



## Washoe County District Attorney

RICHARD A. GAMMICK  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Via fax: 702.366.1331

September 12, 2012

Dane S. Claussen  
Executive Director  
ACLU of Nevada  
601 South Rancho Drive, Suite B11  
Las Vegas, NV 89106

Re: Records Request dated July 30, 2012 regarding automatic license plate readers

Dear Dane:

I appreciate your patience in regard to the response to your records request regarding automatic license plate readers (ALPR). The gathering of information from different sources and the press of business resulted in a longer than anticipated delay in my response.

A list of the records requested is set forth below. After a diligent search, the Washoe County Sheriff's office (WCSO) has determined that it is not in possession of any records responsive to your request. NRS 238.010 requires a governmental agency to make all public books and public records available for inspection. These series of statutes do not require the governmental agency to answer questions posed.

However, in the interest of clarifying why the WCSO is not in possession of records, a brief explanation of the ALPR devices is in order. WCSO has two ALPR which are attached to marked patrol vehicles. These machines were purchased by the federal government and are in a testing phase. I have been informed that these systems are inoperable nearly as often as they work. The ALPR scans every license plate for characters, not state. If there is any outstanding criminal activity, such as a warrant, the system sends a picture of the license plate and the vehicle so that the deputy knows if he has the correct automobile. The information of the scanned plate goes back to a database maintained by the federal government. That information is retained for 90 days. WCSO does not maintain this information in any separate database that it, or any other agency, can access. However, the ALPR is also a self contained unit that retains scanned license plates for a period of 2 years. As a practical matter, only the deputy assigned to the vehicle would access those records.



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If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at 775-337-5723 or [mkandaras@da.washoecounty.us](mailto:mkandaras@da.washoecounty.us). I appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

RICHARD A. GAMMICK  
District Attorney

By:

  
MARY KANDARAS  
Deputy District Attorney

Cc: Balaam; Emerson