of the system misconfiguration, from December 29, 2023, to January 17, 2024, SDPD's ALPR camera system was inadvertently included in 12,914 searches conducted by other state agencies. No out-of-state or federal law enforcement agencies had access to data during this period. While an additional 795 searches were conducted on December 28, 2023, none of SDPD's cameras had been turned on, so there was no data available to search.

Of the 12,914 searches conducted by other state agencies, 12,202 were for a specific license plate or partial license plate, and around 50 percent were repeated inquiries for the same license plate wanted in connection with a criminal investigation.

Below is a table showing the number of cameras active on each day and the number of searches conducted by other state agencies:



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Date	Active Cameras	Searches
28-Dec	0	795
29-Dec	7	1099
30-Dec	7	462
31-Dec	7	717
1-Jan	7	231
2-Jan	7	592
3-Jan	9	1060
4-Jan	10	1040
5-Jan	13	655
6-Jan	13	554
7-Jan	13	343
8-Jan	21	571
9-Jan	26	922
10-Jan	32	981
11-Jan	35	898
12-Jan	35	514
13-Jan	35	458
14-Jan	35	200
15-Jan	35	379
16-Jan	39	635
17-Jan	41	503

Search Timeframe	Number of Searches
2023 Searches	3,073
2024 Searches	10,536
Total	13,609
December 28, 2023, Searches	-795
Actual Searches	12,914

The initial unauthorized access was discovered through an internal audit on or around January 17, 2024. SDPD immediately notified Flock, which corrected the data-sharing settings the same day. This issue has not occurred since. (Please see Addendum A for a more detailed breakdown.)

INFORMATION AND STATISTICS



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Quantitatively measuring the full impact of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology remains challenging. Because many baseline metrics had not been established before adopting ALPR – such as average case resolution time or officer hours spent per investigation – it is difficult to make precise comparisons between pre- and post-implementation outcomes. For example, while investigators consistently report that ALPR dramatically reduces time spent identifying suspect vehicles and coordinating responses, there is no pre-existing benchmark for how long these tasks took before the system was deployed.

Despite the absence of historical baselines, qualitative and case-based evidence strongly demonstrate the system's effectiveness. ALPR has repeatedly enabled detectives to connect multi-jurisdictional crimes, locate violent offenders, and recover stolen property with greater speed and accuracy. In one case, investigators used ALPR data to identify a burglary suspect whose vehicle was tied to multiple crimes across several communities, an arrest that likely would have required weeks of manual follow-up without the technology. In another, a kidnapping victim was found safe within minutes of an ALPR alert pinpointing the suspect vehicle's location. In addition, homicide, robbery, and child exploitation cases were solved through coordinated ALPR hits and Smart Streetlight camera footage that provided investigators with critical, time-sensitive leads. (Please see additional case information in Addendum B.)

While it is difficult to determine causation between specific crime trends and the implementation of ALPR, the data is encouraging. Motor vehicle thefts, one of the most directly impacted crime types, fell by more than 20 percent in the year the technology was installed and continues to decline. This trend suggests that ALPR not only helps solve crimes after they occur but also acts as a deterrent by increasing the likelihood of recovery and arrest.

Taken together, these examples illustrate that ALPR functions as a powerful investigative multiplier, helping officers focus on credible leads, preventing further victimization, and enhancing community safety while reducing the need for broad or intrusive patrol activity.

While future reports may include new performance benchmarks, such as average time-to-identification or case clearance rates, the consistent outcomes across hundreds of investigations have demonstrated that ALPR technology is an indispensable, responsible, and effective tool in modern policing.

Investigation Assists	
187 PC – Homicide	11
211 PC – Robbery	6
207 PC – Kidnapping	3
245DV PC – Assault with a Deadly Weapon (Domestic Violence)	1
245 PC – Assault with a Deadly Weapon	5
261 PC – Rape	2
288 PC – Lewd or Lascivious Acts with a Child	3



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459 – Burglary	10
Traffic (Serious Injury Crashes)	3
Other	10

ALPR Responses	
Stolen Vehicles Recovered	223
Stolen Vehicle Suspects In Custody	175
Missing Persons	1

Totals	
Total Events	294
Total Suspect In Custody	208
Estimated Value of Recovered Stolen Property	\$3,055,400
Recovered Guns	10



**Property value is based on the estimated value of a stolen goods, like stolen vehicles.*

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC RECORDS ACT REQUESTS

There were five Public Records Act requests related to ALPR in calendar year 2024.



