



**ARTICLE 94: RESOLUTION/ AUTOMATIC
LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION
SAFEGUARDS AND DRIVER PRIVACY**

Sam Polk, Ph.D.

Town Meeting Member, Precinct 12



What is Automatic License Plate Recognition?

- ALPR cameras capture imagery of passing vehicles and extract information that they associate with their license plate
- ALPR cameras are a data dragnet, collecting movements of millions of vehicles—regardless of whether the driver is suspected of a crime

flock safety



neology
mobility reimagined.



LEONARDO



MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS



Example Public Safety Uses of ALPR

Automatic Toll Charging



School Bus Violation Detection



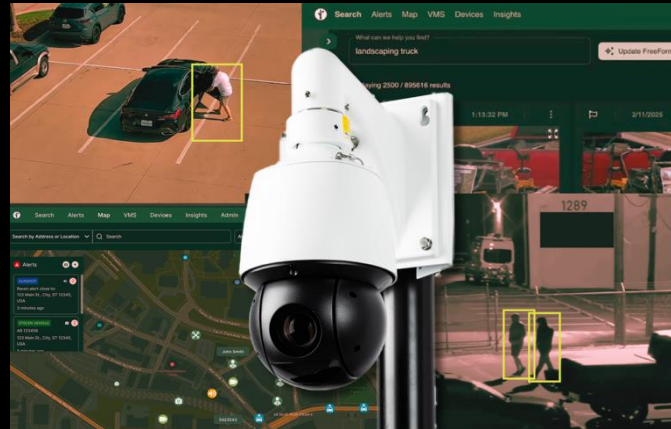
There are legitimate public-safety uses of ALPR when data governance is well-scoped and access, sharing, and retention are tightly limited.

Civil Liberty Concerns Raised by ALPR



Cops Used Flock to Monitor No Kings Protests Around the Country ~~404~~

JOSEPH COX · NOV 20, 2025 AT 7:00 PM



ICE Taps into Nationwide AI-Enabled Camera Network, Data Shows ~~404~~

JASON KOEBLER, JOSEPH COX
MAY 27, 2025 AT 9:36 AM



License Plate Readers Are Leaking Real-Time Video Feeds and Vehicle Data

MATT BURGESS

DHRUV MEHROTRA

WIRED

JAN 7, 2025 1:38 PM

Mass collection of plate-location data without strong data governance safeguards can chill lawful activity, enable targeting, and outpace local oversight.

Nearby ALPR Cancellations

 Your Local News Source
Watertown News

Watertown Cancelling Contract for Flock License Plate Reading Cameras

By **Charlie Breitrose**  | January 28, 2026

Natick Report

Natick Select Board quashes Flock license plate reader pilot; Police chief apologizes & explains

