ATTACHMENT A:

Pasadena Police Department ALPR Community Briefing Fact Sheet

LICENSE PLATE READERS

A modern investigative tool. A responsibility to protect privacy.



Why Pasadena uses ALPR technology

Pasadena has used automated license plate reader (ALPR) technology since 2009. In 2023 and 2024, the Police Department expanded to newer ALPR networks following a series of shootings and homicides. Traditional surveillance footage often could not produce readable license plates, particularly at night. The expanded network gives investigators time-and-location information about vehicles that can be compared with witness accounts, physical evidence and other leads. Pasadena Police Department uses ALPR technology in hundreds of cases each year, from recovering stolen vehicles and investigating violent crimes—including homicides—to helping locate missing and endangered people. It provides timely leads for officers and detectives across routine and major investigations.

What an ALPR does — and does not do

CAPTURES

- License plates
- Vehicle images and characteristics
- Date, time and camera location

DOES NOT DO

- Identify people by facial recognition
- Record audio
- Establish guilt from a plate read

A lead—not a determination of guilt

An ALPR alert is an investigative starting point. Officers must verify the plate and independently evaluate the facts before any enforcement action. A detection alone does not establish reasonable suspicion, probable cause or criminal involvement.

EVOLVING CRIMINAL METHODS

Criminals increasingly use technology and tactics designed to avoid detection by conventional security cameras and traditional investigative methods. ALPR provides another way to identify relevant vehicles and develop timely leads, complementing—not replacing—traditional police work.

INVESTIGATIVE VALUE / REAL-WORLD EXAMPLES

WHEN MINUTES MATTER

Timely vehicle information can help investigators establish facts—and clear innocent people.

Suspicious Death | October 17, 2026

On October 17, 2026, a woman in distress was dropped off at a local hospital and later died. The driver departed before officers could interview him, leaving detectives with an urgent question about the circumstances surrounding her death. ALPR detections in Pasadena and South Pasadena helped investigators identify the vehicle, reconstruct relevant movements, and locate the driver for an interview. The rapid identification also allowed investigators to preserve time-sensitive evidence and corroborate the account provided.

ALPR HELPED ESTABLISH INNOCENCE

ALPR information helped investigators promptly locate the driver, preserve relevant evidence, interview him and assess his account. Investigators determined that no foul play had occurred. Without ALPR, identifying the driver could have required a broader, more time-consuming investigation, increasing the risk that time-sensitive evidence would be lost. This example demonstrates that ALPR is not simply a tool for making arrests: it can also help investigators promptly establish the facts and eliminate an innocent person from suspicion.

2026 homicide | Suspect identified within 12 hours

On January 28, 2026, officers responded to a homicide on Ashtabula Street. Detectives used ALPR detections to identify vehicles associated with the incident, develop a critical lead, and locate a suspect. The suspect was arrested and confessed within approximately 12 hours of the killing. Identifying a vehicle early in a homicide investigation can dramatically narrow the search and allow detectives to focus interviews and other investigative resources while evidence is fresh.

MORE REAL-WORLD PASADENA CASES

Armed robbery | October 2026

In an October 2026 armed robbery investigation, detectives used ALPR records to identify a vehicle associated with the incident and develop a significant investigative lead within three days. The case remains active, and no further investigative details are being released at this time.

Residential burglary, stolen vehicle and arrest | October 2026

On October 2, 2026, a Pasadena resident reported that someone had entered his home while family members were inside, taken the keys to a GMC Denali, and driven away in the vehicle, striking another car on the property. Officers reviewed witness video and used ALPR detections to follow the stolen vehicle's movements, including a detection outside Pasadena and a later detection near Colorado Boulevard. Officers found the vehicle abandoned and recovered it for its owner. During the continuing investigation, a separate call led officers to a nearby person matching the suspect's description. Officers located the stolen vehicle's key in his possession, and the suspect admitted taking the vehicle and identified himself in the witness video. He was arrested on suspicion of residential burglary, grand theft auto and vandalism. The case demonstrates how ALPR can accelerate vehicle recovery and provide a crucial link in a broader investigation involving a residential burglary.

