

PUBLIC SAFETY TECHNOLOGY

PREPARED FOR THE SAINT PAUL CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
JUNE 24, 2026



**SAINT PAUL
POLICE**



AGENDA

- **PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW**
- **GUARDRAILS AND CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTIONS**
- **ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY**
- **DOCKED DRONE PROGRAM**
- **LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION AND RTIC**
- **EXAMPLES OF USAGE AND COMMUNITY COMMITMENTS**



PUBLIC SAFETY TECHNOLOGY: PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

The Saint Paul Police Department uses public safety technology to help protect life, investigate crime, improve situational awareness, and document events transparently. Every use remains subject to constitutional standards, law, policy, supervision, training, audit, and accountability.



BODY-WORN CAMERA (BWC)



CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV)



TRAILER CAMERA



LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION (ALPR OR LRP)



UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM (UAS) OR DRONE

Every use must be lawful, limited, documented, reviewable, and accountable.
SPPD guardrails are designed to protect constitutional rights, privacy rights, and community trust.

UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM OR DRONE

Law

- Fourth Amendment, Constitutional Search Protections
- Minnesota Statute 626.19
- FAA Title 14 CFR Part 107

Policy

- Saint Paul Police Department Policy 463.06

Controls / Audit

- Authorized use under law and policy
- Trained pilots, flight logs, and Chapter 13 data handling
- No weapons; no biometric matching without warrant
- Annual report to Minnesota Commissioner of Public Safety

LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION

Law

- Minnesota Statute 13.824
- Minnesota Government Data Practices Act

Policy

- Saint Paul Police Department Policy 445.17

Audit

- Trained and authorized users only
- Case number and reason required for queries
- Data destruction/retention governed by state statute
- Public log, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension notification, and biennial independent audit

INDEPENDENT AUDIT (OCTOBER 15, 2025)

**City of St. Paul Police Department
Portable Recording System (PRS) Biennial Audit
Audit Summary
October 15, 2025**

At the request of the City of St. Paul Police Department (SPPD), Local Government Information Systems (LOGIS) has conducted the biennial audit of their Portable Recording System (PRS) pursuant to Minnesota Statute §13.825 Subd. 9.

Minnesota Statute §13.825 data elements include:

- Data Classification
- Data Retention
- Access by Data Subjects
- Inventory of Portable Recording System Technology
- Use of Agency-Issued Portable Recording Systems
- Authorization to Access Data
- Sharing Among Agencies
- Biennial Audit
- Notification to the BCA
- Portable Recording System Vendor

After analysis of the statutory requirements and evaluation of the City of St. Paul Police Department's management and use of Portable Recording System technology, LOGIS has found the City of St. Paul Police Department in compliance with Minnesota Statute §13.825 based on the following findings.

Statute Subdivision	Control Objective	Testing Procedure	Testing Result
§13.825 Subdivision 2	Data Classification	Reviewed SPPD Body Worn Camera (BWC) Policy 442.18, Section 15 Data Categorization Reviewed SPPD BWC Policy 422.18, Section 19 Private, Confidential and Public BWC Data Reviewed SPPD General Order 235.00 Data Practices SPPD provided screen print of video lockdown which places video into a Restricted status limiting who can view video files. Reviewed Axon/Evidence.com configuration settings and screen prints provided	SPPD PRS data is properly classified according to statutory requirements set forth by MN Statute §13.825 Subdivision 2
§13.825 Subdivision 3	Data Retention	Reviewed SPPD Policy 442.18 which covers the process for retention of data based upon its classification Review General Order 235.00 Data Practices which covers data access procedures, dissemination, and requests by the media or public Video data is retrained for a minimum of 1 year unless otherwise classified by MN statute or SPPD policy SPPD provided screen print of PRS data categorization and retention schedule	SPPD data retention schedules meet the retention requirements set forth by MN Statute §13.825 Subdivision 3

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INDEPENDENT AUDIT (OCTOBER 15, 2025)

