THE CITY OF WARWICK
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

CHAPTER 52
POLICE

ARTICLE I
IN GENERAL

No............................             Date............................

Approved............................................................................Mayor

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE USE OF AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE
READER TECHNOLOGY

Be it ordained by the City of Warwick:

Section I: Chapter 52, Article I of the City of Warwick Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by
adding thereto the following new section:

Sec. 52-13. Regulations for the use of Automated License Plate Reader technology.

(a) As used in this chapter, “automated license plate reader” (“ALPR”) means an electronic
device mounted on a law enforcement vehicle or positioned in a stationary location that is capable
of recording data on, or taking a photograph of, the license plate of a vehicle and comparing the
collected data and photographs to existing law enforcement databases for investigative purposes.
ALPR includes a device that is owned or operated by a person who is not a government entity to
the extent that data collected by the reader is shared with a law enforcement agency. For the
purposes of this chapter, ALPR does not refer to those electronic devices mounted on a law
enforcement vehicle or positioned in a stationary location that is capable of recording data on, or
taking a photograph of, the license plate of a vehicle solely for the purpose of recording the speed
on a vehicle, recording information for tolling purposes, or recording traffic patterns and assessing
traffic violations at an intersection.

(b) Operation of and access to an ALPR technology system shall only be for official law
enforcement purposes. Any use of an ALPR technology system shall be governed by police
department policy. The policy, and any changes thereto, shall be approved by the Board of Public
Safety prior to the operation of an ALPR technology system. Upon approval, copies of ALPR
policies shall be sent by the Board of Public Safety to the Mayor and Members of the City Council.
(c) Notwithstanding department policy, no ALPR technology system shall be used:

(1) In conjunction with facial, voice, iris, or other recognition technologies which may identify biometric information.
(2) For the purpose of photographing, recording or producing images of occupants of motor vehicles, pedestrians, or passersby.
(3) For recording or otherwise capturing audio.
(4) For motor vehicle code enforcement.
(5) For federal immigration enforcement.
(6) Without an associated Warwick Police Department case number or incident number and documented reason for the inquiry.

(d) Data collected by an ALPR technology system shall not be sold or shared with any third-party individuals or entities, excluding law enforcement agencies. Such data should be stored for no longer than thirty (30) days and in accordance with the established Rhode Island Records Retention Schedule. Thereafter, ALPR data shall be purged unless it has become, or it is reasonably to believe it will become, evidence in a criminal action. Data detection browsing activity is exempt from the storage and purging requirements of this subsection.

(e) The Warwick Police Department ALPR policy shall include the creation of a transparency portal, which shall be available for public inspection, and which outlines the ALPR policy and provide metrics on:

(1) Hot list sources;
(2) Data retention;
(3) Number of operational cameras;
(4) Organizations with access to cameras;
(5) Number of total plate-reads in a thirty (30) day period; and
(6) Number of searches in a thirty (30) day period.

Section II: This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage and publication as prescribed by law.

SPONSORED BY:  COUNCILMAN SINAPI

COMMITTEE:  ORDINANCE