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License Plate Recognition (LPR) Cameras

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Purpose

This policy establishes guidelines for the installation and use of License Plate Recognition (LPR) cameras on the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK) campus. The goal is to enhance public safety, deter criminal activity, and assist law enforcement investigations while ensuring compliance with Nebraska law and protecting individual privacy.

Scope

This policy applies to all University of Nebraska at Kearney Police Department (UNKPD) personnel and authorized administrators with access to LPR systems.

Policy

1. Authorized Use

LPR cameras may only be used for legitimate law enforcement and campus safety purposes, including:

- Identifying and locating vehicles connected to criminal activity.

- Responding to Amber Alerts, Silver Alerts, or Be-On-the-Lookout (BOLO) requests issued by recognized law enforcement agencies.
- Supporting active investigations involving crimes on or near campus.
- Assisting in locating missing or endangered individuals.

2. Prohibited Use

LPR data shall not be used for:

- General surveillance of individuals, groups, or activities protected by the First Amendment.
- Traffic enforcement unrelated to public safety or criminal investigations.
- Personal, political, or commercial purposes.

3. Data Retention and Public Records Compliance

- LPR data will be retained for **30 days**, after which it will be automatically deleted unless preserved for an active investigation.
- Data related to an investigation shall be retained in accordance with **Nebraska public records laws** and University records retention schedules.
- Any external request for LPR records (including Nebraska Public Records Act requests) will be handled in consultation with the University's Office of General Counsel.

4. Access and Accountability

- Access to LPR data will be restricted to authorized UNKPD officers and administrators.
- All queries and data access will be logged and subjected to internal audit.
- Unauthorized access, disclosure, or misuse of LPR data may result in disciplinary action, termination, and/or criminal penalties under Nebraska law.

5. Camera Placement

- Cameras will be placed at strategic access points to campus to enhance safety and investigative capabilities.
- Cameras will not be installed in areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy, including residence halls, classrooms, or private offices.

6. Training

- All authorized users will complete training on the lawful and ethical use of LPR systems, including Nebraska-specific privacy and records requirements.

7. Compliance

- This policy is administered in compliance with Nebraska statutes, the University of Nebraska System policies, and applicable federal law.
- The Chief of Police/or Designee will review this policy annually to ensure continued compliance with Nebraska law and best practices in LPR use.

Responsibility

The UNK Police Department is responsible for the administration, enforcement, and review of this policy.

Effective Date

This policy is effective upon approval and shall remain in force until amended or rescinded.