Statute Subdivision	Control Objective	Testing Procedure	Testing Result
§13.825 Subdivision 4	Access by data subjects	Reviewed SPPD Policy 442.18, Section 20 Access by Data Subjects Reviewed SPPD Policy 235.10 – Dissemination of Criminal Data which covers the dissemination of data with other agencies SPPD provided screen print of the Data Request Portal where subjects can request BWC video Reviewed SPPD BWC Policy 442.18, Section 25 Release to the Public, which directs who and how data is to be provided along with notification requirements	SPPD data request processes and policies meet the data access requirements set forth by MN Statute §13.825 Subdivision 4
§13.825 Subdivision 5	Inventory of PRS technology	Reviewed SPPD Policy 442.18, Section 6 Inventory Control SPPD is currently in the process of deploying new cameras to their inventory. The current count of 1,360 cameras contains both new and old inventory. Which includes: 570 assigned, in stock and lost devices, each active camera is assigned to a unique member of the SPPD 5.1 - SPPD provided screen capture of the total number of devices in system 5.2 - SPPD provided screen capture showing daily log of deployed devices 5.3 - SPPD Policy 442.18 Body Worn Camera Policy, SPPD Policy 442.19 – Body Worn Camera - Quality Control Process 5.4 - SPPD provided screen print of the total amount of data stored	SPPD camera inventory meets the requirements set forth MN Statute §13.825 Subdivision 5

Statute Subdivision	Control Objective	Testing Procedure	Testing Result
§13.825 Subdivision 6	Use of agency-issued devices	Reviewed SPPD BWC Policy 442.18, Section 16 Department Issued Cell Phones. Policy clearly states that only agency issued devices are authorized for use by department employees	SPPD policy for the use of agency issued devices meets the requirements set forth MN Statute §13.825 Subdivision 6
§13.825 Subdivision 7	Authorization to access data	Reviewed SPPD BWC Policy 442.19, Quality Control Process Reviewed SPPD BWC Policy 442.18, Section 37 Data Breach Policy and Procedures SPPD provided screen prints of authorized users and their applicable roles	SPPD policy for authorizing access to PRS data and devices meets the requirements set forth MN Statute §13.825 Subdivision 7
§13.825 Subdivision 8	Sharing among agencies	Reviewed SPPD Policy 235.10 Dissemination of Criminal Data Policy which covers sharing of data with other agencies	SPPD policy for sharing PRS data with other law enforcement agencies meets the requirements set forth MN Statute §13.825 Subdivision 8

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INDEPENDENT AUDIT (OCTOBER 15, 2025)

Statute Subdivision	Control Objective	Testing Procedure	Testing Result
§13.825 Subdivision 9	Biennial audit	Reviewed SPPD Policy 442.18, Section 36 Security Access Control Procedures para. F Reviewed MN Legislative Reference Library for past audits	SPPD policy for conducting biennial audits of PRS systems meets the requirements set forth MN Statute §13.825 Subdivision 9
§13.825 Subdivision 10	Notification to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension	Reviewed SPPD Policy 442.18, Section 38 Notification to Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Policy clearly states that any major changes to the PRS technology must be reported to the Minnesota BCA	SPPD policy for notification of PRS system changes meets the requirements set forth in MN Statute §13.825 Subdivision 10
§13.825 Subdivision 11	PRS Vendor	SPPD currently uses Axon Body 4 firmware version v1.2534	SPPD is using the latest firmware release and meets the requirements set forth in MN Statute §13.825 Subdivision 11

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UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM OR DRONE

Transparency Disclosures

- UAS video is not shared outside authorized legal and policy channels.
- Non-evidentiary UAS data is retained for 7 days, unless classified as evidence.
- Evidence follows the case retention schedule and applicable data classification.
- Flights are logged and auditable.
- No Internal Affairs reports.

LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION

Transparency Disclosures

- LPR data is not shared outside Minnesota.
- Personal data is not accessible through LPR system use.
- Queries require training, authorization, case number, and reason.
- Policy update under review: No LPR placement in sensitive locations.
- Only trained and authorized users allowed to access.

