

Smart Streetlights & Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR)

An illustration depicting law enforcement officers using Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) technology. Three officers, wearing blue uniforms and goggles, are positioned on a city street at night. The officer in the foreground is holding a device that projects a beam of light onto the rear of a red car. The car's license plate is clearly visible and reads 'PVBLIC'. The background shows a city skyline with buildings under a dark sky.

Jacob Van Dehy (TWC)
Nancy Relaford (SURJ-SD)
Lucky Aden (PANA)

Presentation to the San Diego Privacy Advisory Board
June 22, 2023

Source: [Link](#)

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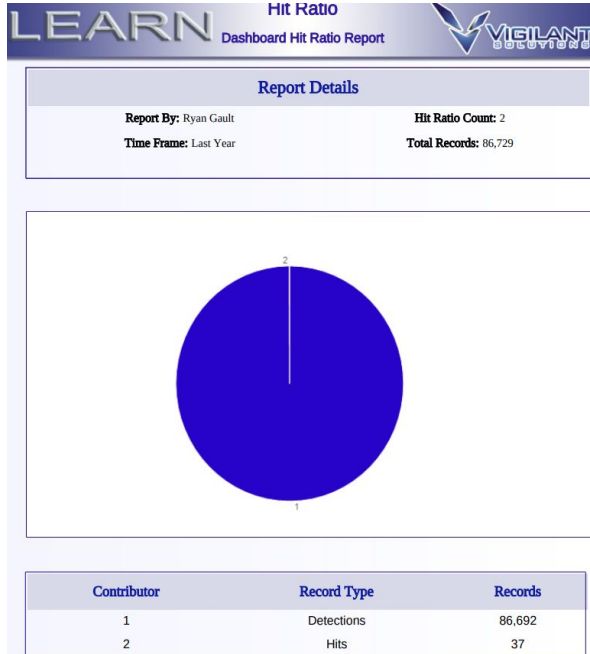
[Kind Hearts San Diego](#)

Overview

- The Dangers of ALPR
 - Unanswered Questions on the Ubicquia Platform
 - Community Harms of Smart Streetlights and ALPR
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Why Communities Don't Want Automated License Plate Readers

SDPD ALPR HIT RATIO REPORT 2019



ALPR IMAGE (San Leandro PD)



ALPR Failure Stories

License plate reader error leads to traffic stop at gunpoint, court case

Flagged vehicle did not even match the model of what the woman was driving.

DAVID KRAVETS - 5/12/2014, 2:43 PM



US & WORLD / POLICY / TECH

Privacy advocate held at gunpoint after license plate reader database mistake, lawsuit alleges



/ The rental car was allegedly reported as stolen

By [Colin Lecher](#)
Feb 21, 2019, 10:03 AM PST | [0 Comments](#) / [0 New](#)

ROBOT ERROR —

Due to license plate reader error, cop approaches innocent man, weapon in hand

Mistaking a "7" for a "2" on wanted Oldsmobile, not a BMW, leads to traffic stop.

CYRUS FARIVAR - 4/23/2014, 12:40 PM

Opinion: At gunpoint, police handcuffed me after license-plate reader error

Driving while Black, racial justice advocate pulled over in Walnut Creek because of surveillance technology mistake



ALPR Threat to Reproductive Privacy

Automated License Plate Readers Threaten Abortion Access. Here's How Policymakers Can Mitigate the Risk

BY DAVE MAASS | SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

THOR BENSON SECURITY JUL 7, 2022 7:00 AM

The Danger of License Plate Readers in Post-*Roe* America

Known as ALPRs, this surveillance tech is pervasive across the US—and could soon be used by police and anti-abortion groups alike.

Surveillance

How expanding web of license plate readers could be 'weaponized' against abortion



Can license plate data from California lead to criminal charges in Texas?

Anti-abortion states could prosecute Californians who provide such care to out-of-staters, civil libertarians fear



Learning from last streetlight scandal...

- 30 Million, 30% Failure
- City Underestimated Cost by 50% per camera
- 771,000 proposed to Ubicquia in 2020, plus 6.5 million for 4 years



Smart Streetlight Hardware



Biased AI alerts on our streets?

Self-Learning Video Analytics

AI-based Smart Video

Letting the camera help do the work

Proactive self-learning video analytics that **help you do more with the resources that you currently have.**

Detects the movement of people and vehicles and learns patterns of "behavior".

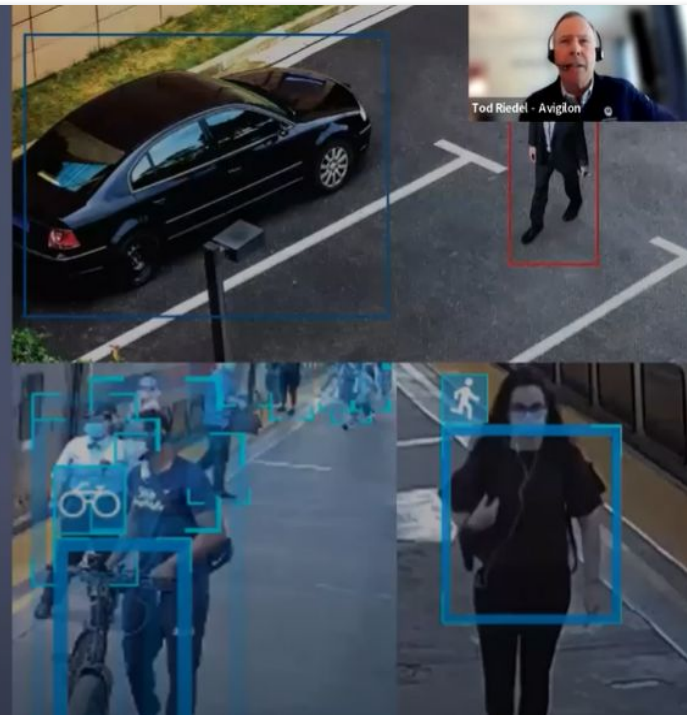
Adapts to scene changes.

