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September 21, 2011

Scott C. Rohmer
Chief of Police
Ashland Police Department
137 Main Street
Ashland, MA 01721

Re: Public Records Request
Automatic License Plate Recognition

Dear Chief Rohmer:

It has been brought to our attention by a resident of Ashland that your police department uses Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) technology. The ACLU of Massachusetts is concerned about ALPR technology because of the significant privacy and due process issues raised by the collection and storage of personally identifiable information without reasonable suspicion of criminal activity. The capability to create and expand a system of records containing the travel information of ordinary Ashland and Massachusetts residents is of great concern.

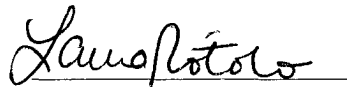
To assist us in understanding the operation of the program and any provision for the protection of individual privacy, we are requesting the following records:

1. Documents showing how the cost of the ALPR system, including any back-office analytic software;
2. Records showing what kinds and how much ALPR-related motorist data Ashland PD currently maintains;
3. Any guidelines, regulations or procedures governing ALPR data retention, sharing, deletion and/or storage;
4. Any privacy policy governing the use of ALPR;

5. Any standard operating procedures or policies governing the use of ALPR;
6. Any guidelines, regulations or procedures governing submission of captured license plate data to the state repository maintained by the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division at the Commonwealth's Public Safety Data Center or any other agency or database outside Ashland.

Please consider this as a request under Massachusetts General Law, chapter 66, §10, made on behalf of the ACLU of Massachusetts. We ask that any of the requested records available in electronic form be provided in that form.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Laura Rotolo", written in black ink.

Laura Rotolo
Staff Attorney
ACLUM

James Diamond
Ashland resident