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The information produced in response to those requests can be viewed on the City of San Diego's CPRA request portal: <https://sandiego.nextrequest.com/>

Request Number	Request Date	Closed Date
24-1400	2/23/2024	4/16/2024
24-6236	9/10/2024	9/14/2024
24-6912	10/6/2024	10/20/2024
24-7450	10/24/2024	10/24/2024
24-7913	11/12/2024	11/16/2024

REQUESTED MODIFICATIONS TO THE USE POLICY

The following modifications to the ALPR Use Policy are proposed.

- Add reference to California Senate Bill 34 under the subsection that defines prohibited ALPR uses including those that violate federal, state or local laws.
- Clarification that ALPR data is stored consistent with the City's IT governance process.
- Add to the Third-Party Data Sharing section that ALPR data shall not be shared with private entities, out-of-state agencies, or federal agencies, including out-of-state and federal law enforcement agencies in accordance with SB 34.
- Replace references to "Special Projects and Legislative Affairs" & "SPLA" with "program administrator."
 - This change aligns with the new SDPD command structure.
- Remove section with header "Modifications to the Use Policy."
 - This change aligns this use policy with all other SDPD technology use policies. Modifications to a Surveillance Use Policy are governed by the Transparent and Responsible Use of Surveillance Technology Ordinance.
- Other additional typos and language corrections. These corrections do not impact the use of the technology.



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ADDENDUM A – OUTSIDE AGENCY SHARING

HOW SDPD HANDLES ALPR SEARCH REQUESTS

SDPD does not grant outside agencies direct access to its ALPR system. When another California law enforcement agency needs assistance, they must contact SDPD, explain the qualifying reason for the request (such as a serious crime or public safety emergency), and then SDPD personnel conduct the search internally. The requesting agency is then informed of the relevant result, including whether no information was found.

The only exception to this process occurred during the three-week period following system launch when a configuration error temporarily allowed other California law enforcement agencies to search SDPD's system directly. That issue was identified and fixed in January 2024.

SEARCHES CONDUCTED DURING THREE-WEEK LAUNCH PERIOD

California Agency	Times Shared
Alameda County Sheriff's Office	307
Alhambra Police Department	31
Anaheim Police Department	11
Anderson Police Department	4
Atherton Police Department	1
Auburn Police Department	4
Azuza Police Department	1
Bakersfield Police Department	5
Baldwin Park Police Department	33
Beaumont Police Department	71
Bell Gardens Police Department	1
Benicia Police Department	7
Beverly Hills Police Department	5
Brea Police Department	14
Brisbane Police Department	3
Buena Park Police Department	59
Burbank Airport Police Department	4
Burbank Police Department	21
Chino Police Department	56
Cal Fire	10
Cal State Fullerton	1
California Highway Patrol	91
Campbell Police Department	1
Capitola Police Department	33
Cathedral City Police Department	4
Citrus Heights Police Department	8
City of Riverside Police Department	11



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Claremont Police Department	2
Colma City Police Department	6
Concord Police Department	2
Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office	168
Corona Police Department	102
Costa Mesa Police Department	10
Covina Police Department	65
Culver City Police Department	26
Cyprus Police Department	26
Danville Police Department	22
Delano Police Department	4
Dixon Police Department	12
East Bay Parks	12
El Cajon Police Department	2
El Centro Police Department	33
El Monte Police Department	220
Elk Grove Police Department	18
Escalon Police Department	8
Escondido Police Department	12
Fairfield Police Department	28
Farmersville Police Department	2
Folsom Police Department	10
Fontana Police Department	153
Fort Bragg Police Department	2
Freemont Police Department	24
Galt Police Department	5
Garden Grove Police Department	144
Gilroy Police Department	40
Glendale Police Department	8
Glendora Police Department	61
Grass Valley Police Department	11
Hanford Police Department	7
Hayward Police Department	60
Hemet Police Department	4
Hercules Police Department	69
Hillsborough Police Department	2
Hollister Police Department	1
Huntington Beach Police Department	25
Imperial City Police Department	1
Imperial County Sheriff's Office	1
Indio Police Department	18
Irvine Police Department	104
Kern County Sheriff's Office	257



