CHAMBER OF PROGRESS

MEMORANDUM

Automated License Plate Reader Systems

Chamber of Progress supports thoughtful and practical standards for automatic license plate reader (ALPR) systems in New York, written around how the technology is actually used. New Yorkers deserve clear rules on what data is collected, how long it is kept, and who can access it. Those rules work best when they reflect the range of purposes ALPR serves, including the everyday services New Yorkers rely on to park, pay tolls, and get where they are going.

How ALPR is used. Most commercial systems don't track vehicles from place to place. They read a plate at one site so a customer can pay, enter, or check in, using the plate as a credential for a single transaction. Parking operators and airports served by Metropolis use reads to open gates and charge a stored payment method, and toll systems like E-ZPass bill an account or the registered owner. Car washes, dealerships, restaurant drive-throughs, and hospitals use them to recognize members, arriving customers, and patients. Each closed-loop system serves a specific purpose.

A one-size-fits-all standard is unworkable. Because these uses differ so widely, a single set of rules applied to every ALPR user would fail the businesses and consumers who depend on them. A.563-A directs the Division of Consumer Protection to set retention and other standards for every non-government ALPR user. Toll, parking, and airport operators must keep records until billing closes and any dispute is resolved, so a short, uniform deletion deadline would erase records before those transactions are complete.

Recommendations. New York's standards should expressly recognize closed-loop transactional uses, set retention based on each use's purpose, and limit sharing and secondary use of plate data. Public and private operators performing the same function should follow the same rules. California SB 1013 and Illinois HB 5151 proposed similar use-specific allowances. New York can protect consumer data while preserving services that make travel and payment easier, and we welcome the chance to work with the Committees on that goal.

ABOUT CHAMBER OF PROGRESS: Chamber of Progress is a tech industry association supporting public policies to build a more inclusive society in which all people benefit from technological advancements.

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