

DARIEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community Information Bulletin

Serving and Protecting the City of Darien, Illinois



Technology Transparency

Urban SDK – Traffic Analytics

Department Message

The Darien Police Department is committed to using technology responsibly, transparently, and in a manner that maintains the trust of every resident we serve. There has been significant community discussion about our law enforcement's use of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology, Urban SDK, and related systems. We welcome that discussion and want to address any questions or concerns openly and honestly.

This page will be updated as new information becomes available. If you have a question not answered here, we encourage you to contact the Police Department directly.

Urban SDK: Traffic Analytics

Urban SDK is a separate platform from the ALPR system and serves an entirely different purpose. It is a traffic analytics tool that provides data about vehicle speed and traffic volume on specific roadway segments. It has no connection to the ALPR system and cannot be used to identify any individual vehicle or person.

What Urban SDK Does

Urban SDK collects aggregate roadway data, including observed speed and traffic volume, organized by roadway segment and time period. This is the same type of data the Department has historically obtained through traffic counters placed on roadways, which required coordination with Public Works and significant lead time before results were available. Urban SDK provides the same information more efficiently, allowing officers to respond to resident speed complaints with current data rather than waiting weeks for a manual count.

What Urban SDK Does Not Do

- It does not store vehicle-level data or driver information.
- It does not use mobile device data, Bluetooth, or Wi-Fi signals.
- It cannot identify any specific vehicle or person.
- It does not communicate with or share data with the ALPR system.

Data Ownership

Urban SDK has access to the data independently of whether the City accesses the platform. When Darien accesses Urban SDK, the Department is reviewing data that the vendor has already collected through observation of public roadway conditions. There is no individual vehicle or personal record in the system that belongs to the City. Geographic boundaries are configured so that Darien views only Darien-relevant data. The data is not sold, used for marketing, or shared with unauthorized third parties.

System Integration: What Connects to What

Several community members have raised concerns about whether Darien's various technology systems are integrated in ways that could create a comprehensive surveillance network. The following describes each system and its relationship to the others.

- **ALPR System and Axon Fleet (in-car cameras):** These systems are not integrated and do not communicate with each other. ALPR data must be manually retrieved and separately transferred into Evidence.com. There is no automated exchange of data between these systems.
- **ALPR System and Urban SDK:** These are products of two separate companies with no data-sharing agreement. They do not communicate with each other. There is no current or planned integration.
- **ALPR System and Evidence.com:** ALPR records relevant to an investigation are manually exported by authorized personnel and stored in Evidence.com as digital evidence. This is a manual process with no automated pipeline.
- **Axon Fleet (in-car cameras) and Body-Worn Cameras:** Both use the Axon platform for video storage. These systems record video only. Video footage does not contain searchable data fields that can be automatically matched to license plate records or other databases.
- **There is no integration proposed or in development among the ALPR system, Urban SDK, Axon Fleet, Axon Body-Worn Cameras, or Evidence.com.** These are separate systems operated for separate purposes.
- **Drones:** The Department has discussed but is not currently advancing a Drone as First Responder program. No drone technology is currently operational. Any future proposal would go through the City Council's public review and approval process.

What if I have a question not answered here?

A: Contact the Darien Police Department at (630) 971-3999 or visit us at 1710 Plainfield Road, Darien, IL 60561. We are committed to answering community questions directly and will continue to update this page as new information becomes available.