

AUTOMATED
LICENSE PLATE
READERS
(ALPR)
PROGRAM
OVERVIEW



BACKGROUND



Beginning 2021 - Community meetings to discuss technology



May 18, 2021 – Council approved 45 cameras



2021 - Policy created with guidance from City Attorney's Office & best practices

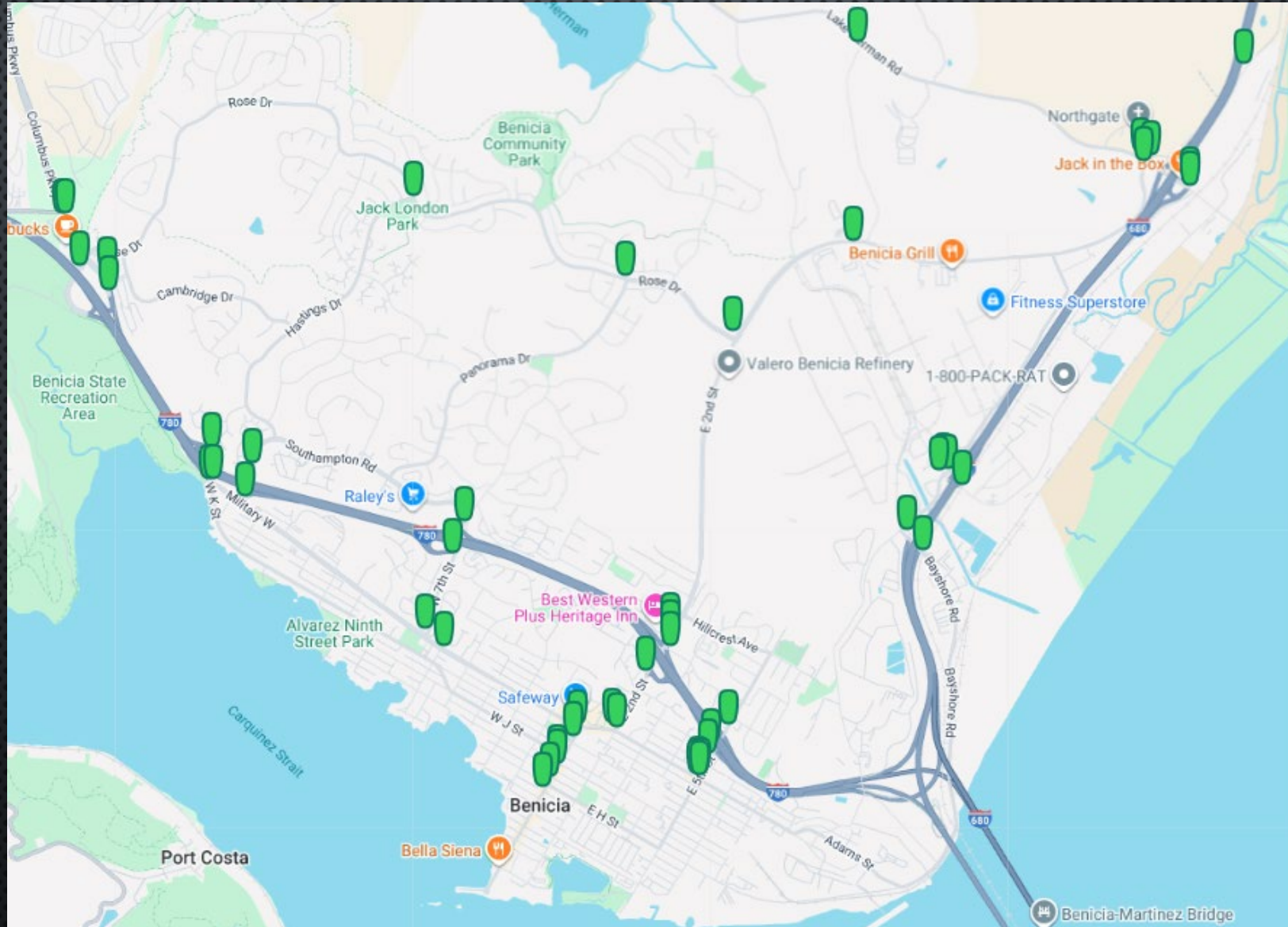


September 2021 – 45 cameras installed and operable



September 2023 - Council approved 6 additional cameras and 5-year contract

ALPR LOCATIONS



LICENSE PLATE READERS



● WHAT THEY DO...

