

**Talking Points for Commissioner David J. Swarts
LPR Conference
June 19, 2008, Lake George, New York**

Welcome and Thank You's

- Good afternoon and welcome. I am David J. Swarts, Commissioner of the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles and Chair of the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee.
- Special thanks to DCJS Commissioner Denise O'Donnell and our partners in this initiative, including the New York State Police, the NYPD and the National Insurance Crime Bureau.

LPR's Impact on Traffic Safety

- My colleague, Commissioner O'Donnell, has explained for you the benefits of LPR systems to law enforcement: helping officers identify stolen vehicles, stolen license plates and wanted and missing persons.
- LPR systems help solve crimes and have also proven to be an effective tool in getting unlicensed, unregistered and uninsured vehicles off the road.
- Prior to the use of LPR systems, these vehicles and their drivers were only detected by law enforcement when observed violating a traffic law or were involved in a traffic accident.
- Meanwhile, the lives of unsuspecting, law-abiding drivers and their passengers are continually at risk while these vehicles are on the road.
- However, using a license plate reader, a law enforcement officer performing a special detail or routine patrol can detect a motor vehicle driven by an unlicensed and/or revoked operator or any other motor vehicle insurance violation, even if the driver of the vehicle has not committed an observed traffic offense or been involved in a traffic accident.

- State Police and DMV have coordinated their efforts with local and county law enforcement agencies across the state in enhanced road patrols, motor vehicle theft and insurance fraud task force initiatives and traffic safety check points.
- LPRs have proven to be an essential tool in those efforts.

Increase in Tickets

- Preliminary results have shown that the increased use of LPRs has resulted in an increase in the number of tickets issued in New York for unlicensed, revoked or insurance related crimes.
- In 2005, 277,275 tickets were issued for these crimes. In comparison, 315,966 tickets were issued in 2006, which represents an increase of 12.2%.
- Tickets issued for the five more serious violations of the Vehicle and Traffic Law related to uninsured vehicle, unregistered vehicle and suspended/revoked operation also increased by 20% from 151,701 to 189,788 during the same time frame.

Success Stories

- Since the LPR system accesses a locally stored “hot list” of plates, which can be manually or automatically updated, it is an extremely versatile enforcement tool.
- A total of 7,400 license plates were read in a recent, one-day sweep of Hudson Falls. The sweep resulted in 25 suspended/revoked hits and 29 arrests.
- Since July of last year, the Queens Village Auto Theft Unit has recovered 26 stolen vehicles, with a total value of nearly \$400,000, with the use of an LPR system.
- In early May, DMV investigators participated in a detail with the Green Island Police Department, the Cohoes Police Department and

the Albany County Sheriff's Department using two DMV license plate readers. The operation yielded the following results.

- 21 people identified themselves as being the designated driver for another party in the vehicle;
 - 3 DWI arrests;
 - 4 arrests for aggravated unlicensed operations;
 - 2 arrests on outstanding warrants;
 - 10 arrests for marijuana possession;
 - 1 arrest for 7th-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance;
 - 1 individual charged with resisting arrest;
 - 2 open container citations; and
 - 38 traffic tickets issued for violations including uninsured vehicle, unregistered vehicle and suspended/revoked operation.
- These cases clearly illustrate the benefits of LPR systems to law enforcement and traffic safety.
 - Representatives from law-enforcement agencies that use the systems will discuss the technology that makes them so effective and versatile and the wide variety of applications for them.
 - Thank you.

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