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Kings County Sheriff's Office	17
La Habra Police Department	5
Laverne Police Department	5
Laguna Beach Police Department	36
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office	564
Lincoln Police Department	2
Lindsay Public Safety Department	5
Livermore Police Department	35
Lodi Police Department	14
Los Angeles Police Department	104
Madera County Sheriff's Office	1
Marin County Sheriff's Office	9
Mendocino County Sheriff's Office	2
Menifee Police Department	1
Menlo Park Police Department	32
Merced County Sheriff's Department	8
Monrovia Police Department	18
Montclair Police Department	36
Monterey County Sheriff's Office	7
Monterey Park Police Department	1
Moraga Police Department	7
Morgan Hill Police Department	150
Mountain View Police Department	31
Murrieta Police Department	220
Napa County Sheriff's Office	77
Northern California Regional Intelligence Center	53
Newark Police Department	21
Newport Beach Police Department	9
Novato Police Department	1
Oakley Police Department	16
Orange County Sheriff's Office	1225
Oceanside Police Department	8
Ontario Police Department	69
Orange Police Department	37
Orange County District Attorney's Office	8
Oxnard Police Department	21
Palm Springs Police Department	20
Palo Alto Police Department	23
Pasadena Police Department	1
Placentia Police Department	22
Placer County Sheriff's Office	56
Pleasanton Police Department	1
Pomona Police Department	51



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Porterville Police Department	11
Redlands Police Department	8
Redwood City Police Department	83
Rialto Police Department	15
Rio Vista Police Department	53
Riverside County District Attorney's Office	19
Riverside County Sheriff's Office	2037
Rocklin Police Department	12
Sacramento District Attorney's Office	10
Sacramento Police Department	20
Salinas Police Department	3
San Bernadino County Sheriff's Office	208
San Bruno Police Department	122
San Diego Sheriff's Office	117
San Francisco Police Department	121
San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office	145
San Leandro Police Department	3
San Louis Obispo Police Department	7
San Mateo Police Department	60
San Mateo County Sheriff's Office	284
San Ramon Police Department	17
Santa Barbera County Sheriff's Office	270
Santa Clara Police Department	202
Santa Cruz Police Department	2
Santa Maria Police Department	36
Santa Monica Police Department	1
Santa Rosa Police Department	60
Seal Beach Police Department	1
Simi Valley Police Department	10
Solano County Sheriff's Office	255
Sonoma County Sheriff's Office	91
Stockton Police Department	33
Suisun City Police Department	2
Torrance Police Department	1
Tracy Police Department	84
UC Riverside Police Department	1
Ukiah Police Department	15
Union City Police Department	4
Upland Police Department	80
Vacaville Police Department	31
Vallejo Police Department	21
Ventura Police Department	62
Ventura County Sheriff's Office	41



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Vernon Police Department	5
Visalia Police Department	57
Watsonville Police Department	25
West Covina Police Department	99
Wes Sacramento Police Department	3
Westminster Police Department	20
Whittier Police Department	6
Willits Police Department	2
Woodlake Police Department	26
Yreka Police Department	4

SEARCHES CONDUCTED BY SDPD FOR A CALIFORNIA AGENCY

California Agency	Times Shared
Alameda County Sheriff's Office	1
Anaheim Police	1
Belmont Police	1
Cal Automated Fingerprint Identification System	3
California Highway Patrol	19
Carlsbad Police	8
Chula Vista Police	51
Crime Stoppers	1
El Cajon Police	21
Escondido Police	6
Eureka Police	1
Huntington Beach Police	2
Imperial City Police	1
Indio Police	1
La Mesa Police	16
Long Beach Police	1
Los Angeles Airport Police	1
Los Angeles District Attorney's Office	1
Murietta Police	2
National City Police	61
Oceanside Police	7
Orange County Sheriff's Department	1
Redland Police	1
San Diego County Regional Auto Theft Task Force	4
San Diego Harbor Police	11
San Diego Sheriff's Office	99
San Diego Community College District Police	1



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San Diego State University Police	2
University of California, San Diego Police	7
Whittier Police	3

SEARCHES CONDUCTED BY SDPD UPON REQUEST OF OUT-OF-STATE AGENCIES

Out-of-State Agency	Times Shared
Portsmouth Police (New Hampshire)	2

SEARCHES CONDUCTED BY SDPD UPON REQUEST OF FEDERAL OR INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

Federal/International Agency	Times Shared
Drug Enforcement Agency	20
Federal Bureau of Investigation	3
High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas	1
Homeland Security Investigations*	4
Internet Crimes Against Children	3
Narcotics Task Force	60
U.S. Customs and Border Protection*	6
U.S. Marshals Office	3
U.S. Probation	4
U.S. Secret Service	14
United States Postal Inspection Service	8
Violent Crimes Task Force	1
Royal Canadian Mounted Police	1
San Diego Human Trafficking Task Force	3
Violent Crimes Task Force	1

*These searches were not for immigration-related cases.



