

LAW OFFICES OF
EVANS, FROELICH, BETH & CHAMLEY
A PARTNERSHIP INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL CORPORATIONS
44 MAIN STREET, THIRD FLOOR
CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS 61820

KENNETH N. BETH
JOSEPH P. CHAMLEY

DAVID B. WESNER

TELEPHONE 217-359-6494
FAX NO. 217-359-6468

November 8, 2021

Via e-mail

E-mail to: 

Christopher Hansen
CheckCU.org

RE: FOIA Request to Village of Rantoul

Dear Mr. Hansen:

On November 1, 2021, you submitted a FOIA request by e-mail to Janet Gray, the Village Clerk for the Village of Rantoul. Your request has been forwarded to me to provide the response.

The request submitted was: "Records sufficient to indicate the locations of any automatic license plate readers (ALPRs) in the Village of Rantoul. If the Village possesses any maps indicating locations, please provide them. Please provide any records which would indicate the current, past, or future planned locations of ALPRs. For each ALPR, please also provide the 3 images taken after 12:00 pm on November 1st 2021, and the 3 images taken after 10:00 pm on the same day." Since your request involves two parts, I will address each part separately.

1. Request: Records sufficient to indicate the locations of any automatic license plate readers (ALPRs) in the Village of Rantoul. If the Village possesses any maps indicating locations, please provide them. Please provide any records which would indicate the current, past, or future planned locations of ALPRs.

Response: This portion of your request is DENIED.

Section 7(1)(v) of the Act provides the following exemption: "(v) Vulnerability assessments, security measures, and response policies or plans that are designed to identify, prevent, or respond to potential attacks upon a community's population or systems, facilities, or installations, the destruction or contamination of which would constitute a clear and present danger to the health or safety of the community, but only to the extent that disclosure could reasonably be expected to jeopardize the effectiveness of the measures or the safety of the personnel who implement them or the public.

Information exempt under this item may include such things as details pertaining to the

mobilization or deployment of personnel or equipment, to the operation of communication systems or protocols, or to tactical operations.”

As with many communities, the Village of Rantoul implemented the use of ALPRs in response to criminal activity in the community which includes shootings and attacks against its citizens. ALPRs are a piece of equipment deployed by law enforcement agencies which are designed, through their technology, to provide security measures to identify and respond to attacks and other criminal activity occurring against citizens within their jurisdiction. The technology is used in law enforcement investigations to detect and apprehend those individuals involved in shootings and attacks against the citizens of the Village and who are likely to commit additional attacks, or other criminal activity. Any records or maps indicating or otherwise showing the deployment and location of ALPR cameras falls within the exemption in Section 7(1)(v) of the Act. Any disclosure of the deployment and location of ALPRs would reasonably be expected to jeopardize their effectiveness, as well as the likely destruction of the equipment itself. Any disclosure, which would make public the locations of the ALPRs, would greatly inhibit the ability of the police department to continue to utilize them in its response to attacks and potential attacks on its citizens, as well as its investigations, where license plate numbers may play a key role in the apprehension of those who commit shootings and attacks against the citizens.

2. Request: For each ALPR, please also provide the 3 images taken after 12:00 pm on November 1st 2021, and the 3 images taken after 10:00 pm on the same day.

Response: This portion of your request is DENIED IN PART.

The images captured by a license plate reader include partial images of each vehicle as well as including the license plate of the vehicle. Section 2(c-5) of the Act contains the definition of private information, which includes personal license plates. Pursuant to Section 7(1)(b) of the Act, private information is exempt. Therefore, the images responsive to your request are provided with this response. However, the license plate number has been redacted in each image.

You have a right to request review of the denial of records as set forth above by the Illinois Public Access Counselor:

Public Access Bureau
Office of the Attorney General
500 S. 2nd Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706
217-558-0486
publicaccess@atg.state.il.us

You may also file suit for injunctive or declaratory relief in the Circuit Court of Champaign County Illinois.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Yours very truly,

EVANS, FROEHLICH, BETH & CHAMLEY

BY: /s/ David B. Wesner
David B. Wesner
Attorney for the Village of Rantoul
dwesner@efbclaw.com

Cc: Village Clerk















