



AVON POLICE DEPARTMENT

A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READERS

August 2026



At the Avon Police Department, protecting our community goes hand-in-hand with protecting your privacy. Our department follows state law ([Public Act 26-14](#)) governing Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) and applies additional local protocols. This citizen's guide explains how ALPRs work, how Avon uses them, and what safeguards exist to protect your information.

GENERAL INFORMATION

What are Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs)?

ALPRs are computer-controlled camera systems that capture images of license plates and convert them into digital text to assist law enforcement. Avon Police Department has used ALPR technology since 2022.

What brand or system does Avon use for its ALPR cameras?

Avon's ALPRs are the Flock Safety system, a widely used ALPR platform utilized by law enforcement agencies nationwide.

How does the ALPR system work?

An ALPR logs the license plates of passing vehicles and compares them to select law enforcement databases. If the license plate on a particular vehicle matches an entry in one of the databases, an alert is received in the dispatch center and on the computers in police vehicles. In Avon, the most common alerts we receive are when stolen cars or cars with stolen license plates are detected by an ALPR. The ALPR system retains data for 21 days. If, during that time, a police officer conducting an investigation develops information on a suspect vehicle, they can search the ALPR database to locate information on the specific suspect vehicle.

Do ALPR cameras track me or watch inside my car?

No. ALPRs capture a still image of the rear of a vehicle, license plate, color and make, as it passes. They do not look inside the vehicle or capture images of drivers or passengers. If you are not involved in an active criminal investigation and are not wanted for a crime, the system will not draw law enforcement attention to your vehicle.

How many ALPR cameras does Avon have and where are they located?

Avon currently operates four (4) fixed ALPR cameras, primarily located along major corridors in town that are used to enter neighborhoods.

Is an ALPR the same thing as an Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Device (i.e. a speed camera, redlight camera, or school bus camera)?

No. ALPR systems do not have the ability to measure speed, and they are not able to capture red light or school bus violations. Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices are specifically designed to identify speed, redlight, and school bus violations and mail traffic citations and fines to the registered owner of the violating vehicle.

The Avon Police Department does not currently utilize Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices. Under CT State Law ([Public Act No. 23-116](#)), municipalities that wish to implement these devices must prepare a plan for their use, create an ordinance, hold a public hearing and submit the final plan to DOT for approval prior to their use.

PURPOSE & PUBLIC SAFETY BENEFITS

How does Avon Police Department use ALPR technology?

ALPRs serve as an early warning network and investigative tool. They help intercept stolen vehicles, which are frequently used to commit other crimes, before these individuals pose a threat locally. The primary purpose of Avon's ALPR system is to alert the department when a vehicle on a verified "Hot List" enters Avon. This can include stolen vehicles, wanted people, domestic violence protection order violations, or vehicles on terrorism watch lists.

The system also provides real-time alerts for vehicles associated with Amber Alerts, Silver Alerts, and National Center for Missing & Exploited Children alerts.

What results have Avon's ALPR system delivered?

Avon's ALPR data has helped solve homicides, armed robberies, domestic violence incidents, occupied home burglaries, vehicle thefts and located fugitives with active warrants in Avon and other Farmington Valley communities. The data has also helped locate vulnerable individuals and reunite them with loved ones.

ALERTS & SEARCHES

Can rank-and-file Police Officers browse ALPR data just out of curiosity?

No. Access is limited to selected trained personnel, and a search can only be conducted when there is a documented legal basis, such as reasonable suspicion tied to a crime, or an effort to locate a missing or at-risk person. Searches are logged with officer credentials, case number and reason for access. Avon Police Department conducts regular audits to ensure compliance with department policy and state law.

What triggers an alert for a Police Officer who runs a search in the ALPR System?

Alerts occur only when a license plate matches data from approved sources such as the Connecticut Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS), the Connecticut On-Line Law Enforcement Communications Teleprocessing System (COLLECT), the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, or a verified "Hot List."

What is a "Hot List"?

A Hot List is a list of plates tied to a specific and legitimate concern such as a stolen car or a car associated with an AMBER Alert. Plates undergo the department's supervisory review before being added. By instantly alerting officers to a "Hot List" vehicle, the system helps officers act quickly to prevent crime, apprehend suspects, and recover stolen property.

ACCESS, SHARING & FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA)

Can anyone request my ALPR data?

Currently, ALPR data is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). All FOIA requests are processed under Connecticut General Statutes §§1-210(b)(3) and 1-215 which govern public access to law enforcement and criminal investigative records and balance public transparency with investigative privacy. To date, the only FOI requests for ALPR data have been submitted by media and advocacy organizations. The Avon Police Department has removed individual license plate information from the data provided to those organizations and will continue to do so subject to the law outlined below.

