



Chris Dzombak <chris@chrisdzombak.net>

Automatic license plate readers (ALPR) in Ann Arbor

Baird, James <JBaird@a2gov.org>

Tue, Jul 25, 2017 at 12:37 PM

To: "chris@dzombak.com" <chris@dzombak.com>

Cc: "Lazarus, Howard" <HLazarus@a2gov.org>, "Ackerman, Zach" <ZAckerman@a2gov.org>, "Higgins, Sara" <SHiggins@a2gov.org>, "Pfannes, Robert" <RPfannes@a2gov.org>

Mr. Dzombak,

The AAPD currently has three ALPR's. However, only two are actually currently in service. They are assigned to our Community Standards Unit for parking enforcement purposes. They can identify vehicles entered into our system as having a certain number of outstanding violations (I believe 4 or 6 is the threshold). The "hit" will be received immediately and acted upon if legitimate. I say 'legitimate' because there can be false positives associated with the technology as it cannot differentiate between identical plates from different states in the country. Occasionally, it will also read a street sign as a license plate. The data is stored locally on the specific computer in the car the device is assigned and is never uploaded to our server. I'm told that a 365 day retention is the default for the system. However, it very well may be 90 days here. Frankly, the information is never accessed for any other reason other than an immediate "hit". I have no idea how many plates are stored on any of the device data logs. We have had the devices in service for approximately 10 years now and have never accessed the data for any reason. I have no one on staff who even knows how since it's not used for investigative purposes. For similar reasons, I also don't know if location information is captured. I can research further to answer your questions more thoroughly. However, I will have to have staff trained to access the logs in order to do so and am wondering if that would elevate your privacy concerns.

Jim

James Baird

Chief of Police

Ann Arbor Police Department

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Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

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Chris Dzombak <chris@chrisdzombak.net>

Automatic license plate readers (ALPR) in Ann Arbor

Chris Dzombak <chris@dzombak.com>

Thu, Jul 27, 2017 at 11:47 AM

To: "Baird, James" <JBaird@a2gov.org>

Cc: "Lazarus, Howard" <HLazarus@a2gov.org>, "Ackerman, Zach" <ZAckerman@a2gov.org>, "Higgins, Sara" <SHiggins@a2gov.org>, "Pfannes, Robert" <RPfannes@a2gov.org>

Hi Jim,

Thanks for your detailed response; I really appreciate it. I had assumed there was a more centralized system, not that everything was stored on the devices themselves.

I do have one followup question: how are the "target" vehicles programmed into these devices? Is that done through some centralized system, or is each reader programmed separately?

I can research further to answer your questions more thoroughly. However, I will have to have staff trained to access the logs in order to do so and am wondering if that would elevate your privacy concerns.

I'm satisfied with your responses; please don't take the time to have someone dig further into those logs.

Thanks,

Chris

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Chris Dzombak <chris@chrisdzombak.net>

Automatic license plate readers (ALPR) in Ann Arbor

Baird, James <JBaird@a2gov.org>
To: Chris Dzombak <chris@dzombak.com>

Mon, Jul 31, 2017 at 3:59 PM

The devices are programmed individually using a thumb drive. The file is periodically emailed to staff who transfer to the drive to be uploaded to the PC.

Jim

From: Chris Dzombak [mailto:chris@chrisdzombak.net] **On Behalf Of** Chris Dzombak
Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2017 11:48 AM
To: Baird, James <JBaird@a2gov.org>
Cc: Lazarus, Howard <HLazarus@a2gov.org>; Ackerman, Zach <ZAckerman@a2gov.org>; Higgins, Sara <SHiggins@a2gov.org>; Pfannes, Robert <RPfannes@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: Automatic license plate readers (ALPR) in Ann Arbor

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Chris Dzombak <chris@chrisdzombak.net>

Automatic license plate readers (ALPR) in Ann Arbor

Chris Dzombak <chris@dzombak.com>
To: "Baird, James" <JBaird@a2gov.org>

Tue, Aug 1, 2017 at 10:56 AM

Thanks for the information. I appreciate your taking the time to email me personally.

Chris
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Chris Dzombak <chris@chrisdzombak.net>

Automatic license plate readers (ALPR) in Ann Arbor

Baird, James <JBaird@a2gov.org>
To: Chris Dzombak <chris@dzombak.com>

Tue, Aug 1, 2017 at 11:39 AM

You're welcome, sir. Have a great day.

From: Chris Dzombak [mailto:chris@chrisdzombak.net] **On Behalf Of** Chris Dzombak
Sent: Tuesday, August 1, 2017 10:57 AM
To: Baird, James <JBaird@a2gov.org>

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