



# WASHTENAW COUNTY OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF



JERRY L. CLAYTON  
SHERIFF

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MARK A. PTASZEK  
UNDERSHERIFF

August 10, 2022

Supervisor Stumbo,

The purpose of this communication is to inform you of our decision regarding the use of license plate reader (LPR) technology by the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office.

Several years ago, an administrative member of the townships Office of Community Standards presented the concept of LPR's to Sheriff's Office personnel as a potential tool to assist in the delivery of public safety services within Ypsilanti Township. As the police service provider for the township, it is incumbent upon us to do our due diligence and consider such use. You and I agreed that the purchase of the LPR's would be made by the township. However, we would only proceed if the Sheriff's Office believed that utilizing this technology added public safety value to the community, without violating any constitutional safeguards. We are open to the idea since there are strategic advantages to the use of license plate reader technology. However, we are also cognizant of the fact that there are constitutional considerations with the use of any surveillance type technology that must be addressed proactively. For these reasons, it was imperative that we determine the efficacy of the technology by doing our research. Additionally, as part of our commitment to front-end accountability to the communities we serve, we conducted a series of community engagement efforts, intended to both educate and receive feedback from the people of Ypsilanti Township prior to making a final decision.

In March, we articulated the evaluation and engagement process to the community which detailed how we would reach such a decision. This process is based on best practice recommendations from the Policing Project - NYU School of Law, which includes an evaluation of three critical areas of consideration: legal, ethical, and democratic accountability.

Our evaluation included the identification of the potential benefits, and potential costs of using LPR's. Our engagement activities included participating in numerous community sessions, neighborhood watch meetings, and reviewing social media, community survey responses.

Taking all the research and information from our local community into consideration, it is our decision that should the township purchase LPR's, the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office will utilize the technology in a manner consistent with our values and operational policy which will be finalized upon selection of a vendor and technology system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry L. Clayton".

Sheriff, Jerry L. Clayton