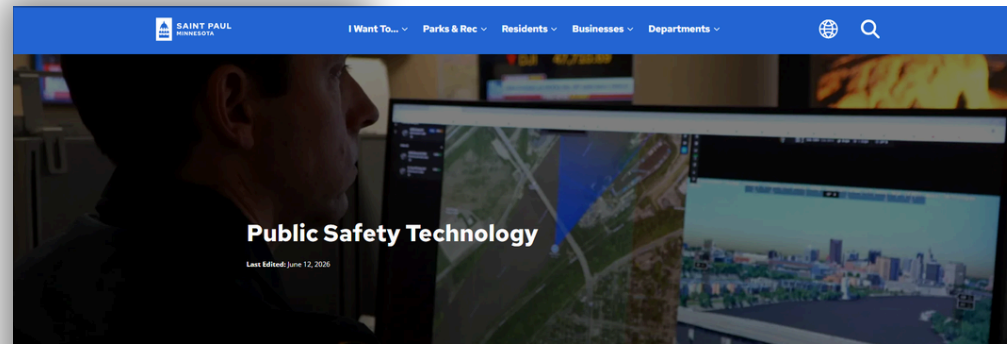


Unmanned Aircraft and Docked Drones

SPPD has operated an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Program since 2023. The Docked Drone Program (DDP) expands that program by allowing trained pilots to respond faster to high-priority calls for service.

How DDP Works

- Drones launch from docks located around the city.
- A drone can reach a scene 2 miles away in under 3 minutes; driving may take 7 to 10 minutes.
- Operated by trained SPPD remote pilots.
- Capable of autonomous response and return, under pilot control.
- Must comply with FAA regulations, Minnesota Statute 626.19, and SPPD Policy 463.06.
- Not used for general surveillance.



Public Safety Technology

The Saint Paul Police Department utilizes a variety of camera devices and systems as a way to deter crime, enhance both public and officer safety, and provide transparency. That includes Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV), trailer cameras, body-worn cameras, in-car cameras, Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR or LPR), and Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) - commonly known as drones.

The Docked Drone Program (DDP) is an evolution of the Saint Paul Police Department's Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Program, aimed at enhancing the safety of officers and our community. The DDP deploys a remotely piloted aircraft after receiving a high priority 911 call. The drone will be able to arrive on scene in minutes, often before officers can arrive, providing real-time situational awareness. The goal is simple: Improve safety, reduce response times, and make better-informed decisions before officers arrive on scene.

More Information:

- [Public Safety Technology One-Page](#)
- [Docked Drone Program \(DDP\) One-Page](#)
- [Saint Paul Community Connect](#)

Saint Paul Police Department Policies:

- [Unmanned Aircraft System \(UAS\)](#)
- [Closed-Circuit Television \(CCTV\)](#)
- [Automated License Plate Recognition \(ALPR or LPR\)](#)
- [Body-Worn Camera \(BWC\)](#)
- [In-Car Camera \(ICC\)](#)

Minnesota Laws and State Data:

- [Minnesota State Statute \(Section 626.19\) on Unmanned Aerial Sys](#)
- [Minnesota State Statute on Data Practices \(Chapter 13\)](#)
- [Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Data](#)

