



Automated License Plate Readers

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VHPD is proud to sustain a low crime rate that makes Vestavia Hills a desirous location to live.

VHPD has strong privacy policies and an exemplary history of trust with the community that we are committed to continuing. We ask that these principles be considered in public debates regarding the appropriate deployment of license plate readers.

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Background



- VHPD began working with Flock Safety in 2019
- Automated license plate reader (ALPR) technology is utilized in 85% of all criminal investigations
- VHPD routinely fields requests for additional ALPR cameras
- There are many vendors offering ALPR, including:
Axon, Flock, Genetec, Verkada, Vigilant and others

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ALPR Camera Basics



Cameras detect/capture:

- A photograph of the license plate area of vehicles traveling on public roadways
- Unique characteristics (wreck damage, luggage racks, etc.)

Cameras do not capture:

- People
- Race
- Gender
- Facial recognition
- Sounds
- Bluetooth
- Weapons

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ALPR Camera Basics



- **People in need:** NCMEC, Amber Alerts, Missing Person Alerts, Silver Alerts
- **Hotlist alerts:** NCIC, Blue Alerts, Sex Offender Alerts and agency custom hotlists
- Hotlist alerts are in **real time** and enhance law enforcement response capabilities
- Data is **controlled and owned** by the VHPD
- Data is **shared** with other agencies that have reciprocal agreements with the VHPD
- **Data retention:** 30 days
- ALPR cameras do not measure speed and citations are NOT issued due to the license plate data captured by an ALPR ... ALPR is a **criminal investigation tool ONLY**

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Why ALPR?



- Benefits include crime solving, stolen vehicle recovery, missing-person investigations, officer safety and enhanced community security
- According to the International Association of Chiefs of Police, more than 70% of crimes in the United States involve a vehicle
- Witness descriptions are often unreliable and incomplete
- Objective vehicle intelligence creates leads
- Traditional security cameras generally do not capture license plate data

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Investigations



Crime Solving:

- Vehicle identification
- Stolen vehicle recovery
- Violent crime investigations
- Amber Alert investigations
- Kidnapping investigations

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Operational Benefits



Patrol:

- Real-time alerts
- Enhanced awareness
- Officer safety

Force Multiplier:

- Expands capability without additional staffing
- Cost effective

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Locations Maintained by VHPD



U.S Hwy 31 & Montreat Dr	Liberty Pkwy & Longleaf
U.S. Hwy 31 & Hickory Rd	Tyler Rd & Van Buren Dr
Rocky Ridge Rd & Buckhead Dr	Cahaba River Rd at Lifetime Fitness
Rocky Ridge Rd & Misty Ln	Old Rocky Ridge & Altadena Rd
Columbiana Rd & Shades Crest Rd	Blue Lake Dr
Columbiana Rd at Royal Automotive	Cahaba River Rd & Acton Rd
Summit Blvd at Cahaba Heights Rd	McCallum Park
Liberty Pkwy & Urban Center Dr	Altadena Valley Park

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Cameras Shared with VHPD



Neighborhoods provide ALPR data to VHPD in an effort to keep their communities safe and reduce crime.

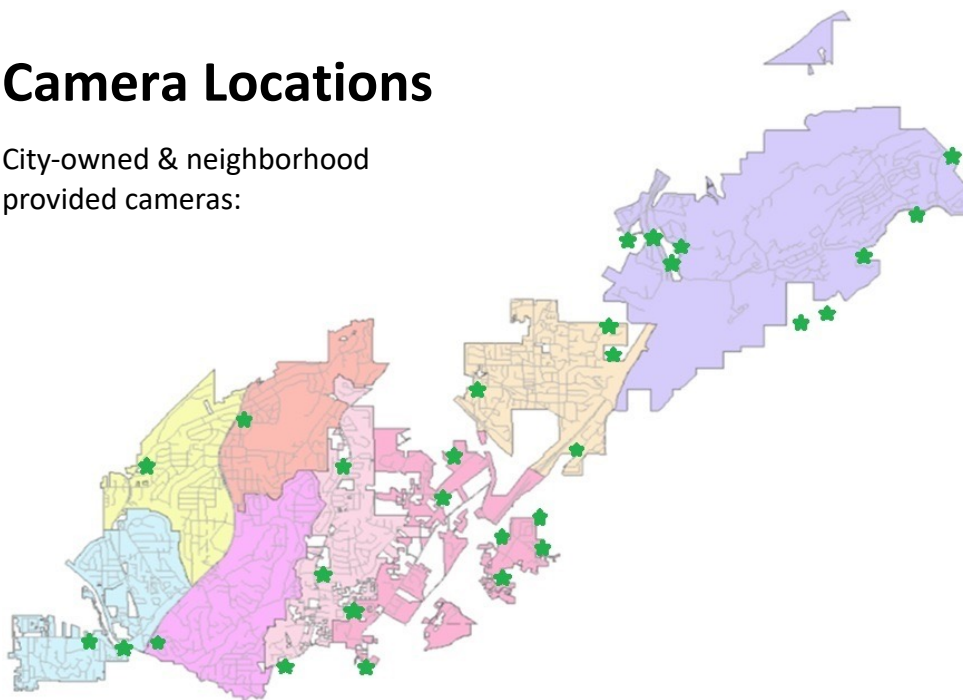
VHPD does NOT share data with neighborhoods.