City Yards burglary and theft of public equipment | September 2026

On September 1, 2026, two individuals cut through a perimeter fence at Pasadena's secured City Yards facility and stole generator welding cables used to power lighting for Rose Bowl events. Surveillance video captured the theft and a Nissan Frontier used to transport the cables, but the footage was not clear enough to identify the individuals. Investigators compared distinctive damage visible on the vehicle with ALPR records and identified a matching truck detected approximately nine minutes before the theft near the facility. This led to the identification of a suspect. The case illustrates how ALPR can help turn limited surveillance footage into actionable leads in a crime affecting City infrastructure.

Stolen SUV recovered and returned to owner | August 2026

On August 8, 2026, Pasadena officers received an ALPR alert identifying a stolen SUV. Officers located the vehicle and attempted a traffic stop, but the driver fled at high speed. The pursuit was terminated because of dangerous driving conditions. Shortly afterward, officers encountered the SUV stopped in traffic and safely detained the driver. Clothing and cash were collected as evidence potentially linking the driver to the original theft. The driver was arrested for vehicle theft and felony evading, and the SUV was returned directly to its owner.

Pasadena bank robbery suspect arrested and firearm recovered | July 2026

Following a Pasadena bank robbery, investigators used ALPR images from neighboring law enforcement agencies to identify a vehicle associated with the suspect. Members of Pasadena Police Department's Fugitive Apprehension Unit, working in partnership with the U.S. Marshals Service, assisted in locating and arresting the suspect in Los Angeles. During the arrest, the suspect discarded a loaded handgun equipped with an automatic conversion device and a high-capacity magazine. The case demonstrates how regional ALPR cooperation can help locate violent-crime suspects and recover dangerous weapons.

Strong-arm robbery | July 2026

On July 31, 2026, a woman was repeatedly punched by three individuals during a strong-arm robbery in the 700 block of Washington Boulevard. The attackers took her belongings and fled. Officers used ALPR information to identify the suspect vehicle, leading to arrests and recovery of the stolen property. In addition to identifying those involved, the technology helped bring a tangible result for the victim: the return of her belongings.

Armed road-rage incident — suspect arrested and firearm recovered | June 2026

On June 6, 2026, a motorist reported that another driver pointed a handgun at him during a road-rage confrontation in Pasadena. Officers used ALPR technology to identify a vehicle matching the suspect's description and developed a suspect who was subsequently identified by the victim. Later that day, officers located the vehicle and arrested the suspect, a convicted felon prohibited from possessing firearms. A concealed semiautomatic handgun was recovered from the vehicle, and additional ammunition and a firearm component were recovered during the subsequent investigation. This case demonstrates how ALPR technology can assist officers in identifying armed suspects, making arrests, and recovering dangerous weapons.

Longtime fugitive arrested after more than six years | May 2026

In May 2026, members of Pasadena Police Department's Fugitive Apprehension Unit, working with the U.S. Marshals Service, used ALPR and other vehicle-location information to identify the location of a vehicle associated with a fugitive wanted for a parole violation. The suspect had evaded arrest for more than six years. Investigators located the vehicle, observed the suspect exiting it, and arrested him. The case illustrates how ALPR can support the apprehension of fugitives whose whereabouts have remained unknown for years.

Missing adult located and provided medical care | April 2026

On April 7, 2026, a Pasadena resident reported that a family member had gone missing after leaving home the previous morning to run errands. Detectives used ALPR records to trace the missing woman's vehicle and develop a lead regarding her whereabouts. Further investigation revealed that the woman had been found suffering from dehydration and transported to a local hospital, where she was admitted for altered mental status. Detectives confirmed her hospitalization and notified her family. The case demonstrates how ALPR can assist missing-person investigations and help provide answers to concerned families.