Flight Dashboard

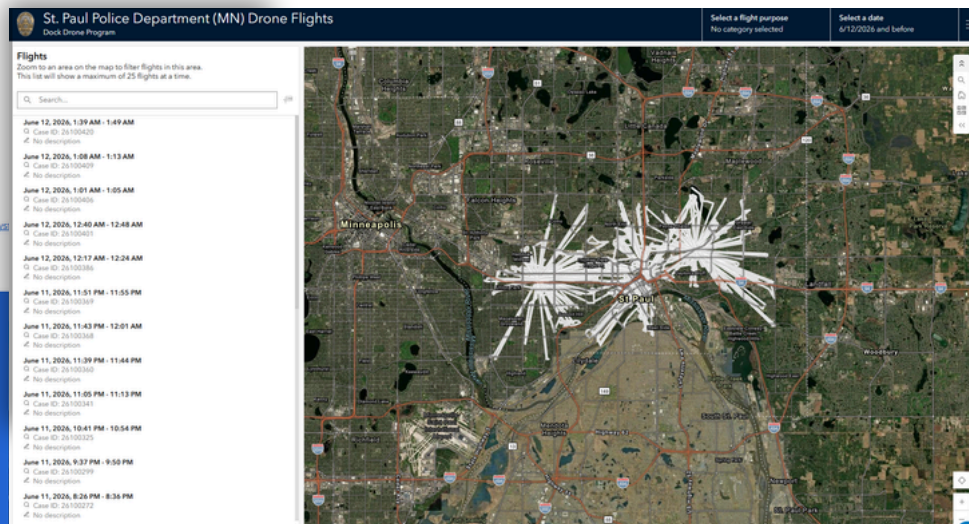
View flight logs of docked drones.



Share Your Feedback

Your feedback on public safety technology is important and valuable to us.

[Send Feedback](#)



When and Where Can We Fly?

Minnesota Statute 626.19 requires a search warrant unless a statutory exception applies. Examples include:

- Active search for a missing person.
- Emergency or aftermath involving risk of death or bodily harm.
- Preventing loss of life or property in natural or man-made disasters.
- Public event with heightened safety risk.
- Threat assessment for a specific event.
- Public area with reasonable suspicion of criminal activity.



PUBLIC FLIGHT INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT
STPAUL.GOV/PUBLICSAFETYTECHNOLOGY



License Plate Recognition

SPPD uses Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR or LPR) only for specific public safety and investigative purposes:

- Recover stolen vehicles.
- Locate missing persons.
- Support criminal investigations.
- Identify wanted vehicles or plates.



LPR Use in Saint Paul

- Marked squads and limited fixed/stationary cameras.
- LPR reads plates; it does not identify drivers or use facial recognition.
- It is not used to issue speeding or red-light tickets.
- It is not a tool for generalized tracking; queries must have a lawful purpose.

Search
Search
Lookup

Investigative Purpose ⓘ

Offense Type *

Enter offense type

Case Number *

Enter case number (required)

Reason *

Enter search reason (required)

^ Wednesday, June 10, 2026 (4)



MN PD

HWY @ Ave F#001

7:46:16 PM



MN PD

HWY @ Ave F#002

7:46:15 PM



MN PD

HWY @ Ave F#001

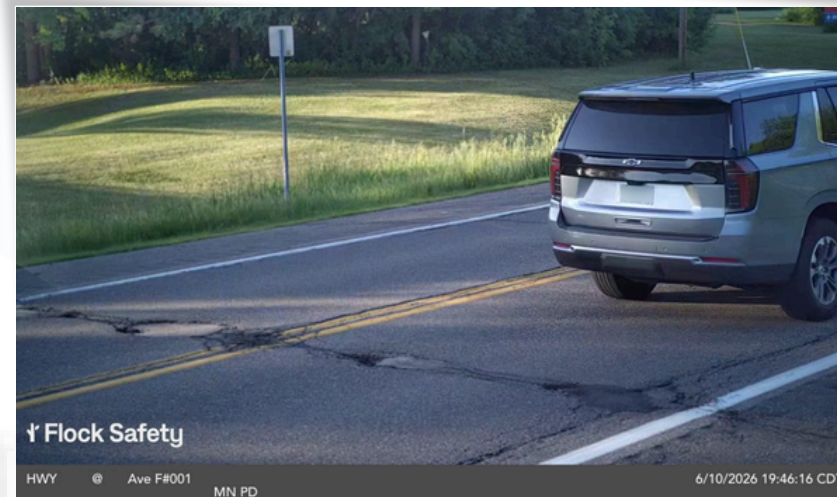
5:35:07 AM



MN PD

HWY @ Ave F#002

5:35:06 AM



How LPR Works

- Search is performed on a specific license plate within an authorized time window.
- User must enter audit information, including case number and reason for inquiry.
- Results show sensor-hit details: Date, time, location, vehicle photo, plate photo, and retaining agency.
- The plate image must be verified before action is taken.
- Access logs and audit trails allow review of who searched, why, and when.