ADDENDUM B – EXPANDED METRICS AND CASE

ILLUSTRATIONS

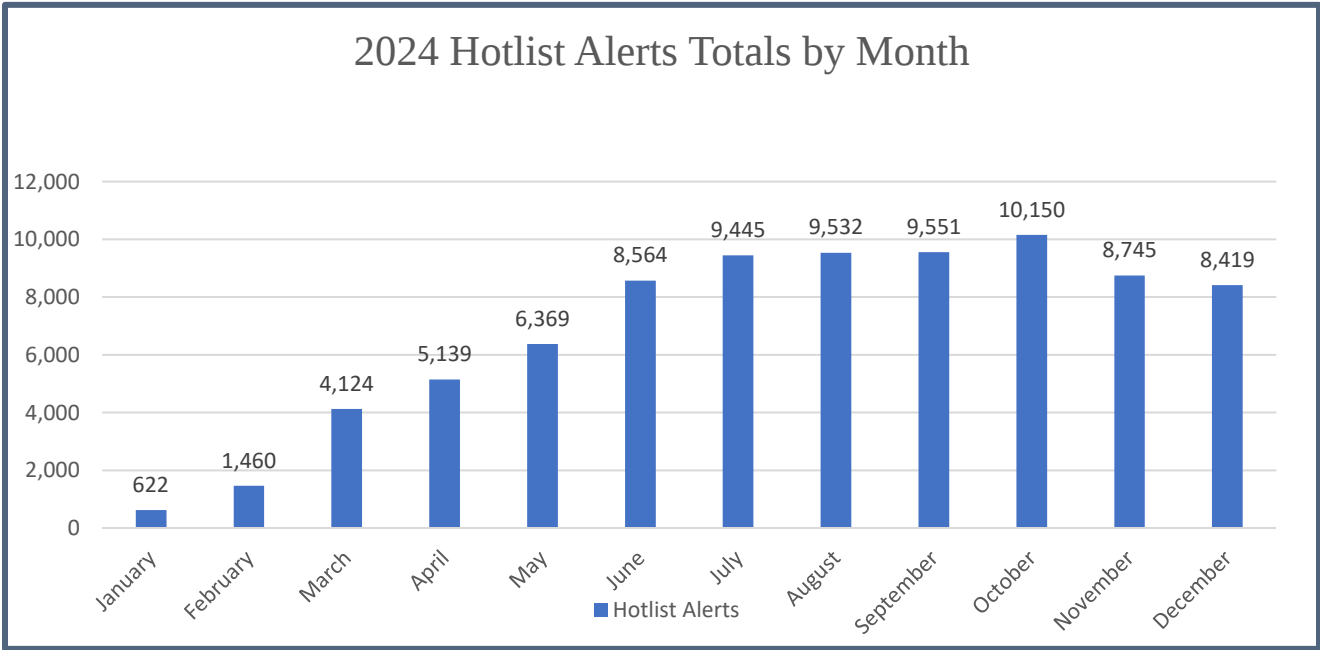
This addendum provides additional performance metrics and detailed case examples to further demonstrate the effectiveness of the Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) system.

2024 HOTLIST TOTALS

A hotlist is a list of license plate numbers entered into the ALPR system that are linked to vehicles of interest to law enforcement. The hotlist enables officers to receive real-time alerts for stolen vehicles, vehicles with stolen or lost license plates, or vehicles connected to wanted suspects. The system is integrated with the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), which retrieves data from the Stolen Vehicle System and updates daily, ensuring that alerts are accurate and current. Alerts originating from the NCIC are classified as official hotlist alerts.

In addition to NCIC data, the San Diego Police Department can add vehicles related to local investigations or at-risk individuals to a custom hotlist that is used only by SDPD. This allows officers to focus on vehicles specific to ongoing San Diego cases while still maintaining access to national information.

The 2024 Hotlist Alert Chart in this report shows the number of alerts received by SDPD each month. Each alert represents one of the following: a stolen vehicle, a stolen or lost license plate, a felony vehicle, or a custom hotlist entry associated with a local investigation.





