

George Mason University and Fairfax County Police Community Survey

You may complete this survey either on paper and return it using the enclosed stamped envelope, or fill it out online at <http://gemini.gmu.edu/cebcp/LPR.html>. Both are anonymous. Once you answer a question, please do not go back and change your answer. **SURVEY NUMBER <<Unique ID>>**

SECTION I: QUESTIONS ABOUT POLICE SERVICES

Please mark the level of your agreement or disagreement with the following statements:

| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|---|----------------|-------|---------|----------|-------------------|
| The police can be trusted to do what is right. | | | | | |
| Most police officers in my community do their job well. | | | | | |
| The police in my community treat citizens with respect. | | | | | |
| The police in my community respect citizens' rights. | | | | | |

How safe would you feel walking alone at night in your neighborhood? Please circle one:

Very Safe Safe Unsafe Very unsafe

How likely are the following crimes to happen in your neighborhood? Please check **one box for each crime**.

| | Very Likely | Somewhat Likely | Unlikely |
|---|-------------|-----------------|----------|
| Graffiti | | | |
| Car being stolen or broken into | | | |
| House being burglarized | | | |
| Person being robbed on the street | | | |
| Teenagers hanging around and being disorderly | | | |

How concerned are you that you or your neighbors might be a victim of a terrorist attack? Please circle one:

Very Concerned Somewhat Concerned Not Very Concerned Not at all Concerned

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view? Please circle one number along this range.

| | | | | |
|--|-----|---------|-----|---|
| In order to lower the risk of terrorism in this country, I am willing to give up some civil liberties. | | Neutral | | We should preserve our freedoms above all even if there remains some risk of terrorism. |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |

SECTION II: QUESTIONS ABOUT A NEW LAW ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY

Some law enforcement agencies use license plate recognition systems (LPR) in order to scan license plates and check them against reports of stolen vehicles. The police in these cities can place a LPR system in either a fixed location or on a police vehicle and then use the system to automatically check the license plates of all vehicles which pass by. The next set of questions asks for your opinions about the use of this technology.

Prior to this survey, have you ever heard, read about, or seen the use of License Plate Recognition (LPR) technology?

CIRCLE ONE: Yes No

To your knowledge, do your local police use LPR?

CIRCLE ONE: Yes No I don't know

If your local police agency decided to use LPR to check all passing vehicles to see if any have been stolen, would you support this decision? CIRCLE ONE:

Strongly Support Support Neutral Oppose Strongly Oppose

License Plate Recognition (LPR) technology may be used in many other ways. Please tell us which other uses of LPR you would support by marking **one box on each line** below:

| <i>An officer should be able use LPR technology in order to:</i> | Strongly Support | Support | Neutral | Oppose | Strongly Oppose |
|---|------------------|---------|---------|--------|-----------------|
| ... check all passing vehicles for parking violations and unpaid tickets. | | | | | |
| ... check if the registered owners of all passing vehicles are wanted for a crime. | | | | | |
| ... check if the registered owners of all passing vehicles are sex offenders. | | | | | |
| ... investigate all vehicles passing or parking near important places or buildings to try to prevent terrorism. | | | | | |

LPR systems take a photograph of a vehicle's **license plate number**, which can then be linked to the vehicle's registered owner. The system can also be set up to record the **date, time and exact location of a vehicle** at the moment the photograph is taken. Do you believe that this information should be considered private? Please circle one number along this range.

Private Information (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) Not Private Information

If the police in your community decided to use LPR, would this cause you to feel more positively or more negatively about your local police?

Much more positively (1) (2) Neither positively nor negatively (3) (4) Much more (5) negatively

After an LPR system records data, the police may choose either to save the data for future use or to erase the data. A number of police departments have decided to save the LPR data because the police in these communities believe that saved LPR data can help to solve crimes. Do you think that your local police should save the LPR data? Please circle one number:

- (1) No, the data should not be saved (2) Yes, but only for a short period of time (for example, **one month**) (3) Yes, the data should be saved for about **six months**. (4) Yes, the data should be saved until the police want to erase it.

If the police decide to save the LPR data (license plate number, date/time, location of the vehicle), the police will be able to look at the saved data in the future. Please tell us which uses of saved LPR data you would support by marking **one box on each line below**.

| <i>The police should be able to use <u>saved LPR data</u> in order to:</i> | Strongly support | Support | Neutral | Oppose | Strongly Oppose |
|---|------------------|---------|---------|--------|-----------------|
| ... find the last location of a vehicle connected with a crime? | | | | | |
| ... investigate all vehicles which drive around an important place or building? | | | | | |
| ... learn about the past activities of a suspect who is under investigation for a crime? | | | | | |
| ... learn about the past activities of a person suspected of terrorism? | | | | | |
| ... learn about the past activities of sex offenders? | | | | | |
| ... learn about the activities of parents who don't pay child support in order to force these parents to appear in court? | | | | | |

Should the police department be able to share information collected by the LPR system with other government agencies? Yes No

If you knew that the LPR system's data (license plate number, date, time, exact location of vehicle) was being saved for six (6) months by the police in your community, would you be less likely to . . .

| | Much less likely | Somewhat less likely | I probably would not change |
|--|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| ... commit a parking or traffic violation? | | | |
| ... associate with or become involved with particular people? | | | |
| ... visit particular locations or events (such as certain types of medical facilities, businesses, religious services, or political protests)? | | | |
| ... do something else that you normally do? | | | |

If the police in your community decided to save LPR data for six months, would this cause you to feel more positively or more negatively about your local police? Please circle one number along this range:

- Much more positively (1) Neither positively nor negatively (3) Much more negatively (5)

