

ORDINANCE NO. 840

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT LIMITS TO THE USE OF AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READERS AND TO PROVIDE PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

BE IT ENACTED by the City Council of the City of West Branch, Iowa:

Section 1. Action. Adopting the Code of Ordinances Chapter 71 Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs):

71.01 PURPOSE AND INTENT:

Automated/automatic license plate readers (ALPRs) capture computer-readable images that allow law enforcement to compare plate numbers against plates of stolen cars or cars driven by individuals wanted on criminal charges.

The data collected can enhance law enforcement's ability to investigate and enforce the law but also raises concerns that information collected may be placed into databases and shared without restrictions on use, retained longer than necessary, and used or abused in ways that could infringe on individuals' privacy.

The City of West Branch desires to equip its Police Department with the tools needed to perform their jobs in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

The City of West Branch seeks to balance the needs of law enforcement and the need for transparency and privacy concerns of its residents.

71.02 DEFINITIONS:

AUTOMATIC LICENSE PLATE READER SYSTEM

Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) also known as License Plate Recognition (LPR) are high-speed, computer-controlled camera systems that automatically capture images of vehicle license plates. They convert plate images into text, date-time stamp them, and check them against "hot lists" of vehicles for law enforcement, such as stolen cars, missing persons, or suspects in criminal investigations.

71.03 ORDINANCE:

1. All data retention shall be subject to the Iowa State Code. Any captured plate data collected or retained by the City of West Branch through the use of an automated license plate recognition (ALPR) system may not be stored or retained for more than 30 days unless the data is retained or stored as part of an ongoing criminal investigation or

prosecution. In that case, the data shall be retained as a part of the criminal case file, and the City will follow the department's evidence retention policies.

2. The selling or providing data generated by ALPRs to a non-law enforcement entity is hereby prohibited except where provided by state law. All data generated by the ALPRs shall not be provided to a third party unless they are a Federal, State, County or Municipal Law Enforcement Agency or a person or entity that is under contract with a Federal, State, County or Municipal Law Enforcement agency for the purpose of protecting public safety, conducting criminal investigations, or to ensure compliance with federal, state or local laws.

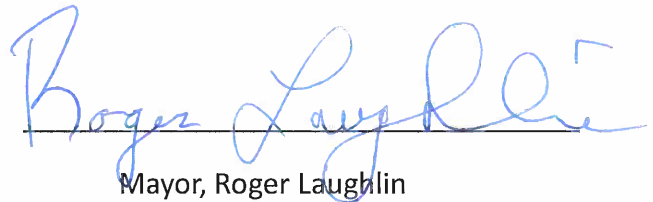
3. The City of West Branch will not use ALPR data for facial recognition purposes but can use images of the occupants collected by the ALPR as part of the investigation or prosecution of a crime.

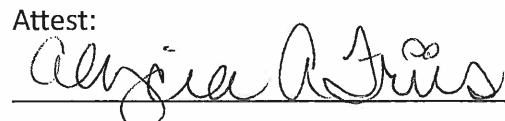
4. This ordinance prohibits the City of West branch from placing ALPR cameras or directing the ALPR cameras directly at a place of religious worship.

Section 2. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication as required by law.

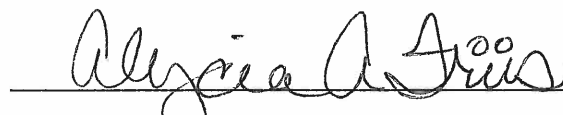
Passed, adopted and approved this 1st day of June, 2026.

1st Reading: June 1, 2026
2nd Reading: June 15, 2026
3rd Reading: July 7, 2026


Mayor, Roger Laughlin

Attest:

City Clerk, Alycia A Friis

I certify that the foregoing was published as Ordinance No. 840 on the 16th day of July, 2026.


City Clerk