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81,909	250	82,159	
2024 Official Hotlist Alerts	2024 Custom Hotlist Alerts	2024 Total Hotlist Alerts	
77,877	4005	250	30
2024 Stolen License Plate Alerts	2024 Stolen Vehicle Alerts	2024 Custom Hotlist Alerts	2024 Felony Vehicle Alerts

JANUARY 2024

615	7	622
Official Hotlist Alerts	Custom Hotlist Alerts	Total Hotlist Alerts

January Investigation Highlights

459 PC – Burglary

A Special Projects and Legislative Affairs (SPLA) officer used the ALPR system to follow up on a detective’s Be on the Look Out (BOLO) bulletin related to a burglary in Northeastern Division. The bulletin included photos of three suspects and a 2005 Ford Expedition believed to be involved.

Using the ALPR system, the SPLA officer located recent scans of the Expedition traveling on Logan Avenue and shared this information with the assigned detective and Central Division’s Crime Suppression Team (CST).

On January 11, 2024, Central CST officers located the vehicle in Logan Heights and conducted a traffic stop. Two suspects from the BOLO were inside. A consent search of the vehicle revealed more than \$2,000 in stolen property from the burglary. One suspect provided a statement implicating himself and others in the crime. The vehicle was impounded, and the stolen property was returned to its owner.

211 & 538 PC – Robbery and Impersonating a Police Officer

On January 16, 2024, a victim in South Bay reported being robbed by a suspect driving a newer white Jeep Grand Cherokee equipped with red and blue emergency lights. Believing the suspect to be an officer, the victim pulled over. The suspect approached with a gun, demanded the victim’s phone and wallet, and fled.

Detectives began investigating and tracked the victim’s stolen phone to an area where they located a matching Jeep. The victim reported having visited the Cheesecake Factory at



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Fashion Valley Mall shortly before the robbery. With permission, detectives accessed the mall’s private ALPR system and confirmed the suspect vehicle had been at the mall during the same timeframe as the victim.

Mall surveillance footage showed the driver illuminated by red dashboard lighting, matching the robbery description. Detectives later obtained a search warrant for the Jeep, discovering forward-facing red and blue lights and a jacket matching the suspect’s clothing.

The suspect was arrested and convicted of robbery, conspiracy, and impersonating a police officer, receiving a sentence of 365 days in custody and 3 years of probation.

FEBRUARY 2024

1,447	13	1,460
Official Hotlist Alerts	Custom Hotlist Alerts	Total Hotlist Alerts

February Investigation Highlight

487 PC – Grand Theft

On February 20, 2024, Northern Division officers requested a Hotlist entry for a suspect vehicle connected to a felony theft case in Eastern Division. The vehicle, wanted under Penal Code 487 (Grand Theft), was entered into San Diego’s Hotlist along with a Declaration for Arrest.

Within hours, the ALPR system generated a real-time alert. Officers immediately responded to the area, located the vehicle, and arrested the suspect without incident. A search of the vehicle led to the recovery of approximately \$1,200 in stolen property, which was returned to its rightful owner.

MARCH 2024

4,118	6	4,124
Official Hotlist Alerts	Custom Hotlist Alerts	Total Hotlist Alerts

March Investigation Highlights

Missing Person – Silver Alert

On March 7, 2024, family members reported an elderly man with dementia missing after he failed to return home from the bank the previous evening. He was last seen driving a 2013 Nissan Versa from his home in Tierrasanta.

The Missing Persons Unit immediately began investigating and, working with the Special Projects and Legislative Affairs Unit, entered the vehicle’s license plate into SDPD’s ALPR



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Hotlist. This ensured SDPD would receive a real-time alert if his vehicle was detected by the City's ALPR network. A statewide Silver Alert was also issued through CHP.

At 8:47 p.m., an ALPR camera detected the vehicle on Genesee Avenue, providing officers with the location in real time. Northern Division officers quickly responded and located the man driving near Clairemont Mesa Boulevard. He was found tired and disoriented but safe.

207 & 215 PC – Kidnapping and Carjacking

On March 14, 2024, ALPR cameras detected a stolen Lexus SUV entering the Las Americas Mall in Southern Division. A record check revealed that the vehicle had been involved in a carjacking and kidnapping in Central Division four days earlier.

Southern Division officers and detectives immediately responded, locating the vehicle unoccupied in the mall parking lot. Surveillance footage provided images of the suspects, and undercover detectives located them walking inside the mall. As the suspects returned to the stolen vehicle, officers safely took three males into custody. Two additional suspects were detained inside the mall.

The coordinated response, prompted by an ALPR alert, led to the swift arrest of five suspects and the recovery of the stolen vehicle, preventing further potential violence.

