



ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Jerry G. Saulters
Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE
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ACCPD Terminates Sworn Employee for ALPR Misuse

On October 5, 2026, the Athens-Clarke County Police Department received a complaint from an ACCPD officer who became aware of suspected misuse of the department's Flock Safety Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) system by another officer. ACCPD immediately initiated an internal investigation.

The initial investigation found that Officer Tyler Vaughn improperly used the ALPR system to search the license plate associated with his former girlfriend's vehicle numerous times over approximately one week in 2025.

Chief of Police Jerry Saulters said, "I am deeply disappointed by Officer Vaughn's actions. I do not take this incident lightly. The misuse of our ALPR system is a serious violation of the trust placed in our officers, and we will hold those who violate this department's policies and standards accountable. I also want to recognize the officer who reported this misconduct. It demonstrates the integrity and professionalism we expect from the men and women of ACCPD. Our officers have a responsibility to hold themselves and one another accountable, and I am proud of those who uphold that responsibility."

Moving forward, ACCPD has implemented additional safeguards to enhance oversight of the ALPR system. The ability to initiate searches is now restricted to personnel at the rank of supervisor and above.

ACCPD's ALPR policy strictly prohibits the use of its system for personal or non-official law enforcement purposes. The employee's actions directly violate that policy. Based on the initial findings, the chief of police took immediate steps to terminate the employee.

ACCPD requested that the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) conduct an independent criminal investigation, and the ACCPD Office of Professional Standards will continue a concurrent administrative investigation.

This remains an active investigation. Please direct any further questions or information about this incident to the GBI.

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Katie Jenkins
Public Information Lieutenant