

ARLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

JULIANN FLAHERTY
Chief of Police



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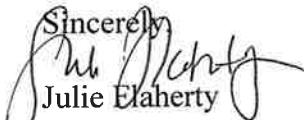
Dear Town Meeting Members,

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