459 PC – Burglary

On March 8, 2024, two suspects broke into Mr. Shawarma's Restaurant on Garnet Avenue. Surveillance footage showed the same individuals near the business days earlier, apparently casing the location. Both incidents involved a black Volkswagen sedan with temporary paper plates, making identification difficult.

A Northern Division Crime Suppression Team officer used the ALPR system to search for the vehicle and obtained a clear image that revealed the full license plate number. Investigators used that information to identify and charge the two suspects with burglary.

APRIL 2024

5,107	32	5,139
Official Hotlist Alerts	Custom Hotlist Alerts	Total Hotlist Alerts

April Investigation Highlights

10851 CVC – Stolen Vehicle and Firearm Recovery

On April 17, 2024, Mid-City Division officers received an ALPR alert for a stolen vehicle near 3300 University Avenue. Officers quickly located the vehicle within ten minutes and conducted a felony stop, safely detaining the driver.



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During a search of the vehicle, officers recovered an unserialized firearm (also known as a ghost gun) loaded with 16 rounds, a controlled substance, and various burglary tools. The driver was arrested for multiple felony violations, including possession of a stolen vehicle, possession of a firearm by a felon, possession of a controlled substance while armed, possession of an unserialized firearm, and possession of a large-capacity magazine.

10851 CVC – Stolen Vehicle and Parole Violation Arrest

On April 18, 2024, Western Division officers responded to an ALPR alert for a stolen vehicle parked at Fashion Valley Mall. The vehicle was occupied by two males, one of whom was known to have two active felony warrants.

As officers approached, the driver fled on foot but was quickly apprehended and arrested for possession of a stolen vehicle and his outstanding warrants. The passenger, who remained in the car, was found with a white drawstring bag containing 46 rounds of .38 Special ammunition. A records check showed he was on active parole, leading to his arrest for parole a violation and being a felon in possession of ammunition.

MAY 2024

6,357	12	6,369
Official Hotlist Alerts	Custom Hotlist Alerts	Total Hotlist Alerts

May Investigation Highlights

243(d) PC – Felony Battery (Serious Injury)

On March 20, 2024, a victim filed a report at the Eastern Division front counter after being attacked by a coworker, suffering a broken jaw. The victim provided the suspect's vehicle license plate number to investigators.

On May 3, 2024, officers received an ALPR alert for a vehicle linked to a wanted felony suspect near 5390 Balboa Avenue. With assistance from ABLE (the police helicopter), officers located the vehicle in the Costco parking lot on Morena Boulevard. The driver was identified as the suspect in the felony battery case and was arrested without incident. He was transported to Eastern Division for an interview with the assigned detective.

459 PC – Burglary

A Special Projects and Legislative Affairs (SPLA) officer proactively followed up on a detective's "Be On the Lookout" (BOLO) bulletin related to a burglary in Northern Division. The bulletin included a photo of the suspect vehicle used in the crime.

Using the ALPR system, the SPLA officer conducted a records search and successfully identified the vehicle. The information was shared with the assigned detective, providing a crucial lead in the investigation.



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211 PC – Attempted Bank Robbery (2023 Case)

The Robbery Unit requested assistance from the SPLA Unit to identify a suspect vehicle involved in a 2023 attempted bank robbery. Investigators provided an image of a small black SUV with paper plates and an aftermarket trailer hitch.

An SPLA detective used the ALPR system to locate a similar vehicle with a temporary DMV permit and matching features. On May 9, 2024, officers located the vehicle in Northern Division and conducted surveillance. About 20 minutes later, a male entered the vehicle. Officers confirmed he matched the BOLO photo of the robbery suspect and took him into custody.

The suspect was arrested for the attempted bank robbery and an outstanding warrant.

JUNE 2024

8,562	2	8,564
Official Hotlist Alerts	Custom Hotlist Alerts	Total Hotlist Alerts

June Investigation Highlights

211 PC – Robbery

On June 11, 2024, the SDPD Robbery Unit requested assistance from the Special Projects and Legislative Affairs (SPLA) Unit to help identify a suspect vehicle connected to a robbery that occurred on May 12, 2024.

An SPLA detective used the ALPR system to conduct a records search and successfully identified the vehicle involved. The detective provided the results to the assigned Robbery Unit investigator, generating a key lead that advanced the ongoing investigation.

664/207 PC – Attempted Kidnapping

On June 20, 2024, an Eastern Division detective requested that a suspect vehicle in an attempted kidnapping of a six-year-old be entered into SDPD’s ALPR Hotlist, allowing Citywide alerts if the vehicle appeared on camera.

