

JOHN LEE

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMEMBER • DISTRICT 12



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**COUNCILMEMBER JOHN LEE AND LAPD ANNOUNCE GROUNDBREAKING
AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READER PROGRAM TO STRENGTHEN PUBLIC
SAFETY**

Los Angeles - Today, Councilmember John Lee, LAPD Chief Dominic Choi, and LAPD Devonshire Division officers unveiled the Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Program, launching solely in Los Angeles City Council District 12.

In 2024, Councilmember John Lee allocated \$500,000 to fund the purchase, installation, and maintenance of automated license plate reader cameras to combat crime in the Valley. The Los Angeles Police Department and the Bureau of Street Lighting are working towards installing 100 cameras in the Northwest San Fernando Valley by the end of the year. The cameras will be located at or near intersections specifically in the communities of Chatsworth, Northridge, Granada Hills, Sherwood Forest, Porter Ranch, West Hills, and North Hills.

Automated license plate readers are tools utilized by law enforcement agencies that passively track and record vehicle license plates as they pass through specific areas. Automated license plate readers can help narrow the search for vehicles tied to crimes by allowing law enforcement agencies to see patterns of behavior in the incoming and outgoing traffic of a particular neighborhood or area.

"Communities everywhere have been asking for change and pleading with their government representatives to address issues of crime and while I know there is always more we can do, it brings me immense hope to know that we've been able to deliver this project for the Northwest San Fernando Valley," said Councilmember John Lee. "To

anyone looking to come into the Northwest San Fernando Valley and target our communities, I strongly suggest you think twice about that decision."

Installation of the cameras began in September and has already resulted in two hits and arrests made by the LAPD. In one case, officers were able to identify a stolen vehicle after suspects assaulted and attempted to rob a victim who successfully captured the vehicle's license plate. Officers were able to use the license plate to locate the vehicle and make an arrest. In the other case, officers were able to use a larger network of ALPR cameras to locate a suspect who forcibly removed and stole a Rolex watch from a victim's wrist. Officers tracked the suspect's vehicle to a motel room and arrested the suspect.

Automated license plate reader camera technology is already used by the Los Angeles Police Department, however, the implementation of this technology at fixed locations in residential and business areas is the first of its kind in the City of Los Angeles and is the first time a City Councilmember has allocated funding to support this type of initiative.

Because of the department's usage of this technology in other applications, the department already has a robust existing policy when it comes to data privacy and security. In general, ALPR data recorded by the department is retained for 2 years at which point the data is deleted from use by ALPR data users and can only be accessed by ALPR system administrators. After 5 years, all data is deleted, with the exception of data needed for prosecutions or administrative hearings.

This initiative was prompted by data from the Los Angeles Police Department's Devonshire Division, which reported a 23% increase in burglaries across the entire division in 2023. Notably, during the same time frame, the division also reported a 103% increase in burglaries in the neighborhoods located north of Rinaldi St. Utilizing modern technology like automated license plate reader cameras gives law enforcement professionals the tools to investigate crimes more efficiently and ultimately improves public safety for residents living in Council District 12

Los Angeles City Councilmember John Lee represents the Twelfth Council District in the Northwest San Fernando Valley which includes the communities of Northridge, Chatsworth, Granada Hills, North Hills West, West Hills, Porter Ranch, and Sherwood Forest.