



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Internationally Accredited

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September 12, 2012

To: Campus Affairs Committee
 Marcia Marinelli, Chair

From: David B. Mitchell
 Chief of Police

Subject: Senate Request for License Plate Reader Data Usage

In a 2011 report, the Campus Affairs Committee requested the following:

- 1) Information on the usefulness of the stored data
- 2) Appropriateness of the length of time of the stored data
- 3) Information regarding who has requested the data

According to our data and experience using the automated license plate reader system (ALPR), we have found the following:

Since March 2011, our Security Operations Center conducted 580 video camera reviews at the request of officers conducting criminal investigations. Of those reviews, 40 included requests for review of automated license plate reader data. Three ALPR reviews resulted in information which led to arrest. In the remaining 37 cases, the information provided aided officers and detectives by providing additional investigative leads.

With regard to the length of time the data is stored, it is evident the storage time may not be entirely sufficient to provide an acceptable level police service to victims of crime on campus. Since March 2011, approximately 60 incidents of crime were reported to police in excess of 30 days past the time frame during which the incident occurred. 11 of these were harassment/stalking cases, which often involve criminal activity over long periods of time. 23 cases were reported thefts which had occurred during a time frame at least 30 days prior to the report being filed. (Seven theft reports had a delay in reporting of over two months). Two cases of fraud were reported outside of the thirty

day window; and three burglaries, two of which had occurred over 100 days prior to reporting, were documented by officers. Three reports of suspicious activity were reported outside of the 30 day ALPR retention period. Many of these investigations are pending further investigative leads. ALPR data, if retained for a longer period, may have resulted in additional investigative information to move the cases forward. Approximately two-thirds of the "late" reported cases were reported between 30 and 90 days. I would ask for consideration to allow UMDPS to store data for 90 days to better serve the UMD College Park community.

All ALPR reviews have been conducted solely for the purpose of furthering criminal investigations. Police agencies requesting reviews since March 2011 include the University of Maryland Department of Public Safety and the Prince George's County Police Department. There have not been any requests for ALPR data from non-police entities or individuals.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need additional information.