At 3:45 p.m. that same day, the ALPR system detected the vehicle in downtown San Diego, prompting an immediate patrol response. Within minutes, Central Division officers located the vehicle and detained the suspect. He was arrested for the June 18, 2024, attempted kidnapping in the Mission Valley area.

A total of 24 investigators conducted 237 ALPR searches throughout the investigation, reflecting SDPD’ coordinated, data-driven effort to locate the suspect quickly.

211 PC – Robbery Series



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Northeastern Division officers received an ALPR alert for a felony vehicle wanted in connection with a series of robberies in Escondido. Officers located the vehicle near 6800 Miramar Road, conducted a high-risk stop, and safely detained the driver.

An Escondido Police Department detective investigating the robbery series responded, took custody of the suspect, and impounded the vehicle as evidence.

JULY 2024

9,439	6	9,445
Official Hotlist Alerts	Custom Hotlist Alerts	Total Hotlist Alerts

July Investigation Highlights

211 PC – Armed Robbery Series

On July 10, 2024, the San Diego Police Department Robbery Unit requested assistance from the Special Projects and Legislative Affairs (SPLA) Unit to identify a suspect vehicle connected to four armed robberies that occurred overnight in the San Diego and El Cajon areas.

An SPLA detective used the ALPR system to conduct searches and successfully identified the suspect vehicle. The results were provided to the Robbery Unit, giving detectives a key investigative lead.

Evidence gathered through the ALPR system ultimately allowed detectives to identify, locate, and arrest the suspect responsible for the armed robbery series. The suspect was later convicted and sentenced to four years in prison.

288 PC – Lewd Acts with a Minor

Between 1:50 a.m. and 4:50 a.m. on July 18, 2024, a female juvenile under 14 years old was sexually assaulted by an unknown suspect inside his vehicle at the College Grove Center parking lot. The vehicle was described as an older Chevrolet Cruze sedan with a temporary tag displayed in the rear windshield.

A Special Projects and Legislative Affairs (SPLA) detective reviewed ALPR images and Smart Streetlight video to confirm that the suspect’s vehicle had been present at the location during the time of the assault, corroborating the victim’s account and providing critical evidence for investigators.

On July 19, 2024, the suspect was arrested on multiple sexual assault charges involving a minor, and his vehicle was impounded as evidence. He was later convicted and sentenced to five years in prison.

AUGUST 2024



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9,506	26	9,532
Official Hotlist Alerts	Custom Hotlist Alerts	Total Hotlist Alerts

August Investigation Highlights

422.6 PC – Hate Crime

On August 2, 2024, unknown suspects vandalized a bar in the 3700 block of Fifth Avenue, spray-painting swastikas and derogatory slurs on a wall and trash can. Witnesses reported that the suspects briefly returned to the scene in a late 1990s or early 2000s Buick Century with a missing front passenger hubcap before fleeing.

On August 3, 2024, a Special Projects and Legislative Affairs (SPLA) detective was contacted to assist in identifying the vehicle. Using the ALPR system, the detective conducted multiple searches and was able to positively identify the suspect vehicle and confirm that it had been in the immediate area of the crime scene.

The information was provided to the case agent, who later identified and arrested the suspects.

211 PC – Robbery Series

On August 5, 2024, a suspect committed two armed robberies within hours along El Cajon Boulevard, targeting an Advance America Cash Advance and Discount Liquor. In both incidents, the suspect brandished a black semi-automatic handgun, demanded money, and fled with cash totaling approximately \$700.

Robbery detectives reviewed surveillance footage and identified the suspect entering a red Nissan sedan shortly after one of the robberies. A Mid-City patrol officer used the ALPR system to review nearby camera data and positively identified the vehicle, forwarding the information to detectives.

On August 8, 2024, detectives located and arrested the suspect, recovering a loaded Springfield XD handgun with live ammunition during a search of his residence. The suspect was booked into San Diego Central Jail for 211 PC – Robbery.

209 PC, 261 PC & 236 PC – Kidnapping, Rape, and False Imprisonment

On August 17, 2024, a victim accepted a ride from a suspect who later sexually assaulted and imprisoned her. The victim managed to escape and provided detectives with a detailed description of the suspect and his vehicle.

On August 19, 2024, investigators used ALPR data to identify the suspect's vehicle and place it near the scene during the time of the assault. Follow-up checks confirmed the vehicle's registered owner, and the victim positively identified the suspect in a lineup.