- License Plate Recognition
- Capture vehicle details
- Alert Police of wanted vehicles
- Used to solve and prevent crime

● WHAT THEY DON'T DO...

- NO facial recognition
- NOT a video recording
- NOT use for reproductive health care investigations
- NOT for personal research by user
- NOT used for immigration enforcement
 - SB54 (2017 - Calif. Values Act)



SB 54 - CALIFORNIA VALUES ACT



- PROHIBITS California Law Enforcement agencies from:
 - Using agency moneys or personnel for immigration enforcement; cannot:
 - ✓ Investigate ✓ Detect ✓ Arrest
 - ✓ Interrogate ✓ Detain
 - Sharing information for purposes of immigration enforcement
 - Including databases hosted by private vendors (i.e. FLOCK)

FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED CONCERNS



- **IS THIS A SURVEILLANCE TOOL?**
 - No. Our ALPR system (FLOCK) only activates in response to specific calls for service.
 - It is not used for general patrol or surveillance
 - Every inquiry is logged and audit traceable
- **WHO CAN ACCESS DATA & IS IT SECURE?**
 - BPD owns all data collected by FLOCK
 - We determine who gets access to our data
 - All data is encrypted throughout its lifecycle
 - Data is purged after 30 days

FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED CONCERNS



- ARE CAMERAS USED TO IDENTIFY PEOPLE?
 - No. FLOCK cameras focus on license plates and vehicle details, like:
 - ✓ Make
 - ✓ Model
 - ✓ Color
 - ✓ Type of plate
 - ✓ Damage or alterations to vehicle, i.e. broken taillight

POLICY



- Law enforcement purposes only
- Individual login and password for users
- All users receive training and must acknowledge policy
- All searches are tracked and recorded
- Internal quarterly audits
- Only share with agencies (Legal/law enforcement) within California. Signed MOU required.

AUDITS



- Sampling of the ALPR system to verify proper use
- Random selection of at least 10 inquiries
- Quarterly, using preceding six-month period
- Inquiries meet requirements in policy section 470.6(d)
- Documented as internal department memo to Chief of Police
- Memo shall include any data errors found
- Internal memo to staff to address errors

TRANSPARENCY



THE CITY OF BENICIA CALIFORNIA

Automated License Plate Reader

In May 2021, the Benicia City Council approved the purchase and installation of 45 Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) within the city limits. Additionally, six more ALPRs were approved by the Council in 2023. ALPR software is a technology that uses cameras to automatically read license plate characters and other identifying characteristics of a vehicle (the vehicle make, model, color and unique identifiers). The cameras capture license numbers and transmits plate data to a database, which can run a check for stolen vehicles, Amber Alerts, Silver Alerts, missing persons and wanted people.

The Department's ALPR policy can be in PDF format at the bottom of this page, and more information available to the public on how the Department is leveraging this technology to enhance the community can be found at the [Transparency Portal](#).

The Department is committed to keeping Benicia a great and safe city for everyone by capitalizing on evolving technology and always striving to be more effective in its ability to protect the community.

[Automated License Plate Reader Policy](#)

more information available to the public
and at the [Transparency Portal](#).

Benicia CA PD

Transparency Portal

Last Updated: Thu Oct 16 2025

Overview

Benicia PD uses Flock Safety technology to capture objective evidence without compromising on individual privacy. Benicia CA PD utilizes retroactive search to solve crime after they've occurred. Additionally, Benicia PD utilizes real-time alerting of hotlist vehicles to capture wanted criminals. In an effort to ensure proper usage and guardrails are in place, they have made the below policies and usage statistics available to the public.

Policies

What's Detected

License plates, Vehicles

What's Not Detected

Facial recognition, People, Gender, Race

Acceptable Use Policy

Data is used for law enforcement purposes only. Data is owned by Benicia PD and is never sold to 3rd parties.