Violent robbery of a student — suspect identified and arrested | April 2026

On April 3, 2026, a 15-year-old student was chased, beaten, and robbed of a gold necklace by suspects who arrived in a Mercedes sedan. Detectives used ALPR imagery to identify a vehicle matching the suspect vehicle's description and distinctive characteristics near the crime scene shortly before the robbery. Investigators corroborated the vehicle identification through surveillance footage and additional investigative work, ultimately identifying a suspect who was arrested for robbery six days after the incident. This investigation demonstrates how ALPR technology can help detectives identify suspects and advance investigations involving violent crimes against juveniles.

Attempted-murder fugitive arrested after years on the run | January 2026

In January 2026, members of Pasadena Police Department's Fugitive Apprehension Unit, working with the U.S. Marshals Service, helped locate a fugitive wanted in Arizona for attempted murder since 2019. Investigators used ALPR and related vehicle information to track a vehicle associated with the suspect to the Ventura and Ojai area. Following a two-day search, task force personnel, assisted by local law enforcement, located and arrested the suspect. The suspect was subsequently extradited to Arizona. This case demonstrates how ALPR can help regional partners locate dangerous fugitives across jurisdictions.

Stolen vehicle recovered and returned to owner | January 2026

On January 1, 2026, a Pasadena patrol officer observed a Nissan Versa matching a previously issued ALPR stolen-vehicle alert. The officer coordinated with responding units, conducted a traffic stop and confirmed that the vehicle had been reported stolen. The driver was arrested, and officers returned the vehicle directly to its owner. This case demonstrates how ALPR technology helps officers identify stolen vehicles during routine patrol and reunite community members with their property.

Stolen vehicle and fraudulent identification | November 2025

On November 13, 2025, an ALPR alert notified Pasadena officers that a vehicle reported stolen in Los Angeles had entered the city. Officers located the vehicle, confirmed the alert and conducted a traffic stop. During the

investigation, officers discovered that the driver possessed a fraudulent California identification card, resulting in an additional criminal charge. The driver was arrested, and the stolen vehicle was returned directly to its owner. The case illustrates how a timely ALPR alert can help recover stolen property while uncovering additional criminal activity.

Church arson | October 2025

On October 28, 2025, investigators responded to an arson at a local church. An ALPR alert helped identify a vehicle associated with the incident, and subsequent detections allowed officers to narrow the area in which they were searching. Officers conducted a traffic stop, recovered evidence involving gasoline, and arrested a suspect for arson. The sequence shows how an initial vehicle alert, followed by additional location information, can turn an investigative lead into an arrest.

Missing juvenile located and returned safely | September 2025

On September 25, 2025, a Pasadena ALPR alert brought officers to a vehicle associated with a reported theft. During the ensuing police response, officers located several occupants and discovered that one was a juvenile who had been reported missing. Officers confirmed the juvenile's status and arranged for the young person's return. Although the initial alert concerned a vehicle, the encounter also helped officers locate a missing juvenile and reunite the young person with those responsible for their care. The case illustrates how ALPR-assisted police work can produce important public-safety benefits beyond the original reason for an alert.

Felony evading fugitive arrested and motorcycle recovered | August 2025

In August 2025, members of Pasadena Police Department's Fugitive Apprehension Unit, working with the U.S. Marshals Service, used ALPR and other vehicle-location information to locate a suspect wanted after a high-speed motorcycle pursuit involving Pasadena officers. Investigators traced an associated vehicle to Venice, established surveillance, and arrested the suspect without incident. The motorcycle involved in the pursuit was also located and impounded. This case demonstrates how ALPR can support fugitive apprehension and the recovery of evidence beyond city boundaries.

