

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Suffolk Police Use New High Tech Tool to Fight Crime**

SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA (January 21, 2011) The Suffolk Police Department deploys a “high tech” tool which will help officers in their daily patrol duties, as well as Homeland Security. The equipment is called the “Automated License Plate Reader”, or ALPR.

The ALPR system reads license plates and then checks them against license plate numbers stored in a computer database. The system will look for plate numbers associated with crimes, including:

- *Stolen Vehicles*
- *Carjacked Vehicles*
- *Stolen License Plates*
- *Wanted or Missing People or Vehicles*
- *Stolen Vehicles or Missing License Plates Associated with Crime Scenes*
- *License Plates Frequently Seen at Sensitive or Secure Areas*

If the license plate number captured by the ALPR matches the information in the database, the officer will do an additional record search to confirm the match. If confirmed, the officer will take enforcement actions as dictated by Suffolk Police Department policy. Only data needed for evidentiary purposes will be saved. The ALPR system is set to self-delete data that is 30 days old.

The Suffolk Police Department bought the ALPR System for \$17,000 with a grant from the State Homeland Security Program.

**Media Note:**

The Suffolk Police Department is willing to demonstrate the ALPR. If interested, please contact the Media and Community Relations Department at 514-4104. We'll set up a day in the near future to show you how the ALPR works.

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