



Here's the Story...

License Plate Recognition (LPR) Program

The Saint Paul Police Department is implementing a license plate recognition (LPR) program. The purpose of the program is to utilize the combined resources of the Auto Theft Unit and the Districts to proactively address the identification and recovery of stolen automobiles within the jurisdictional limits of the City of St. Paul.

What Is LPR?

LPR is a vehicle-mounted system of hardware and software components, including a camera image capture system, which is designed to allow officers to patrol at normal speeds while the system reads every license plate it comes in contact with. The LPR "reads" a large volume of plates in a short period of time and compares them to a large list of target plates from state and federal data sources stored on-board. The officer will receive an alert if the system reads a license plate and it matches the on-board data record.

The St. Paul Police Department has contracted with the BCA to provide the most recently available information from NCIC files, merged with Minnesota Hot Files, for use comparing scanned numbers against stolen license plate data. This data file will be provided to the Auto Theft Unit daily (). The Auto Theft Unit will retrieve the file from the BCA FTP server and it will be loaded by the operator onto the on-board LPR system prior to deployment.

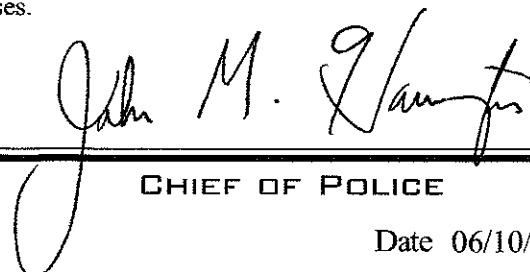
The information received from license plates which trigger an LPR alert is dated information, typically 1-12 hours old. An alert from the LPR system is not probable cause to arrest, but is an indication that a stolen property report, missing persons report, or warrant may have been filed. Officers must verify all alerts received from the LPR system. The officer, when receiving an LPR alert must contact the ECC Data Channel for confirmation the record is accurate and up-to-date. Verification is essential prior to taking any action based solely upon the reception of an alert from the LPR on-board system.

Who Will Get to Use LPR?

The Auto Theft Unit will administer and oversee the LPR program and is responsible for training department members to operate the LPR system, documenting that training, maintaining records identifying approved LPR details and their results, maintaining the LPR Data Query Log, and ensuring appropriate documentation of significant incidents and arrests that are related to LPR usage.

The LPR system will be available to the patrol districts on a check-out basis from the Auto Theft Unit. Each District has designated two squad cars in which the LPR hardware will be mounted. The District's have also designated several officers who will be trained for the initial implementation of the LPR system. After an initial evaluation period, additional officers will be trained in its use. Over-time funding is available from the Auto Theft Prevention grant for LPR deployment.

Deployment of LPR equipment is intended to provide access to stolen and wanted files, and for the furtherance of criminal investigations. Use is restricted to these purposes.


CHIEF OF POLICE

Date 06/10/08