

September 18, 2012

Laura Rótolo, Esq.
ACLU of Massachusetts
211 Congress Street
Boston, MA 02110

Re: Public Records Request/ Automatic License Plate Readers

Dear Attorney Rótolo:

You have requested documents in the possession, custody or control of the Boston Police Department under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Specifically, you requested the following information regarding automatic License Plate Readers:

1. Records regarding policies or procedures for the use of LPR technology, including policies on retention and deletion, and any necessary legal justification for collection or retention of data;
2. Records that include statistical data on the use of LPRs, including the number of units in use, the types of data collected, the number of license plate "hits" currently stored in the BPD's system, and the number of license plates scanned in a given time period;
3. Records regarding the procurement of LPR technology, including the sources of funds used to pay for LPR technology, requests for proposals, contracts with vendors to provide LPR technology, and any documents supplied by vendors describing their products;
4. Records relating to an auditing mechanism in place to monitor access to LPR data;
5. Records related to the sharing of data obtained through the LPR technology, including the types of data that can be shared, the databases into which LPR data is entered, and agreements to share LPR data with outside agencies, corporations or other entities; and
6. Training materials used to instruct members of the BPD on the use of LPR technology.

In response to your request, enclosed please find a copy of Special Order# 11-026: License Plate Recognition System (LPR) which is the policy regarding the use of LPR technology. On average, 3630 license plates are ready daily. The information stored on a plate is: plate registration, date, time, lat, long, LPR unit, alarm class (if any), alarm description (if any), color photo, and infrared (b&w) image. No records could be found regarding the procurement of the technology at this time. The Auditing Unit would be responsible for any audit of use under Special Order 11-026. LPR data is not shared with

any outside agencies, corporations, or other entities. Currently, there aren't any training materials other than Special Order# 11-026.

Please be advised that this office does not provide legal assistance, opinions or explanations about police policy to the public, and will not respond to any such request. If you have been denied records by the Boston Police Department, you have the right to appeal this decision with the Supervisor of Public Records at the Public Records Division of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

Office of the Legal Advisor
617.343.4550