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**TESTIMONY OF BILL GERAGHTY  
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**PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 317, REGULATION OF AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READERS, AND  
HB 1509, 2-IN-1 STICKER**

**AUGUST 13, 2019 – HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA**

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Bill Geraghty and I am a Vice President with Vigilant Solutions, part of Motorola Solutions. Vigilant is the national leader in automated license plate recognition technology – or ALPR. We provide ALPR cameras, cloud hosting solutions, and software analytics to law enforcement agencies to help them find missing people, find stolen vehicles, and generate leads in other types of criminal investigations while promoting officer safety.

Vigilant supports policies that ensure ALPR data is available to investigators to help solve crimes and save lives. We also support policies that ensure accountability around the use of ALPR data by law enforcement. HB 317 appears to us to strike an appropriate balance. With several provisions added and amended over the past few sessions, it is clear that members of this body have worked painstakingly to architect smart legislation that benefits all Pennsylvanians and stays true to its original intent: a law that ensures that law enforcement has the technology it needs to help investigate and solve crime to keep Pennsylvania communities safe. As this committee reviews the language to make sure it is straight-forward, we will be available to answer questions based on our technical expertise.

Since this legislature did away with the requirement for vehicles to display valid registration stickers a few years ago, ALPR has been discussed as a vehicle registration enforcement tool. While ALPR can certainly be used very effectively for this purpose, that represents a small portion of the value that law enforcement gets from ALPR technology. The other bill before this committee – HB 1509 – would reinstitute the requirement for registration stickers to be displayed. We see no reason why both of these bills can't be supported to help law enforcement enforce vehicle registration laws AND generate investigative leads in all types of investigations.

ALPR data does not contain any personally identifiable information – there is no name or address of the vehicle's registered owner in a raw ALPR record. Instead, ALPR records are pictures of license plates along with read-outs of the letters and numbers on the plates. And the pictures are taken from publicly accessible areas. The focus of the pictures is a piece of metal - a license plate - that Pennsylvania law requires to be mounted on every registered vehicle and displayed for the public to see.

The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly held that there is no reasonable expectation of privacy in an object that is plainly visible in public. Any one of us could go outside the capitol building right now and take a picture with our cell phone camera of every plate we see, and our phone would automatically note the date, time, and location we took the picture. The database we would create on our phones is not much different than an ALPR database that law enforcement creates and queries using our technology.

ALPR data is used responsibly every day by thousands of law enforcement agencies in the United States to generate investigative leads, recover stolen cars, and solve serious crimes. Here in Pennsylvania, ALPR data recently helped police catch a suspect in a million-dollar ATM skimming scheme that included locations in Chambersburg and Carlisle. Last year it helped find an escaped Upper Darby prisoner in Philadelphia. Just a few months ago it helped identify suspects in a mall shooting in Monroeville. In June, it led to the arrest of a New York suspect in a Poconos murder case. And this past January, an ALPR alert in Upper Darby led to the arrest of a kidnapping and sexual assault suspect from New Hampshire.

Stories like this happen every day – and most are not publicly reported like these stories were. My colleagues at Vigilant and Motorola are proud to play a role in providing the LPR technology that helps our law enforcement customers make these things happen and keep the communities in Pennsylvania and other states safe.

We are happy to offer our expertise as this committee and the rest of the legislature considers how to ensure crimes can be solved with responsible law enforcement use of ALPR technology.

Thank you for this opportunity, and I look forward to your questions.



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