

HB2332 – ALPR

Written comments submitted 1/20 House Civil rights and Judiciary Committee

The City of Sumner has successfully used Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology to investigate and solve a wide range of misdemeanor and felony crimes. In many cases, these crimes would not have been solved without ALPR data. When members of our community are victimized, they reasonably expect that the Police Department will conduct a thorough investigation and, when possible, identify and arrest the responsible party.

I appreciate the Legislature's goal of protecting privacy by exempting ALPR data from public disclosure. However, the proposed legislation would benefit from the following amendments:

1. Use of ALPR should not be limited to felony crimes.

The City has used ALPR technology to successfully solve misdemeanor offenses, including assaults and hit-and-run collisions. These crimes have significant impacts on victims and the community, and solving them can prevent further harm. Limiting ALPR use solely to felony investigations would unnecessarily restrict a proven investigative tool.

2. Data retention should not be limited to 72 hours.

Complex investigations often unfold over time, and the relevance of ALPR data may not be immediately apparent. A rigid 72-hour retention period would likely result in the loss of critical evidence before investigators know it is needed, undermining effective law enforcement.

3. Restrictions on ALPR placement near schools are impractical and counterproductive.

Sumner encompasses approximately seven square miles, and our main street and major arterials are closely integrated with schools and medical facilities. Prohibiting ALPR placement near schools would make effective camera deployment along these key corridors nearly impossible. Moreover, restricting ALPR use around schools runs counter to public safety goals. ALPR technology can be instrumental in

alerting law enforcement to the presence of a vehicle associated with an individual who has made a credible threat against a school or those who work or attend there.

With these amendments, the legislation can better balance privacy protections with the practical realities of public safety and effective criminal investigations.