Prohibited Uses

Immigration enforcement, traffic enforcement, harassment or intimidation, usage based solely on a protected class (i.e. race, sex, religion), Personal use.

Access Policy

All system access requires a valid reason and is stored indefinitely.

Sharing

Data will only be shared with other law enforcement agencies for law enforcement purposes only, and never for immigration or other usages that are prohibited under Benicia PD policy.

Usage

Data retention (in days)

30 days

Number of LPR and other cameras

52

Public Search Audit

[Download CSV](#)

TRANSPARENCY



ALPR/FLOCK public search audit will not match CitizenRims database as ALPR is accessed for investigations/cold cases, in addition to current incidents

Benicia CA PD
Transparency Portal
Last Updated: Thu Oct 16 2025

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<https://benicia.citizenrims.com/bulletins>

Slidequest Designrr Flipsnack - digital a... GoodBarber - Creat...

Benicia Police Department

Crime

Stolen Vehicles

Arrests

Media Bulletins

Vacation Home Check

Directed Patrol Request

Security Camera Registration

About

06:53 BURGLARY - VEHICLE 2510150015
Occurred at Heritage Inn on E 2ND St. Disposition: 98-6 REPORT TAKEN

08:11 ABANDONED VEHICLE 2510150023
Occurred at Chadwick Wy/Chelsea Hills Dr. Disposition: 98-3 CALL CLOS

10:16 THREATS 2510150029
Occurred on Incline Pl. Disposition: 98-6 REPORT TAKEN (NON ARREST).

10:42 CIVIL DETAIL 2510150030
Occurred on Bayshore Rd. Disposition: 98-3 CALL CLOSED SATISFACTO

USE OF ALPR



Example incidents/cases that utilize ALPR technology



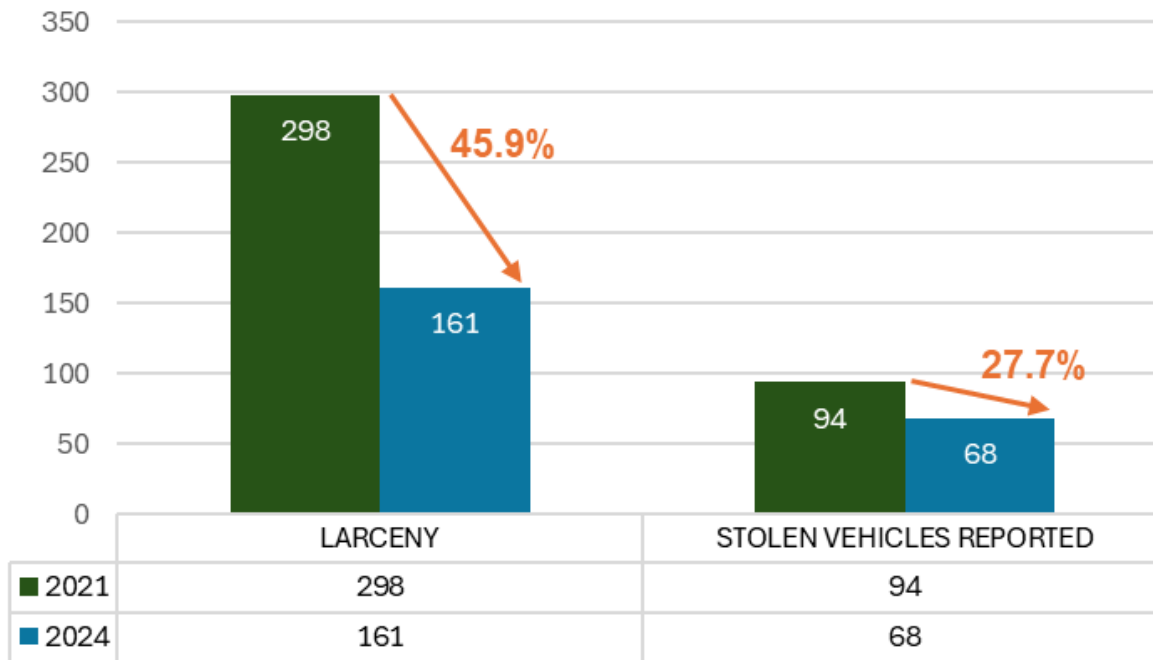
- Armed Robberies
- Catalytic converter thefts
- Stolen Vehicles
- Homicides
- Property thefts