Stolen vehicle and stolen firearm recovered | August 2025

On August 14, 2025, Pasadena officers received an ALPR alert identifying a stolen vehicle traveling through the city. Officers located the vehicle and coordinated a traffic stop. During a subsequent search, officers recovered a handgun with a loaded magazine concealed beneath the driver's seat. A records check confirmed that the firearm was also stolen. The driver was arrested for vehicle theft and firearm-related offenses, and the stolen vehicle was recovered. This case demonstrates how an ALPR alert can lead to the recovery of multiple stolen items, including a firearm.

Criminal threats against a church | August 2025

In August 2025, Pasadena officers investigated threatening social media statements directed at a local church and its pastor. ALPR records confirmed that the suspect's vehicle had been detected near the church that afternoon. When the suspect subsequently appeared at the location, officers took him into custody for criminal threats. ALPR provided corroborating information about the suspect vehicle's movements, while a separate report of the suspect's presence prompted the police response.

Armed carjacking solved and vehicle recovered | July 2025

On July 19, 2025, two suspects forcibly took a vehicle from a couple in Pasadena, threatening them with a knife and what appeared to be a handgun. Approximately three hours later, officers received an ALPR alert identifying the stolen vehicle traveling through the city. Using ALPR information and coordinated police efforts, officers located the vehicle and detained several individuals nearby. Further investigation resulted in the arrest of two suspects for carjacking and the recovery of a folding knife and a realistic-looking BB gun. The stolen vehicle was recovered and returned to the victim's designated recipient. This case demonstrates how ALPR technology can support the rapid investigation of violent crimes, helping officers locate stolen vehicles, apprehend suspects, and recover evidence.

Sexual assault investigation | July 2025

On July 15, 2025, a woman with a disability was sexually assaulted by a driver who was pretending to operate a rideshare service. Detectives used ALPR records to identify and locate the vehicle. The suspect was taken into custody, and investigators recovered additional evidence of serious offenses, including child sexual abuse material. The case resulted in a conviction. The investigation illustrates how a vehicle-based lead can help detectives identify an offender who might otherwise be difficult to locate, particularly when a vulnerable victim is involved.

Rapid stolen vehicle recovery and suspect arrest | June 2025

On June 2, 2025, a vehicle was stolen from a Pasadena gym after an unknown individual took the victim's key fob from a locker. Later that evening, an ALPR alert identified the stolen vehicle traveling through Pasadena. Officers quickly located the vehicle and attempted a traffic stop, but the driver fled, committing multiple traffic violations before losing control and colliding with a wall. The driver was arrested for felony evading and taking a vehicle without the owner's consent, **just 2 hours and 13 minutes after the theft was reported to police**. The stolen vehicle was recovered. This case demonstrates how ALPR technology can help officers rapidly locate stolen vehicles and apprehend suspects.

Child abduction investigation — child recovered and suspect arrested | May 2025

In May 2025, Pasadena detectives investigated the disappearance of a five-year-old child whose father had taken him from the family home and refused to disclose his whereabouts. Detectives used ALPR technology to trace the suspect's vehicle through multiple California cities, ultimately establishing that the vehicle had last been observed leaving the state. Working in coordination with the U.S. Marshals Service, authorities subsequently located and arrested the suspect in Washington State, and the child was safely recovered. This case demonstrates how ALPR technology can provide critical investigative leads in child-abduction cases, support interstate law enforcement cooperation, and help reunite missing children with their families.

Armed commercial robbery and suspect identification | February 2025

In February 2025, an armed suspect robbed a Pasadena convenience store. Surveillance footage showed a possible getaway vehicle, but its license plate was not readable. After an investigator spotted a similar vehicle, detectives used ALPR imagery to corroborate distinctive damage and other physical features and develop investigative leads. A suspect was subsequently arrested by another law-enforcement agency, and replica firearms and clothing consistent with the robbery were recovered. The case illustrates how ALPR imagery can support suspect identification even when initial surveillance does not capture a readable plate.

