July 30, 2012

Commissioner Reuben F. Bradford
Department of Emergency Services and
Public Protection
1111 Country Club Road
Middletown, CT 06457

Re: Automatic License Plate Readers

Dear Commissioner Bradford,

This letter is a request pursuant to the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act, codified at Connecticut General Statute § 1-200, et seq, by the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut. This request seeks records regarding automatic license plate readers (ALPR). ALPRs are also sometimes referred to as Automatic Vehicle Identification, Car Plate Recognition or License Plate Recognition equipment and/or software; this records request uses ALPR in reference to any of this technology.

Records Requested

Please provide copies of the following records created from January 1, 2006 to the present:

1. All records regarding all federal funds your agency has sought or received if any portion of the funds is for ALPR equipment or systems. ALPR equipment or systems include ALPR units, databases containing ALPR data, and programs used to analyze ALPR data;

2. All records regarding which police departments or other agencies received or purchased ALPR equipment or systems using funds from grants managed, arranged or assisted by your office;

3. All records regarding any requirements imposed by federal granting agencies with respect to ALPR equipment or systems, and any records describing any requirements imposed upon state and local police by your agency with respect to ALPR;
4. All records regarding any regional databases, data mining programs or other computerized management systems into which ALPR data from two or more police departments or public safety agencies is deposited, including any training materials, policies, internal guidelines or procedures that govern access to, use of or auditing of said systems, including any federal guidelines or regulations which may be applicable to any such program;

5. All records regarding the purchase or sale of ALPR data to any entity; and

6. All records regarding data sharing agreements that include ALPR data with any agency of the federal government, including but not limited to memoranda of understanding/agreement between your agency and any division or department of the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of Transportation, the Federal Aviation Administration and Department of Defense.

This request is being made to benefit the general welfare as we are investigating the constitutionality and privacy of ALPR as it concerns the general public. For this reason, we request that you waive all fees associated with this request, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 1-212(d)(3). If you do not agree to waive copying fees, please provide us with the basis for your decision along with the Department’s written policy on responding to FOIA requests.

Thank you very much for your attention to this request.

Best,

David McGuire
Staff Attorney

DJM/jjs