



Probation Department

Don Meyer, Chief Probation Officer

County of Sacramento

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

Probation Department Recovers 100th Stolen Vehicle

Automated license plate reader technology assists community supervision officers

Sacramento, CA – Sacramento County Probation Chief Don Meyer announced today the recovery of the 100th stolen vehicle thanks to the diligence of probation field officers and Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology. The 100th car, a 1995 Honda Accord, was reported stolen on December 1 in North Sacramento and found less than two miles from where it was taken.

In an effort to enhance victim restoration, the Probation Department equipped two vehicles with ALPR technology in April of 2010. ALPR uses cameras mounted on patrol cars to automatically scan and cross-match license plates against a statewide list of stolen vehicles. Over 3,000 license plates can be analyzed an hour while probation officers are doing routine caseload supervision in the community. An ALPR camera is also mounted on the Probation Department's building located at Florin-Perkins Road.

"We have the distinction of being the only probation agency in California using the ALPR system, said Meyer. "This technology helps to restore victims by recovering vehicles sooner but does not take us away from our primary mission of public safety," said Meyer.

Several recovered vehicles belonged to victims who relied solely on it for transportation to get to work or school. Vehicles were often stolen in lower-income neighborhoods.

- 5 cars were recovered in Probation's Adult Day Reporting Center parking lot
- 1 car was stolen during a carjacking incident in South Sacramento
- 2 cars were occupied resulting in 3 arrests

"As the Sacramento Area is ranked sixth in the nation as a "hot spot" for stolen cars, we will continue to use the ALPR technology to increase victim restoration in Sacramento," said Meyer.

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