



KENTUCKY FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

• 6204 Price Lane • Louisville KY 40229

www.kystatefop.com

POSITION ON AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READERS & FLOCK CAMERA TECHNOLOGY

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Public Safety. Accountability. Responsible Use.

The Kentucky State Fraternal Order of Police supports the responsible use of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology as an important investigative tool for law enforcement agencies across the Commonwealth.

Flock cameras and other ALPR systems can assist law enforcement in solving some of the most serious crimes our communities face. These systems provide officers and investigators with timely information that can help identify suspect vehicles, locate wanted persons, recover stolen vehicles, find missing and endangered individuals, and develop leads in investigations involving homicide, sexual assault, kidnapping, robbery, theft, and other serious offenses.

Like every law-enforcement tool, ALPR technology must be used responsibly. The Kentucky State FOP supports reasonable safeguards governing who may access the system, how the information may be used, how long data may be retained, supervisory oversight, regular audits, data security, and accountability for misuse.

Kentucky has already taken significant steps in this direction. The General Assembly enacted legislation in 2026 establishing restrictions on the use and sharing of ALPR data, retention requirements, publicly available agency policies, training and supervisory requirements, regular audits, verification of alerts before enforcement action, and penalties for violations.

Recent reports of inappropriate or unauthorized use of ALPR technology deserve to be taken seriously. When a law enforcement officer intentionally misuses this technology for an unauthorized purpose, that officer should be held accountable for those decisions. Accountability protects the public, protects responsible law enforcement officers, and preserves confidence in the technology.

At the same time, misuse by an individual should not result in the loss of an effective public-safety tool for thousands of officers who use it appropriately. Across Kentucky and the nation, ALPR technology has helped law enforcement locate missing and kidnapped children, identify suspects in murders and violent crimes, apprehend dangerous offenders, recover stolen vehicles and property, and bring answers to victims and their families. Recent Kentucky cases continue to demonstrate that value.

Effective law enforcement and individual privacy are not mutually exclusive. Kentucky can protect both by maintaining clear rules, meaningful oversight, individual accountability, and continued access to technology that helps officers protect the citizens of the Commonwealth.