People classification includes:

Adult/Child; Male/Female; Hair Color; Upper body clothing color; Lower body clothing color.

Vehicle classification includes:

Color, Sub-class - Car, Bus, Truck, Motorcycle, and Bicycle



Source: Ubicquia presentation to SmartCitiesWorld conference on June 2022, from YouTube

Community Harms of ALPR/Streetlights



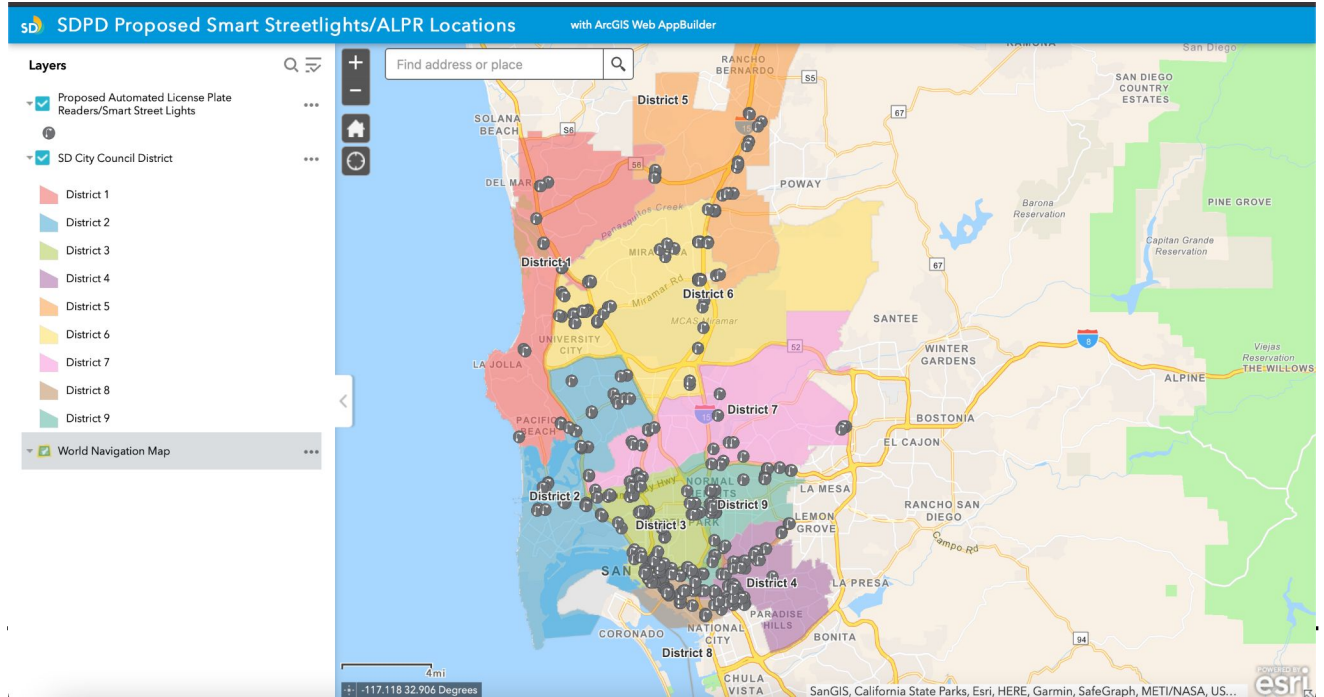
Who is being watched?

- All San Diegans
 - Anyone who travels and visits San Diego
 - Black and Brown Communities will disproportionately be under the microscope of this technology compared to other communities
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Impacts on Immigrant Communities



Impacts on Marginalized Communities



Source:
[Link](#)

Impacts on First Amendments Rights

- Police Department used streetlight footage to identify BLM protestors, violating their first amendment rights
- How do we ensure streetlights wont be used in the future to violate 1st amendment rights and criminalize protestors?



Sources:

<https://voiceofsandiego.org/2020/06/29/police-used-smart-streetlight-footage-to-investigate-protesters/>

I would feel safe in my community if ...

When we talked to people about what \$4 Million Dollars could do to prevent crime and make them feel safe they said it could be used for..

- Put up actual streetlights and make areas well lit
 - Invest in Community Violence Interrupters
 - Fund youth centers/ after school programs
 - Fund family health centers
 - Fund mental health/ social services programs
 - Fund community led organizations that are already working on lowering crime rates in their neighborhoods
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Questions?

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