IMPACT OF ALPR ON CRIME



Crime in Benicia - 2021 vs 2024



454 Cases utilizing ALPR

- 190 arrests
- 27 guns seized
- 79 vehicles recovered
- \$801,266 - value of recovered property

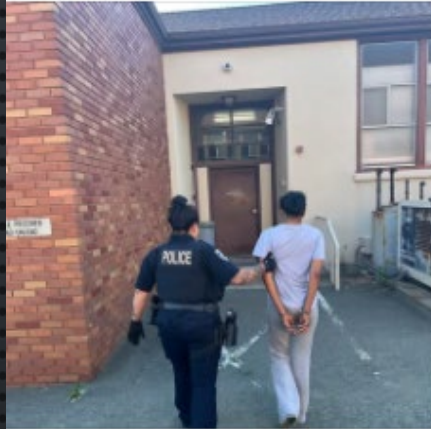
ALPR EXAMPLE



Benicia Police Department

Published by Benicia PD · August 30 ·

Yesterday morning, 8/29/25, around 11:30am, dispatch received a call from a local business that an employee was being attacked inside the store by four individuals. The employee was robbed of personal possessions including jewelry and a phone, valued at more than \$6500. During the course of the investigation, our officers and detectives were able to identify the suspects: a 20-year-old from Vallejo, a 19-year-old from Fairfield, and a 26-year-old and 17-year-old, both from Suisun. With the assistance of the city's Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) system, the suspects were located and taken into custody within hours of the incident. For more information, visit <https://benicia.citizenrims.com> and click on the "Arrests" tab.



See insights and ads

Facebook Fairfield, CA Police Department and 1.6K others

379 comments · 57 shares

Awesome 🍌

Bravo BPD

Love the ALPR system.
Stay safe out there.

9w Like Reply Hide



Without the license plate readers, they would have gotten away with.

9w Like Reply Hide

38

Top fan

Prayers for the victim so sad so sorry Thank you BPD
YEA to LPR yes

ALPR-well worth every penny! Thank you. BPD for responding.

9w Like Reply Hide

2

Excellent job BPD!! 🍌 I always thought your license plate readers were worth the investment in helping to find bad guys that enter our city & taking them off our streets. I hope the nay-sayers of license plate readers see your posts & realize what a useful tool it is for law enforcement to have. I hope the victim is going to be OK. Thank you.

9w Like Reply Hide

11

You are so right. Love those tools our police can use to keep us safe here in Benicia.

The license plate readers help to negate the freeway proximity advantage that criminals used to be able to exploit. Now we get a nice snapshot of the car and likely the suspects and can catch them super fast. Hopefully CA does its part and gives them some jail time, especially for the assault. I hope the victim is doing OK, that was probably a terrifying experience.

We need the word to get out that Benicia is NOT a soft target. With our proximity to so many higher crime regions in the Bay I will always be voting in favor of law enforcement.

9w Like Reply Hide

16

I totally 100% agree!

9w Like Reply Hide

3

Great job BPD!!! Those ALPRs are a valuable tool I'm glad we have here!! Hope the employee is doing ok!

Good job BPD! LPRs are great!

Loving the ALPR system to help catch the crooks.

Reply Hide

4

i love the plate readers gives our officers another tool to keep our city safe. thank you bpd.

9w Like Reply Hide

43

Thank God for technology 🙏

I'm very supportive of the ALPR surveillance system and its ability to capture license plates. Like others have mentioned, my hope is that criminals quickly learn that if they come to Benicia to commit a crime, they will be held accountable—and they will do the time.

Thank you to our Police Department and all first responders that put their life at risk to protect us 🙏

9w Like Reply Hide

10

SELECTION OF SUCCESS STORIES



- 1500 East 5th
- Rose Market
- Safeway employee robbery
- Averted bank robbery
- Copper theft



QUESTIONS?