Armed robbery and firearm recovery | August 2024

In August 2024, a victim was confronted by two individuals and robbed of a valuable watch at gunpoint. Pasadena detectives reviewed surveillance footage, obtained a positive identification of a suspect, and used ALPR records to place the suspects at the crime scene. The firearm used in the robbery was subsequently recovered. This case demonstrates how ALPR technology, combined with surveillance footage and traditional investigative techniques, can help detectives identify suspects, establish their connection to a violent crime, and recover critical evidence.

Regional burglary investigation and recovery of stolen property | April 2021

In April 2021, Pasadena detectives investigated a residential burglary in which suspects used a distraction ruse to steal more than $40,000 in jewelry. Investigators linked the crime to similar burglaries in neighboring cities and used ALPR records from another law enforcement agency to corroborate the suspect vehicle's identity. Regional coordination contributed to three arrests and the recovery of substantial quantities of jewelry and approximately $85,000 in cash. Victims in multiple jurisdictions identified stolen jewelry, and criminal charges were filed. This investigation demonstrated the value of regional ALPR information sharing even before Pasadena deployed its current ALPR system.

WHAT IF TODAY'S ALPR COVERAGE HAD EXISTED IN 2021?

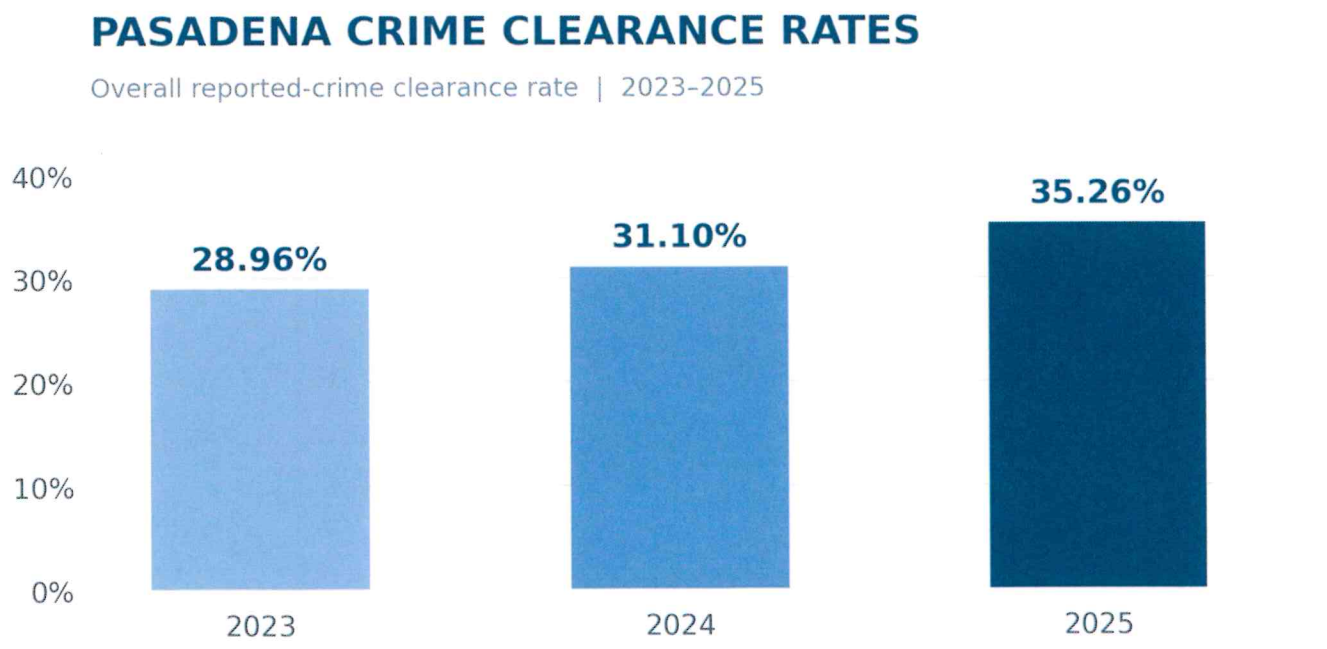
THE IRAN MORENO HOMICIDE | NOVEMBER 2021

