

# Minnesota Security Consortium – MNSec

*Bringing Information Security to Local Minnesota Governments*

# Olmsted County Sheriff's Office

## 2024 ALPR Audit (BOSS System)

### Executive Summary

Prepared for the

Olmsted County Sheriff's Office

April 17, 2025



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## **Background:**

Olmsted County Sheriff's Office retained the Minnesota Security Consortium to audit its agency's use of their ALPR program against the requirements of MN Statute 13.824. The Minnesota Security Consortium does not operate or have access to their ALPR systems, therefore allowing it to audit the systems as an independent auditor. The Olmsted County Sheriff's Office Command and IT Staff provided their administrative access to the BOSS ALPR System during the audit to review audit criteria. This Audit Period covered 1/1/2023 to 11/15/2024. Olmsted County Sheriff's Office has active ALPR systems on four Patrol Vehicles and other sources they have jurisdiction over in the County. No stationary ALPR units were reported at the time of the audit.

## **Department Policy & Procedures:**

Olmsted County Sheriff's Office has an ALPR Policy in place entitled, "Policy 426: Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR)." They have been keeping their policy updated and it contained all the necessary policy statements. A review of this policy found that Olmsted County Sheriff's Office was compliant in this part of the statute.

## **Record Retention:**

The Olmsted County Sheriff's Office ALPR BOSS administrative control panel was audited to ensure that each setting was set for a retention period of no more than 60 days. Three of the devices sampled had 2-month retention settings at the device level. Olmsted County Sheriff's Office was found to be compliant with this part of the statute.

## **Data Security and Access Control:**

The Olmsted County Sheriff's Office's ALPR system is protected by an Access Control system built into the BOSS backend server application. Users and groups were found to be current and appropriate for the intended use by the agency, allowing users only the minimum access that they need to perform their functions. User accounts and role-based accounts are reviewed on a regular basis by ALPR Administrators. The ALPR Administrators are appointed by the Olmsted County Sheriff. The BOSS ALPR system also contains a robust audit trail which was sampled to determine if it is logging access by users properly. Olmsted County Sheriff's Office was found to be compliant in this part of the statute.

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## **Data Classification:**

Olmsted County Sheriff's Office ALPR Data that has been collected is classified as private unless access is permitted by law. Public data requests of data collected on a license plate owner's vehicle are readily available through a proper records request via the Olmsted County Sheriff's Office. Olmsted County Sheriff's Office was found to be compliant with this part of the statute.

## **Sharing Among Law Enforcement Agencies:**

Appropriate sharing of ALPR data is conducted through inter-agency requests. The requests are made and reviewed through Agency Command. At the time of the Audit no inter-agency requests had been made. As a result of these findings, Olmsted County Sheriff's Office was found to be compliant with this part of the statute.

## **Public Log of Use:**

The BOSS ALPR system also contains a robust audit trail which was sampled to determine if it is logging access by users properly. Access controls are in place for the least privilege access based on their role and job function. The Olmsted County Sheriff's Office has not been maintaining a standard set of Log of Use Reports, within the BOSS system. Since the BOSS system is now retired, MNSec has offered its assistance with any future ALPR systems and offered to work with ALPR vendors to comply with MN Statute 13.824, Subd. 5.

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## **Notification to Bureau of Criminal Apprehension:**

Olmsted County Sheriff's Office made the required notification to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension when it started its ALPR Program. This was validated on the BCA website. The Olmsted County Sheriff's Office was found to be compliant with this part of the statute.

## **Biennial Public Accountability Audit:**

Olmsted County Sheriff's Office had their last audit in 2022 and plans on their next audit in 2 years. Command and IT Staff were very cooperative throughout the entire audit process and understood the intent of the public accountability and provided easy access to policies and procedures, staff interviews, and audit of the BOSS ALPR Systems. Olmsted County Sheriff's Office was found to be compliant with this part of the statute.

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## **Conclusion:**

Based on the results of the Olmsted County Sheriff's Office ALPR Audit conducted by Minnesota Security Consortium, we can demonstrate that they are using the ALPR System as an effective law enforcement tool for the purpose of combating auto theft and other crimes linked to vehicle license plates. The Olmsted County Sheriff's Office also demonstrated that the security, public accountability, and administration of the program in compliance with MN Statue 13.824.

This Audit was conducted and attested to by:



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Dimitrios Hilton

Senior Auditor, Minnesota Security Consortium

## **Submitted to:**

Olmsted County Sheriff's Office

Minnesota Commissioner of Administration, Data Practices Office

Legislative Commission on Data Practices and Personal Data Privacy

Required Members of Legislative Committees

Minnesota Legislative Library