January 28, 2026 by **Bob Brown**

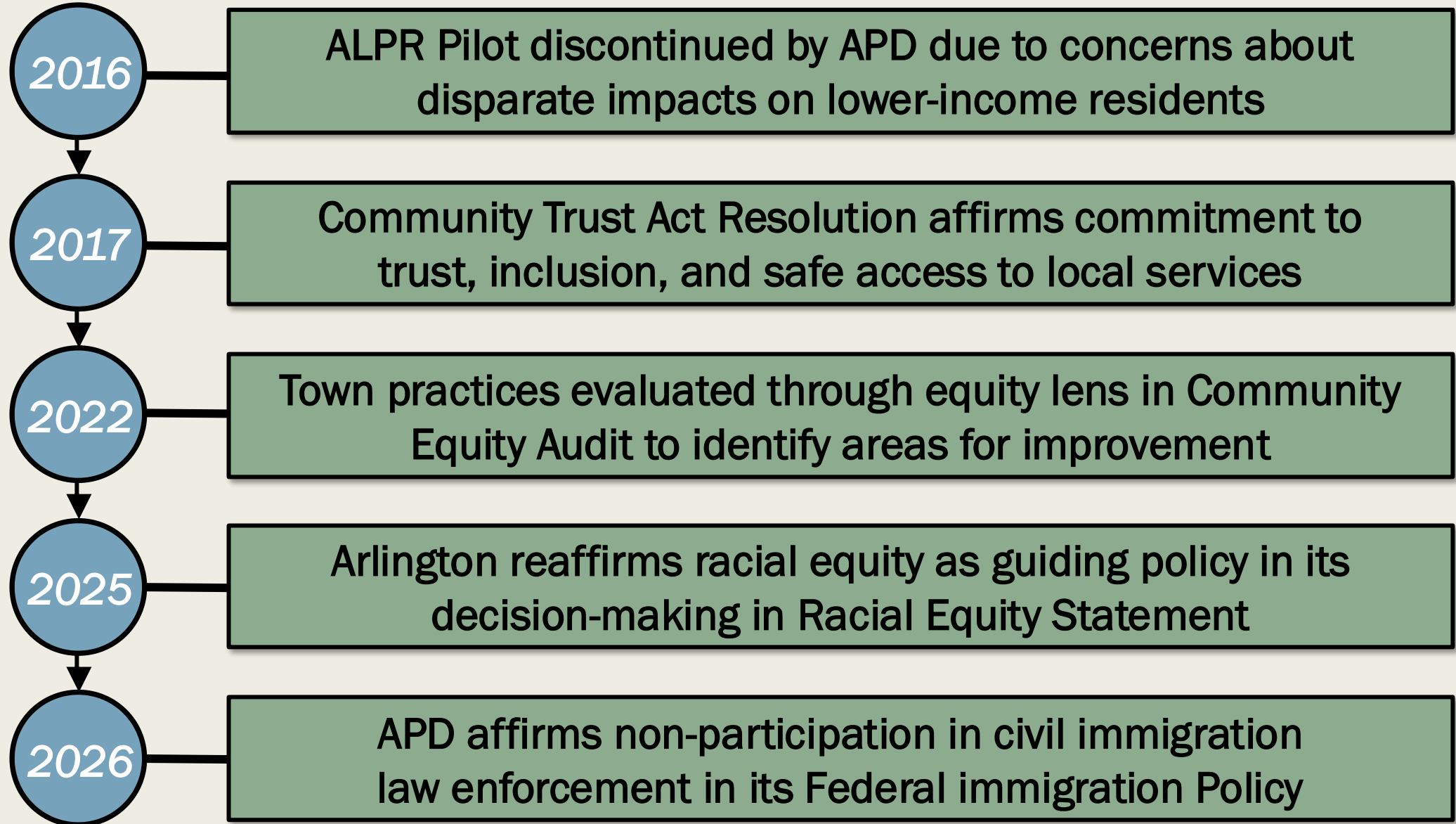
 CBS NEWS
BOSTON

Cambridge stops using license plate reader cameras over data sharing concerns

By Logan Hall Updated on: October 22, 2025

Recent cancellations in Greater Boston highlight recurring concerns about ALPR governance, vendor practices, and community trust.

Equity and Safety for All: An Arlington Priority



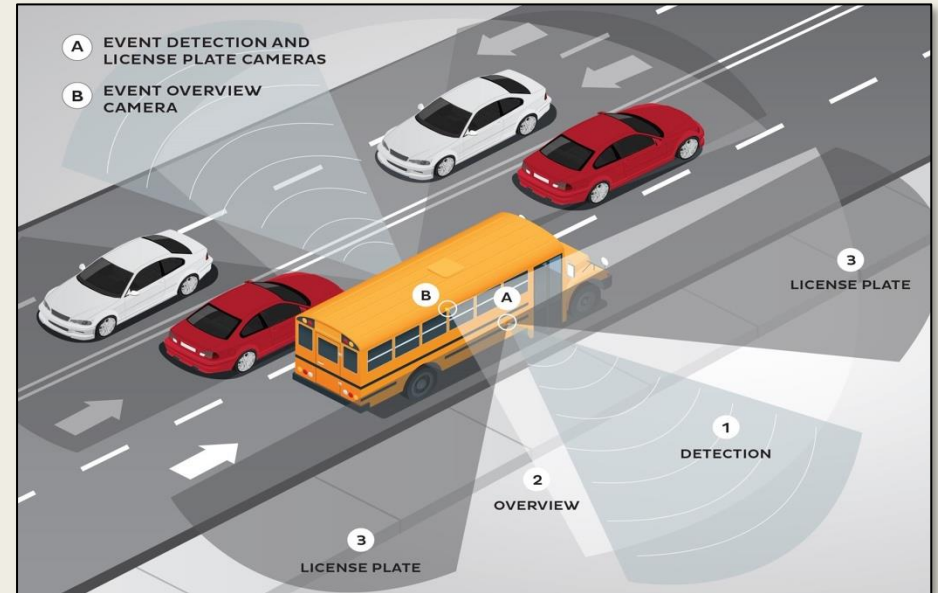
Data Governance of Surveillance Technologies in Arlington

2022 Face Surveillance Resolution



Affirmed need for strong safeguards for face surveillance technology

2025 School Bus Violation Detection Systems Home Rule Petition



Authorized systems under State framework with strong data governance safeguards

What This Article 94 Advocates Locally:

A Transparent Public Process for ALPR

 **Project Initiation**
Town identifies need for ALPR deployment/expansion



Policy Drafting
Town drafts ALPR Impact Report & Use Policy



 **Public Comment**
Residents comment on ALPR policy and impact;
Town considers community input and can revise.



ALPR Impact Report

- Purpose of ALPR System
- Assessment of equity, civil-rights & privacy impacts
- Identified mitigations & accountability strategies



ALPR Use Policy

- Authorized/prohibited uses
- Retention/deletion rules, access controls, data sharing
- Logging & auditing practices

