Office of the Sheriff
Monroe County, New York
Sheriff Todd K. Baxter
Undersheriff Korey K. Brown

TO: **Monroe County Legislature**
FROM: **Michael Fowler, Chief Deputy**
DATE: **09/30/2026**
SUBJECT: **Response to ALPR Program Inquiries**

Please accept this response to a letter we received from members of the legislature requesting information regarding the Monroe County Sheriff's Office use of Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPR). As was identified in the legislative inquiry, the purchase of license plate readers was first approved as part of funding provided through the New York State DCJS Law Enforcement Technology Grant, presented on July 1,2024. Subsequently, in May 2025, the legislature voted to approve the installation of these ALPRs along roadways within Monroe County.

It should be noted that the installation and implementation of ALPR's is the culmination of a long process that began more than three years ago. Since the program was first discussed publicly in 2023, MCSO has participated in several round table discussions, attended several training sessions regarding law enforcement use of technology, reviewed multiple model policy examples, and has received certifications, that include privacy safeguards, from the National Real Time Crime Center Association. These efforts to both educate ourselves, as well as follow best practice and model policy examples, is ongoing. As the technology changes and risks or opportunities are identified, we adapt and update our policies as necessary.

MCSO also maintains vehicle mounted license plate readers, and has done so for several years. Mobile license plate readers utilize Axon software, built in to our patrol car dash cameras, for capturing images of license plates. This system alerts the deputy that a vehicle on the hot list was just captured by the dash camera. The Axon system operates similarly to Motorola and follows the same applicable MCSO policies. Axon data is also owned by MCSO and only shared with the NYS Monroe Crime Analysis Center, not other agencies.

MCSO recognizes that with any law, policy or tool there exists potential for misuse. We consider the ALPR program an extremely beneficial investigative tool, especially as crimes become more complex, personnel resources are limited, and regional cooperation becomes increasingly essential. However, it is a tool, and should not be used at the expense of public trust and constitutional rights. Therefore, we strive to strike a balance that provides the safeguards and oversight necessary to implement such a program successfully.

1. **Current ALPR Policy**
    a. Reference the attached policy
    b. MCSO policy was recently updated to be even more restrictive than the NYS model policy
    c. Access to data is limited to sworn members of the Police Bureau, three (3) civilian analysts assigned to the RIOC, as well as select members of the NYS Monroe Crime Analysis Center.

d. Per policy, permissible searches are limited to:
    i. Attempt to identify and/or locate a vehicle related to an official law enforcement investigation; or
    ii. Attempt to identify vehicle owner(s) and/or occupant(s) when such individual(s):
        1. Has committed a criminal offense; or
        2. Is involved in or is planning criminal conduct or activity; or
        3. Is a possible missing person, crime victim, or witness to criminal activity; or
        4. Other official law enforcement investigations
    iii. Prevent, detect, and/or assess potential safety threats to members of the public and/or public officials
    iv. Assist in identifying traffic violations during routine patrol associated with suspended or revoked vehicle registrations
    v. Monitor access to secured areas and critical infrastructure. (i.e. Airport)
    vi. Maintain compliance with a court order
    vii. Assist with requests made for the use of physical LPR deployment or LPR-equipped vehicle assistance from or to other agencies for the purpose of assisting with active law enforcement investigations. This includes requested use for strategic deployment (perimeters, choke points).

2. The results of all audits conducted since the cameras went live

a. Audit Results since February 2026
    i. 79 of 164 active users have been audited (48%) to date
    ii. 24 instances of procedural discrepancies, all corrected with training
    iii. No instances of policy violations or related misuse of the system have been identified
b. Both Motorola and Axon are in the process of updating their software to better streamline the audit process and to automate certain audits. This includes the ability to automatically detect and warn administrators of potential irregular search patterns by users.