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Home / Our Divisions / Bureau of Criminal Apprehension / Data and Reports / Agencies that use License Plate Readers (LPR)

Agencies that use License Plate Readers (LPR)

St. Paul Police Department

Location of fixed or stationary devices (if any)

- Kellogg Boulevard at Smith Avenue North (2)

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office

Location of fixed or stationary devices (if any)

- 1192 White Bear Avenue, St. Paul
- Marshall Avenue and Exeter Place, St. Paul
- South Mount Curve Boulevard and Ford Parkway, St. Paul
- East Gilfillan Road and County Highway 96 (Entrance), North Oaks
- Spring Farm Road and Centerville Road, North Oaks
- Phoebe Lane and Wilkinson Lake Boulevard, North Oaks
- Kestrel Court and Wilkinson Lake Boulevard, North Oaks
- Wildflower Way and Hodgson Road (Entrance), North Oaks
- Wildflower Way and Hodgson Road (Exit), North Oaks
- Pleasant Lake Road and County Highway 96 (Entrance), North Oaks
- Pleasant Lake Road and County Highway 96 (Exit), North Oaks
- East Gilfillan Road and County Highway 96 (Exit), North Oaks
- Osprey Court and Wilkinson Lake Boulevard, North Oaks
- Hill Farm Entrance, North Oaks
- 6th Street East at Mounds Boulevard eastbound, St. Paul

- Smith Ave. North at Cliff Street westbound, St. Paul
- 850 County Road E East, Vadnais Heights (2)
- Maycomb Road entry (2), North Oaks
- Maycomb Road, North Oaks
- Cunningham Road Exit 1, North Oaks
- Cunningham Road Exit 2, North Oaks
- Cunningham Road Entry, North Oaks
- East Oaks Road and Centerville Road Entrance 1, North Oaks
- East Oaks Road and Centerville Road Entrance 2, North Oaks
- East Oaks Road and Centerville Road exit, North Oaks
- Victoria Street North and Rondo Avenue southbound (2), St. Paul
- Ariel Street North and Ariel Street (westbound), Maplewood (2)
- Highway 61 and Fanum Road northbound, Vadnais Heights
- Como Avenue and State Highway 280 West eastbound, St. Paul
- Sims Avenue and Edgerton Street, St. Paul
- Marshall Avenue and Cleveland Avenue, St. Paul
- Ford Parkway and Mound Curve, St. Paul
- Arkwright Street and Maryland Avenue, St. Paul

How Many Cameras Are in Saint Paul?

SPPD's use of fixed/stationary LPR devices is reported through the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, as required by state law.

- **Saint Paul Police: 2**
- **Ramsey County Sheriff (per the BCA): 11**

SPPD does not coordinate the placement of Ramsey County Sheriff devices. Public lists and reports provide visibility into fixed/stationary deployment.



Who Has Access and Manages This Data?

- Data retention follows Minnesota Statute 13.824: Non-investigative ALPR data must be destroyed no later than 60 days after collection.
- Access is limited to trained and authorized SPPD personnel and authorized law enforcement partners.
- Queries require a case number and a specific reason.
- Data is not shared outside Minnesota.
- Last six-month audit: no out-of-state searches performed.
- Misuse is subject to review, corrective action, and discipline.