On November 20, 2021, 13-year-old Iran Moreno was killed by gunfire while playing video games in his Pasadena bedroom. Detectives conducted an exhaustive investigation, ultimately identifying and arresting suspects in 2025, nearly four years later. A retrospective review of the suspect vehicle's movements indicated that ALPR cameras at today's locations could have captured the vehicle approaching and leaving the scene, potentially allowing investigators to identify the vehicle and develop critical leads within hours. While no technology can guarantee an outcome, the case illustrates how timely ALPR information could significantly shorten the time needed to pursue leads and provide answers to victims' families.



Pasadena investigative results

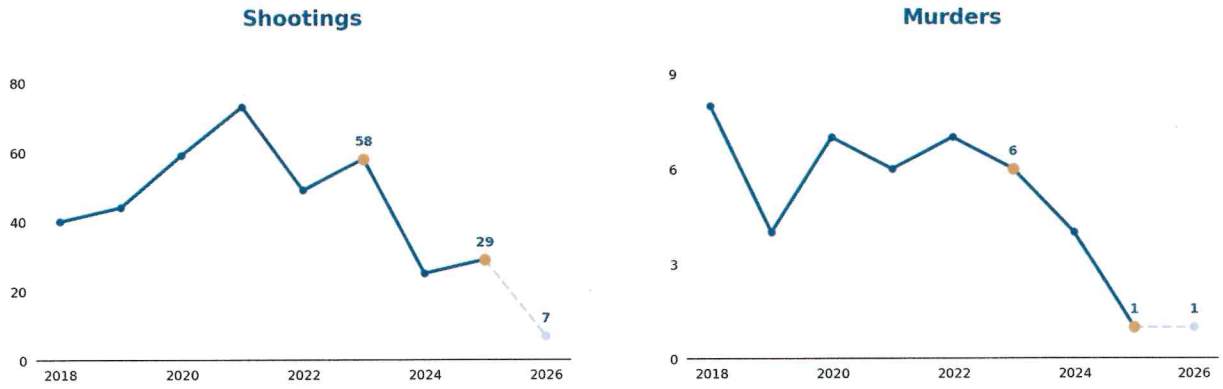
Crime clearance rates are the percentage of reported offenses cleared by arrest or exceptional means. Pasadena's all-offense clearance rate increased from 28.96% (2023) to 31.10% (2024) and 35.26% (2025), an improvement of 6.30 percentage points since new ALPR networks introduced. While crime clearance rates cannot be solely contributed to ALPR, they have had a positive impact on the ability of officers to solve crimes.



Documented ALPR impact: In 2025, ALPR alerts directly led to 27 of Pasadena's 89 stolen-vehicle recoveries (more than 30%), representing approximately $700,000 in recovered stolen property.

A DECLINE IN SHOOTINGS AND HOMICIDES

Pasadena recorded 58 shootings and 6 murders in 2023, compared with 29 shootings and 1 murder in 2025—a 50% decline in shootings and an 83.3% decline in murders. Shootings also fell 60.3% from their 2021 peak of 73. These comparisons use complete calendar years. The 2026 figures are preliminary and only through October 27, 2026, but reflect the continuance of a very large downward trend thus far.



Dashed segment = 2026 year-to-date (through Oct. 27); prior years are full-year totals.

Crime trends reflect many factors; these declines should not be attributed solely to ALPR technology. The 2026 figures (7 shootings and 1 murder) are preliminary year-to-date totals through October 27, 2026.

Additional investigative applications

- Violent crimes and shootings: Investigators compare vehicle detections with scene evidence, witness accounts and other leads.
- Missing or endangered people: Authorized ALPR searches help investigators locate vehicles associated with AMBER and Silver Alerts.
- Hit-and-runs, robberies and burglaries: Time-sensitive vehicle detections narrow leads and help investigators reconstruct events.
- Major events: ALPR supports public-safety operations and investigations during the Rose Parade, Rose Bowl Game, major football events, international soccer tournaments and other large gatherings.