Liberty Pkwy & Sicard Hollow Rd (x2)	Cotswold Dr
Sicard Hollow Rd & Lake Colony Way	Cotswold Dr North
Sicard Hollow Rd & Liberty Park Ln	Cotswold Ln
Overton Rd & Liberty Pkwy	Miller Hill Way
Overton Rd & River Run	

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Camera Locations

City-owned & neighborhood
provided cameras:



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Privacy & Accountability

- Controlled access
- Audit trails
- Audit Assistance platform launched July 2025
- Limited data retention
- Command level review
- Searches performed for criminal investigations and public safety purposes ONLY
- Audited by ACJIC (October 2024 & August 2026) with no reported findings of our ALPR system and usage
- VHPD has no known issues of misuse of ALPR data
- VHPD has had zero claims of misuse of law enforcement data of any sort for a minimum of 15+ years



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VHPD Training & Data Controls



- **VHPD policies are regularly reviewed and strengthened to ensure they remain current, effective and responsive to evolving needs and best practices**
- All employees undergo annual NCIC/ACJIC training and recertification per state and federal requirements
- Monthly audits
- Principal of Least Privilege = role-based access controls
- Documented search requirements
- Responsible use

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Success in Our Community ...



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Alerts Received

August 2019 - August 2026

TOPIC	Number of Alerts
Hotlist Alerts	9,405
Wanted Persons	8,564
Sex Offender	820
Stolen License Plate	709
Stolen Vehicles	513
Protection Orders	123
Missing Person	23
Gang or Suspected Terrorist	22
Violent Person	5
Extreme Risk Protection Order	1



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BIRMINGHAM REAL-TIME NEWS

26-year-old charged in Vestavia Hills road-rage shooting

Published: Nov. 12, 2021, 2:47 p.m.

By [Carol Robinson](#) | crobinson@al.com

A suspect is behind bars after police say he fired shots during a road-rage incident in Vestavia Hills.

Officers responded about 7:45 p.m. Wednesday to the area of Highway 31 and Massey Road, near the Park South Shopping Center in the 1400 block of Montgomery Highway.

Vestavia Hills police Capt. Shane Ware said officers determined that gunshots had been fired at a vehicle during a road-rage incident. No injuries were reported.



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BIRMINGHAM REAL-TIME NEWS

3 charged with assault, robbery in Shades Mountain Baptist Church basketball court shooting

Updated: Nov. 10, 2022, 1:28 p.m. | Published: Nov. 10, 2022, 1:10 p.m.



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BIRMINGHAM REAL-TIME NEWS

Arrest made after motorist shot on I-65 in Vestavia Hills during suspected road rage incident

Updated: Dec. 16, 2022, 2:22 p.m. | Published: Dec. 15, 2022, 7:57 a.m.



The shooting happened about 7 a.m. Thursday on I-65 near the U.S. 31 exit. (ALGO)



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NEWS

Birmingham father charged after shots fired into Vestavia Hills apartment, infant daughter kidnapped, police say

Updated: Aug. 01, 2023, 4:29 p.m. | Published: Aug. 01, 2023, 4:19 p.m.

By [Carol Robinson](#) | crobinson@al.com

A Birmingham man is facing numerous charges after police say he kidnapped his infant daughter after firing shots into the baby's mother's Vestavia Hills apartment earlier this week.