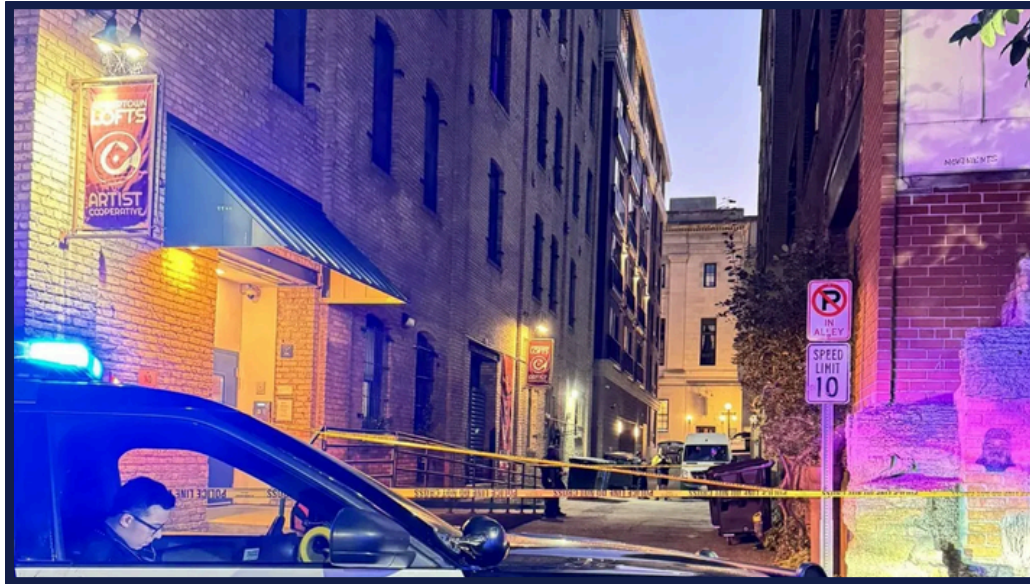
Who's Monitoring?

Officers in the Real Time Information Center (RTIC) provide real-time situational awareness for in-progress and dispatched calls for service.

RTIC use is governed by the same legal, policy, training, access, and documentation requirements as the underlying systems.

RTIC is designed to:

- Improve officer and community safety.
- Provide immediate, actionable information to responding officers.
- Support investigations and patrol functions.
- Reduce uncertainty before officers arrive.
- Maintain auditable use of technology and law enforcement databases.



Lowertown Homicide

September 25, 2024

- Officers received a vehicle description and later obtained a license plate number.
- ALPR hits identified the vehicle at the Marshall Street Bridge in Minneapolis and later in Belle Plaine.
- Information was used to locate the suspect in Belle Plaine.
- Guardrail: Specific violent-crime investigation, documented query, investigative purpose.