3. The total number of ALPR database searches conducted since deployment, broken down by month and by unit or division

a. We refer to these as queries. System software does not return results in the requested format.
b. 3122 queries have been conducted. Several of these are repeat queries for the same vehicle.
c. MCSO averages approximately 600 calls a day and conducts approximately 12.5 queries a day

4. Whether any employee has been investigated, disciplined, or removed from misusing the ALPR system, and a description of each case

a. No instances of investigation, discipline or misuse (policy violation)
b. Audits of both systems have identified 24 instances of proper access but insufficient information being entered into the documentation fields (procedural discrepancies). These were not unauthorized queries or violations of policy; they were mistakes in how to fill out the user interface. Of the 24 identified, each was corrected with refresher training and there have been no repeated concerns since. The 24 procedural discrepancies translate to a 99.2% accuracy rate during the initial roll out of new technology.

5. **A list of every outside agency with which Monroe County shares ALPR data, including any federal agency**
    a. MCSO shares Motorola data with other local and state law enforcement agencies across NYS and the Eastern U.S. that are both on the Motorola platform and have agreed to share data. AL, CT, DE, FL, GA, KY, ME, MD, MA, MI, MS, NH, NJ, NC, OH, PA, RI, SC, TN, VT, VA, WV. These states were selected because there are multiple, known, criminal trafficking networks that routinely travel these corridors.
    b. There are no data sharing agreements with any Federal Law Enforcement agencies, nor any direct search access

6. **A description of any request for ALPR data received from federal immigration authorities, and how each request was handled**
    a. No federal data sharing requests have been received, which is not unusual
    b. Should a need arise to assist with a federal criminal investigation the agency would contact the RIOC and a command officer would verify the legitimacy according to MCSO policy. If approved, the search would be documented and subject to audit, the same process as all other audits.
    c. MCSO cooperates with federal law enforcement on criminal investigations, consistent with our established policy

7. **A copy of the data sharing terms in Monroe County's agreement with Motorola Solutions, including whether Motorola or any third party can access, retain, sell, or share captured data**
    a. See attached
    b. Motorola must have access to the data in order for the system to diagnose issues, and to measure accuracy. However, MCSO owns the data. Motorola cannot retain, sell or share our data without our permission.

8. **Whether Monroe County's LEARN account connects the county's ALPR data to Vigilant's national network, and if so, a list of every outside agency able to search Monroe County's data through that network, and every outside network Monroe County can search in turn**
    a. Previously answered in #5a.
    b. This only includes those agencies that are on the Motorola platform and have agreed to two-way data sharing with MCSO

9. **An explanation of what the "Vigilant Competitive LPR Server Integration Service" line-item covers, including whether it allows Monroe County to access or exchange data with LPR systems operated by other vendors, such as Flock**
    a. This allows MCSO the ability to ingest our own data from competitor license plate readers into the Motorola system. It essentially merges the two data sources so our operators only have to search one software platform to receive all of our data.

10. **A description of how ALPR data feeds into MCSO's Real Time Crime Center, including who has access to that data there and under what standard**
    a. ALPR data is fed into the RIOC ecosystem and read by FUSUS, which takes a license plate hit alert and populates it on the map inside the RIOC. Embedding it into the ecosystem is what allows the information to be available in real time without delay or having to manipulate multiple systems.

b. All members of the RIOC are selected and approved by the Chief Deputy and have access to the same systems as a patrol deputy. There are no additional permissions permitted to the RIOC staff unless that individual is designated as a system administrator.
c. The standard is uniform across the agency, and reflected in policy

11. Whether the Sheriff's Office maintains, or will commit to creating, a public audit log or transparency portal so that residents can review how the system is used

a. This has been in development with assistance from the vendor and our data team. We expect to go live within the next few weeks.
b. This will also include our public-facing Drone as a First Responder flight data

12. We would welcome a meeting to allow for a demonstration of the process, as well as address any further concerns. The point of contact for this information is the undersigned.

Michael T. Fowler
CHIEF DEPUTY

Enclosures:

1. Motorola LPR Usage and Privacy Policy
2. MCSO Automated License Plate Reader Policy PBGO-54
3. MCSO ALPR Success Stories 2026