Joel Bennett McCandless, 27, is charged with first-degree kidnapping, first-degree burglary, shooting into an occupied building, certain person prohibited from possessing a firearm, reckless endangerment, second-degree criminal mischief, violation of a protection from abuse order and interference with a domestic violence emergency call.

Vestavia Hills police Lt. Mike Keller announced the charges Tuesday afternoon.



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Arson Investigation 2023



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by Sumner Harrell | Fri, December 20, 2024 at 8:51 AM
Updated Fri, December 20, 2024 at 8:52 AM



34-year-old Kyle Anthony Kozak (Jefferson County Sheriff's Office)

TOPICS: [ARREST](#) [SHOOTING](#) [VESTAVIA HILLS](#) [SCHOOLS](#) [KOZAK](#) [POLICE](#) [INVESTIGATION](#) [SAFETY](#)

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VESTAVIA HILLS, Ala. (WBMA) — A man was arrested after a window at the Vestavia Hills City Schools Board of Education building was shot through late Sunday night.

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NEWS

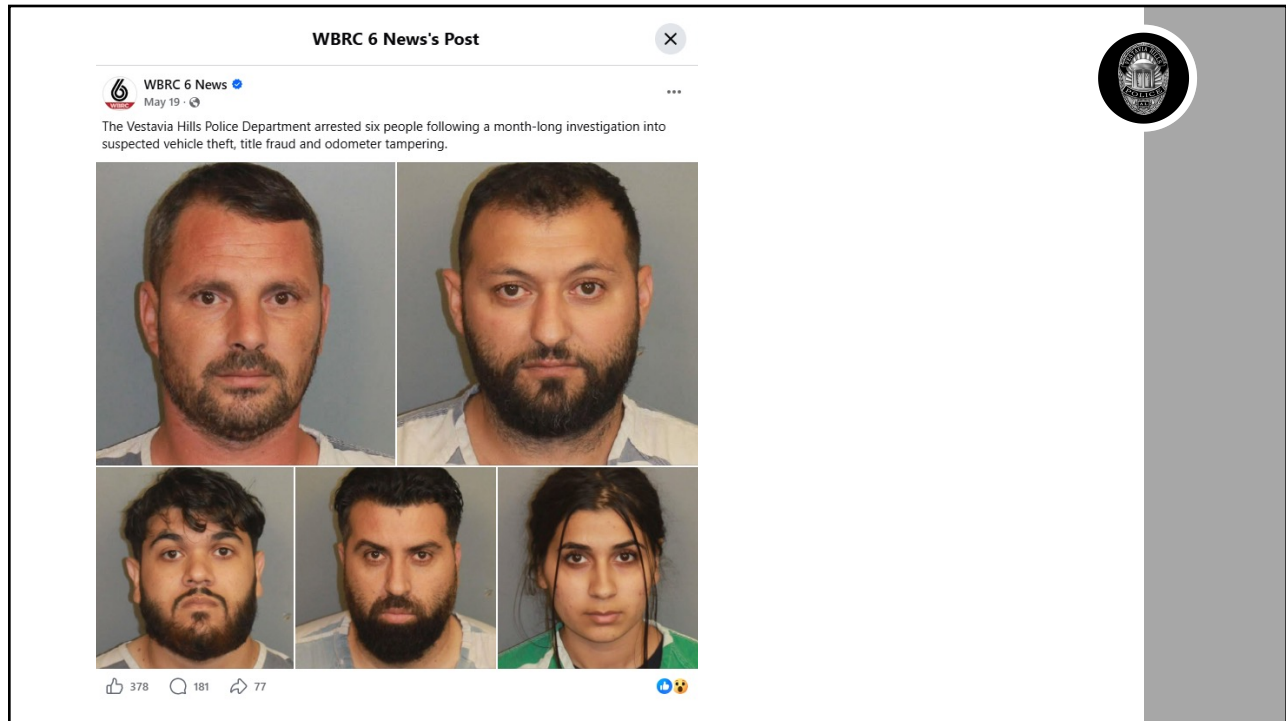
Birmingham man charged in spate of Vestavia Hills, Leeds, Jefferson County car break-ins

Updated: Oct. 08, 2025, 4:56 p.m. | Published: Oct. 08, 2025, 4:39 p.m.



A Birmingham man is charged in a rash of car break-ins in Vestavia Hills, Leeds and unincorporated Jefferson County. (Vestavia Hills Police Department)

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Recommendation

Continue support and funding of automated license plate reader technology with oversight controls and in compliance with established requirements.



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