MAJOR EVENTS & PUBLIC SAFETY



Pasadena hosts major events that draw large crowds and require coordinated public-safety planning. ALPR technology is one of several investigative resources available to support timely responses and coordination across agencies.

Major Events & the Future Active Intelligence Center

Pasadena hosts some of the nation's most prominent sporting and public events, including the Rose Parade, Rose Bowl Game, major collegiate football games and international soccer competitions. These gatherings bring large crowds, significant vehicle traffic and complex public-safety responsibilities requiring coordinated planning and timely investigative information.

ALPR technology is an important foundation of the Pasadena Police Department's planned Active Intelligence Center (AIC). Vehicle detections and investigative alerts will support the AIC's ability to assess emerging incidents, coordinate resources and assist officers during major events. ALPR is one component of a broader public-safety system and does not replace officer judgment or other investigative methods.

That capability will be especially important as Pasadena prepares for the LA28 Olympic Games. Rose Bowl Stadium is scheduled to host the men's and women's soccer semifinal and final matches, while the Rose Bowl Aquatics Center will host Olympic diving. ALPR will support the Department's broader event-security strategy and coordination with regional law-enforcement partners, subject to existing privacy safeguards.

Operational continuity

Pasadena can evaluate continuing with its current provider or moving to another company. The City's current ALPR contract runs through February 2027; the Department recommends maintaining ALPR coverage through at least September 2027 to avoid an investigative gap during evaluation or transition.

PRIVACY, SAFEGUARDS & ACCOUNTABILITY

SAFEGUARDS FIRST

Public trust depends on enforceable rules, independent review and meaningful results.



What independent research says

The National Policing Institute surveyed 1,435 U.S. adults in 2026. Acceptance depended heavily on the purpose: 88.3% considered ALPR use acceptable to find missing or abducted children, while 83.6% considered it acceptable for violent-crime investigations. These are national findings, not Pasadena-specific polling.

Which safeguards would most increase public confidence?

In the 2026 National Policing Institute survey, respondents identified the following measures as the strongest ways to build trust in ALPR use. Each percentage represents the share of survey respondents selecting that safeguard—not a crime rate, a clearance rate, or a measure of Pasadena's performance.

41.8%	36.1%	34.2%
Independent audits	Case number and reason for searches	Regular public reporting

Safeguards in place

- Access is limited to trained, authorized personnel; searches require a documented investigative purpose and case or event identifier.
- Pasadena retains ALPR data for 30 days and controls access and sharing. The Department decides which authorized California law-enforcement agencies receive access; nationwide and out-of-state sharing are disabled.
- PPD prohibits ALPR searches for immigration enforcement, reproductive-health investigations, consistent with California law and Department policy.
- PPD reviews system access and search logs, conducts audits and investigates potential misuse under Department procedures.
- Officers verify ALPR alerts and independently establish a lawful basis before taking enforcement action.

PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY PORTAL

The Department's transparency portal provides public visibility into the ALPR program, including the agencies with which Pasadena shares data, along with information about program policies and accountability. Pasadena controls its own data and authorizes sharing only with eligible California agencies.

The Path Forward for Pasadena

Pasadena's ALPR program has demonstrated its value in hundreds of investigations each year, helping detectives solve serious crimes, locate missing persons, recover stolen vehicles, and develop critical investigative leads. The Department has also established meaningful safeguards, including restricted access, regular audits, limited data retention, and transparency regarding information sharing.

As Pasadena prepares for major international events and the development of its Active Intelligence Center, maintaining this capability is increasingly important. **The Pasadena Police Department recommends the continued use of ALPR technology as an essential public-safety and investigative resource**, with ongoing oversight, accountability, and evaluation to ensure the program continues to serve the community responsibly.

