



# KENSINGTON POLICE COMMUNITY MESSAGE

## Temporary Suspension of License Plate Reader Functionality

**Date:** February 12, 2026

The Kensington Police Department temporarily suspended the Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) functionality associated with the District's community safety camera system for a 90-day evaluation period. This pause began on February 12, 2026, and will remain in place through approximately May 12, 2026.

This decision was not made lightly.

The ALPR system has proven to be a valuable public/officer safety tool. It assisted in identifying stolen vehicles, locating vehicles associated with crimes, and enhancing officer awareness during field contacts and investigations. Our personnel have used this technology responsibly, ethically, and in accordance with established policy.

However, recent reports involving alleged unauthorized access to camera data in other jurisdictions have raised concerns. While those reports do not involve Kensington and there has been no evidence of misuse within our system, public confidence is foundational to any public safety program. Out of an abundance of caution — and in recognition of the public's interest — we believe it is appropriate to conduct a thorough review.

### What We Are Evaluating

During these 90 days, the Department will:

- Re-examine technological value & relevance for Kensington
- Review system access controls and auditing procedures
- Re-examine data retention and sharing protocols
- Evaluate policy language and oversight mechanisms
- Ensure alignment with current legal standards and best practices
- Assess community feedback and questions regarding privacy, transparency, and retention

This evaluation is focused on governance and safeguards, not on the operational integrity of the equipment itself.

## **Commitment to Transparency and Public Trust**

Technology in policing must be both effective and trusted. The Kensington Police Department remains committed to:

- Ethical collection and analysis of data
- Compliance with all applicable laws
- Strong internal oversight and accountability
- Clear communication with the community we serve

We recognize that misinformation contributes to confusion about how license plate reader technology functions and how data is controlled. As part of this review, we will ensure that our policies and safeguards are clearly explained and accessible to the public.

## **Officer Safety and Public Safety Considerations**

While the ALPR alert functionality is paused, officers will continue to rely on traditional investigative methods and heightened situational awareness during traffic stops and field contacts. We remain vigilant in our mission to protect the community and ensure officer safety.

## **What Happens Next**

At the conclusion of the 90-day review, a determination will be made regarding the reinstatement of the ALPR functionality. That decision will be guided by:

- The results of our policy and systems evaluation
- Any recommended enhancements to safeguards
- Our confidence in maintaining both effectiveness and public trust

Public safety initiatives must balance innovation, accountability, and community confidence. This temporary pause reflects our commitment to getting that balance right.

We appreciate the professionalism of our officers, the engagement of our community, and the importance of thoughtful dialogue regarding the use of technology in policing.

Thank you for your continued partnership and trust.



**Mike Gancasz**  
Chief of Police  
Kensington Police Department