Beginning October 1, 2026, PA 26-14 restricts when law enforcement agencies can share or provide access to ALPR data. It allows them to do so only if the requesting person or entity is requesting data for a vehicle registered in their own name (if a vehicle has multiple owners, lessors, or regular users, they all must make the request).

Can federal agencies or other states access ALPR data?

State law prohibits sharing ALPR data with federal agencies, which helps ensure compliance with the Connecticut TRUST Act (CGS § 54-192h). This includes immigration enforcement, and individuals seeking or providing reproductive and gender-affirming health care. Out-of-state sharing is limited to law enforcement agencies in New York, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts, which have passed state laws that are similar to the TRUST ACT, and beginning October 1, 2026, only under a signed data-sharing attestation. At this time, the Avon Police Department is not sharing data with any out-of-state agencies.

How do outside departments request ALPR data?

External agencies go through a rigorous vetting process. A requesting agency must submit the details of a specific, ongoing case, including a case number, and certify it will follow Avon's usage policies. Beginning October 1, 2026, state law will also require any requesting agency to execute a formal, signed attestation before data can be shared.

PROHIBITED USES

What is the Avon Police Department prohibited from doing with ALPR data?

ALPR data cannot be used for the following purposes:

- **NO Immigration Enforcement:** Connecticut law prohibits sharing ALPR data with federal agencies for immigration enforcement and restricts placing cameras near non-profits that primarily serve immigrant communities.
- **NO Healthcare Tracking:** State law prohibits using ALPRs to investigate individuals seeking or providing gender affirming care or reproductive health services and restricts placing cameras near related facilities.
- **NO Routine Traffic Enforcement:** These cameras do not detect vehicle speed or redlight violations. Avon does not use them to issue speeding or minor traffic tickets. State law does permit ALPR use for certain traffic analytics and parking enforcement, but Avon does not use them for this purpose.
- **NO Targeted Profiling:** State law prohibits using ALPR data to monitor or investigate someone based on actual or perceived race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, sex, pregnancy status, disability, citizenship, nationality, or income, or perceived criminal history. It separately prohibits using ALPR to identify someone engaged in activity protected by the First Amendment.

DATE RETENTION, STORAGE & SECURITY

How long is ALPR data kept?

In accordance with Public Act 26-14, beginning October 1, 2026, all non-hit data is automatically purged after twenty-one (21) days, down from the previous thirty (30) day default. Avon Police Department has already transitioned to this 21-day retention period. Data is only retained longer if it is actively flagged as essential evidence for an ongoing criminal prosecution. A law enforcement entity cannot retain data "just in case."

Where is ALPR data stored?

Data is stored in Amazon Web Services (AWS). For criminal justice use, Flock Safety stores data in AWS GovCloud, which meets federal government security standards including FedRAMP High, DOD SRG and CJIS.

How is ALPR data protected?

Flock Safety states that data is transmitted from camera to cloud using TLS1.2 or higher and is encrypted at rest using AES-256 - an industry-standard, "bank-level" encryption algorithm. Flock Safety has held SOC 2 Type II certification since 2023, based on an independent audit by a third-party CPA firm evaluating security, availability, and confidentiality controls. SOC 2 Type II reports are typically reissued on a recurring (usually annual) basis.

Who owns Avon's ALPR data?

The Avon Police Department owns 100% of its data. Flock Safety states that it does not sell data or transfer data without written authorization from its owner.

VENDOR REGULATION & LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY

What legal guardrails protect the community from data misuse?

On May 4, 2026, Governor Lamont signed Public Act 26-14, crafted with input from civil liberties groups and community advocates. The law restricts vendor data-sharing contracts, imposes auditing mandates on law enforcement, and establishes legal liability for intentional misuse of the system.

What security requirements must vendor contracts follow?

Avon's vendor contract bars Flock Safety from letting anyone other than the department access the data, and from storing it in ways that fall short of industry-recognized data security practices.

What happens if ALPR data is misused?

Residents can sue if a police department or vendor misuses ALPR technology in violation of the law, seeking a court order to stop the violation plus attorney's fees. Connecticut's new civil rights law also lets residents sue for damages if an officer violates their constitutional rights more broadly. Officers who misuse the system are also subject to the department's internal disciplinary process, up to and including termination and revocation of their POST license to be a police officer in the state of CT. Depending on the circumstances, an officer could also face criminal computer crime charges.

TRANSPARENCY & PUBLIC ACCESS

Where can I verify these details and review Avon Police Department's ALPR policy?

Visit the Avon Police Department Flock Transparency Dashboard at www.avonct.gov/police