Resolution opposes ALPR deployments or expansions without transparent public process with considerations of deployment's impact and data governance

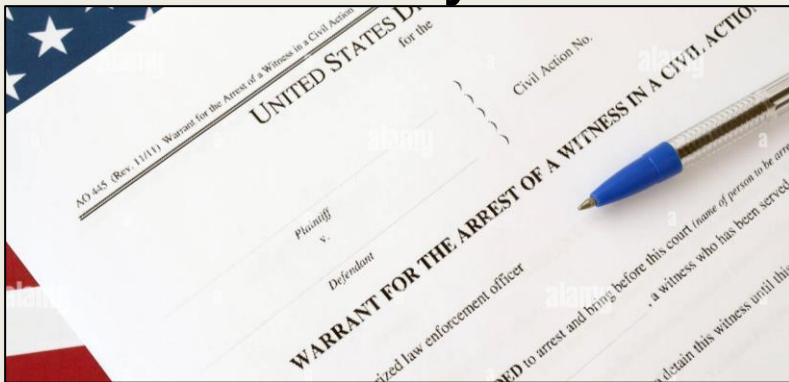
H.3755: What This Article 94 Advocates Statewide

Limits on Allowed Use



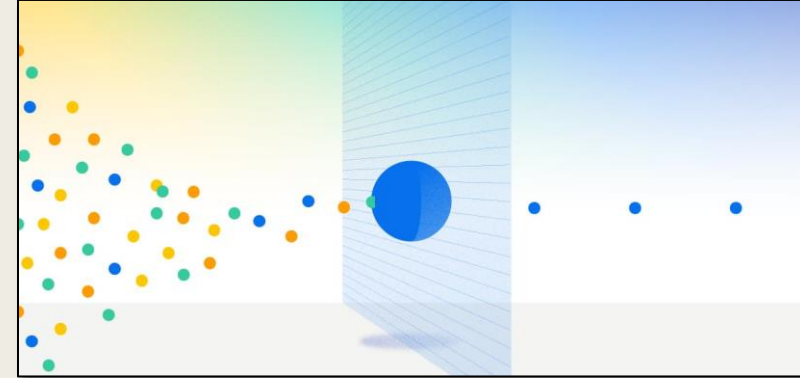
Prohibits using ALPR to track constitutionally protected activity

Warrant-Only Access



Requires warrants for third party access to vehicle-location data

Data Governance Standards



Data retention & minimization rules, access controls and logging

Enforceable Consequences



Makes improperly accessed data inadmissible, provides path for remedy

APD and AHRC Support for Article 94



Town of Arlington, MA Human Rights Commission

Memo

Date: March 16, 2026

To: Town Moderator Greg Christiana and Town Meeting Members

From: AHRC Co-Chairs Drake Pusey and Scott Jones

Subject: AHRC Endorses Warrant Article 94

Dear Town Moderator Greg Christiana and Town Meeting Members,

On February 25, the Arlington Human Rights Commission voted to endorse Warrant Article 94: Resolution / Automatic License Plate Recognition Safeguards and Driver Privacy.

The AHRC shares concerns that current Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) platforms do not ensure that driver data is protected and limited to uses set forth by the policies of specific towns. This opens the possibility of overreach, abuse, and inequity. State-level regulation and Town-level diligence are necessary to safeguard the rights of local drivers.

We encourage Town Meeting to pass this resolution.

Thanks for your consideration,

Drake Pusey & Scott Jones
Co-Chairs, AHRC

ARLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

JULIANN FLAHERTY
Chief of Police



POLICE HEADQUARTERS
112 Mystic Street
781-316-3900

Town of Arlington
MASSACHUSETTS 02474

Dear Town Meeting Members,

I am writing in support of the resolution submitted by Town Meeting Member Sam Polk regarding the use of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology.

ALPR systems can serve as a valuable public safety and investigative tool. When used appropriately, they assist law enforcement in locating stolen vehicles, identifying vehicles associated with violent crime, helping to find missing persons, and supporting time sensitive investigations. These capabilities can enhance our ability to respond effectively to incidents and protect our community.

At the same time, as with any technology that collects data, its use must be carefully balanced with clearly defined safeguards to protect individual privacy. Thoughtful oversight and responsible implementation are essential.

As an accredited agency, our department follows nationally recognized best practices in developing policy. Any adoption of ALPR technology would be guided by a comprehensive policy framework consistent with those standards and applicable state law. Technology should strengthen public safety while reinforcing, rather than eroding community confidence. Establishing strong governance standards ensures accountability and transparency. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter, and for the engagement of Town Meeting Member Sam Polk on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Julie Flaherty
Chief of Police

“State-level regulation and Town-level diligence are necessary to safeguard the rights of local drivers.”

“Technology should strengthen public safety while reinforcing, rather than eroding community confidence.”