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The Special Investigations Unit located the suspect and arrested him on multiple felony charges, including rape, kidnapping, and false imprisonment. He was later convicted.

SEPTEMBER 2024

9,531	20	9,551
Official Hotlist Alerts	Custom Hotlist Alerts	Total Hotlist Alerts

September Investigation Highlights

211 PC – Robbery

On September 1, 2024, a smoke shop in Northeastern Division was robbed at gunpoint. The suspects fled with stolen property and were picked up by a getaway driver in a vehicle with an unknown license plate. Surveillance video captured both the suspects and the waiting vehicle, but the license plate was unreadable.

Although Robbery Unit detectives were able to identify the suspects from the surveillance footage, they were initially unable to confirm the getaway vehicle. On September 10, 2024, the case agent requested assistance from the Special Projects and Legislative Affairs (SPLA) Unit.

Using ALPR and Smart Streetlight camera data, an SPLA detective conducted an investigative follow-up and positively identified the suspect vehicle. The suspect was later arrested and convicted.

245 PC – Assault with a Deadly Weapon

On September 28, 2024, SDPD Communications received a report that a suspect had assaulted and run over a victim with a vehicle before fleeing the scene.

The SPLA Unit reviewed Smart Streetlight video from the area and found that the entire incident had been captured on camera, providing investigators with clear details of the suspect vehicle. Using this footage, detectives conducted targeted ALPR searches, which positively identified the vehicle.

Patrol officers immediately saturated the area where the suspect vehicle was last detected and successfully located and arrested the driver. Detectives responded to conduct a follow-up investigation.

OCTOBER 2024

10,150	39	10,189
Official Hotlist Alerts	Custom Hotlist Alerts	Total Hotlist Alerts



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October Investigation Highlights

288 PC & 261 PC – Lewd Acts with a Minor and Rape

On October 9, 2024, a Child Abuse Unit detective requested assistance from the Special Projects and Legislative Affairs (SPLA) Unit in locating a suspect wanted for rape and child molestation involving multiple victims.

Using investigative details provided by the case detective, an SPLA detective searched the ALPR database and positively identified the suspect’s vehicle. The vehicle was then added to SDPD’s ALPR Hotlist to generate real-time alerts if detected.

Later that evening, an ALPR camera in Mid-City Division detected the suspect vehicle. Detectives responded, located the car parked and unoccupied, and maintained surveillance. In the early morning hours of October 10, 2024, the suspect returned to the vehicle and was taken into custody without incident. A firearm was recovered from the suspect at the time of arrest.

207 PC – Kidnapping

On October 5, 2024, a suspect and accomplice kidnapped a victim at knifepoint, forcing the victim into their vehicle. A witness immediately called 911 and provided detailed information about the suspect’s vehicle.

Western Division patrol officers used the ALPR system to identify recent detections of the vehicle and responded to the area. Officers quickly located the suspect vehicle and conducted a high-risk traffic stop, taking both suspects into custody. The victim was found safe inside the vehicle, and the knife used in the crime was recovered.

The Domestic Violence Unit responded to continue the investigation, and Smart Streetlight video footage captured the entire incident, providing critical supporting evidence.

NOVEMBER

8,689	56	8,745
Official Hotlist Alerts	Custom Hotlist Alerts	Total Hotlist Alerts

DECEMBER 2024

8,388	31	8,419
Official Hotlist Alerts	Custom Hotlist Alerts	Total Hotlist Alerts

December Investigation Highlights



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459 PC – Burglary

On November 19, 2024, at approximately 3:00 a.m., two businesses in the Tierrasanta community were burglarized. Surveillance video captured a gray sedan involved in the crime, but the license plate was partially obscured. Using Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) data, detectives were able to identify a potential vehicle and license plate connected to the burglaries.

On November 25, 2024, the same vehicle returned to Tierrasanta and was involved in two additional business burglaries, confirming it as the suspect vehicle. Detectives shared the vehicle and suspect information with patrol officers Citywide.

On December 12, 2024, two more burglaries occurred in the 4S Ranch and University City areas. Although limited suspect information was available, officers used ALPR data from the prior investigation and discovered the suspect vehicle had been detected nearby. Patrol units saturated the area, located the vehicle near Interstate 5 and State Route 56, and arrested the suspect without incident.

Throughout this multi-jurisdictional investigation, officers conducted over 3,000 ALPR searches to gather evidence, connect related cases, and locate the suspect.