



Pueblo County Sheriff's Office

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News Release

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Sheriff's Office Unveils New License Plate Reader

Pueblo, CO: Pueblo County Sheriff's deputies have a new tool to aid them in searching for stolen vehicles, stolen license plates, missing persons and vehicles that may be involved in the commission of a crime.

"This is another great tool that our deputies now have at their fingertips to assist in identifying stolen vehicles and helping with criminal investigations," said Pueblo County Sheriff David J. Lucero. "We have had this technology for less than a month and it is already making a positive impact on our efforts to locate stolen vehicles and stolen license plates."

The Pueblo County Sheriff's Office recently acquired 73 mobile Automated License Plate Recognition systems which have been installed in each marked patrol vehicle as part of the vehicle's dash camera unit. The ALPR system can read up to three lanes of view, regardless of whether vehicles are traveling with or against the path of the patrol vehicle. The system reads the numbers and letters on the license plate with a detection distance of up to approximately a mile. The camera captures pictures of a vehicle and license plate and then compares the plate to different state and national crime databases.

Deputies receive an alert, both audibly and visually, through the onboard camera system of a "hit" through the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). The process of reading the plate, clearing NCIC and notifying the deputy is less than a second. Deputies must visually confirm what state the license plate is from to determine if a hit is valid locally.

Since going live with the new readers on February 14, Sheriff's Deputies have received 177 hits, resulting in two recovered stolen vehicles and seven recovered stolen license plates.

After reading the license plate, the information is stored for up to 180 days. The data can then be used as an investigative tool for law enforcement for such things as identifying vehicles that fail to yield, narcotics investigations into vehicle locations, identifying theft and burglary vehicles and identifying the travel path of a vehicle of interest.

“This technology is a useful tool for our deputies in tracking down stolen vehicles and vehicles of interest in other crimes, but I want to be clear that deputies must verify the information obtained from the reader before taking any enforcement action,” said Lucero.

Information obtained from the license plate reader can be shared with other law enforcement agencies upon request and review.

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