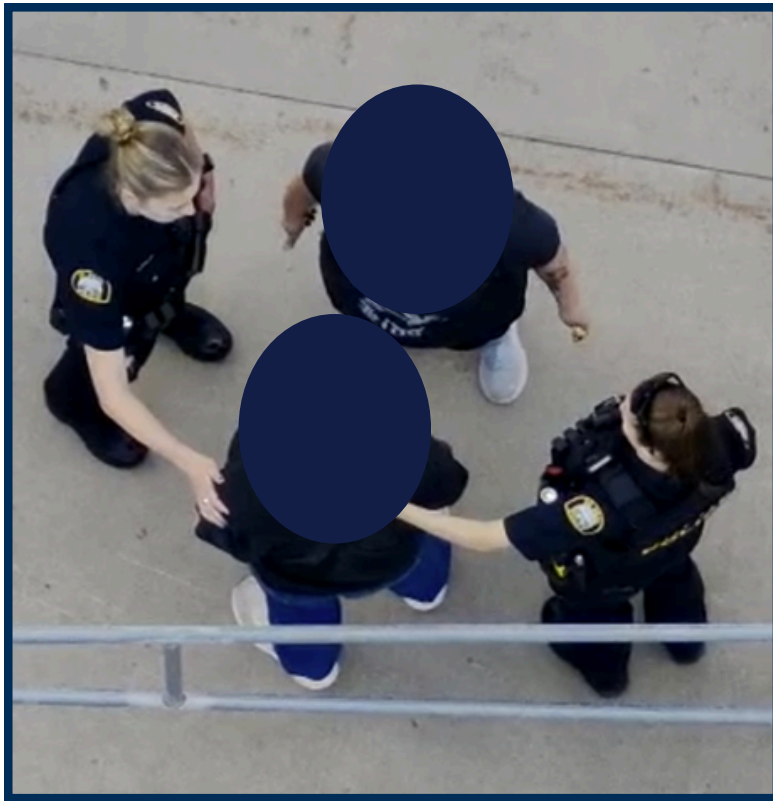


“No Kings” Rally Threat

March 27, 2026

- Threat of a possible active shooter at the “No Kings” rally at the State Capitol was received the day before the event.
- A suspect and vehicle were identified.
- LPR information indicated the vehicle was in Florida.
- Local law enforcement in Florida made contact and mitigated the threat.
- **Guardrail:** Specific public-event threat, articulable safety concern, limited inquiry.





Helping A Person in Crisis

June 6, 2026

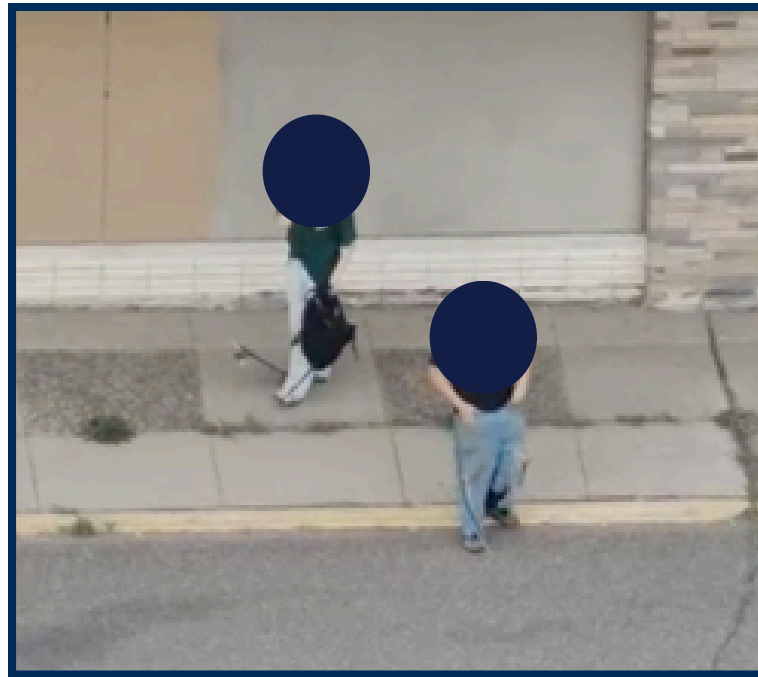
- Call received for a suicidal person who had left home and whose whereabouts were unknown.
- RTIC launched a drone and located the individual near the I-35E bridge.
- RTIC provided location updates; officers located the person and transported them for help.
- **Guardrail:** Emergency call involving risk of harm; limited flight for life safety.



Intervening In A Domestic Assault

June 7, 2026

- Report of a male and female fighting behind a Jackson Street business.
- Drone arrived first, recorded the incident as evidence, and guided officers to the individuals.
- One person was arrested for felony domestic assault.
- **Guardrail:** Active call for service; evidence retained under case rules.



Apprehension of Burglars

May 30, 2026

- Burglary reported on Rice Street involving two people attempting to enter a building with an axe.
- RTIC drone quickly located the suspects and observed clothing/mask changes.
- Officers detained the suspects based on real-time updates.
- **Guardrail:** Active burglary call; specific location; documented deployment.



Apprehending A Suspect with A Machete

June 4, 2026

- Weapons complaint on Lower Afton Road involving an individual reportedly carrying a machete.
- RTIC located the suspect and updated officers.
- Officers arrested the individual for threats of violence.
- **Guardrail:** Weapons complaint; limited use to locate suspect and protect safety.



Locating Vehicle Involved In A Hit-And-Run

June 9, 2026

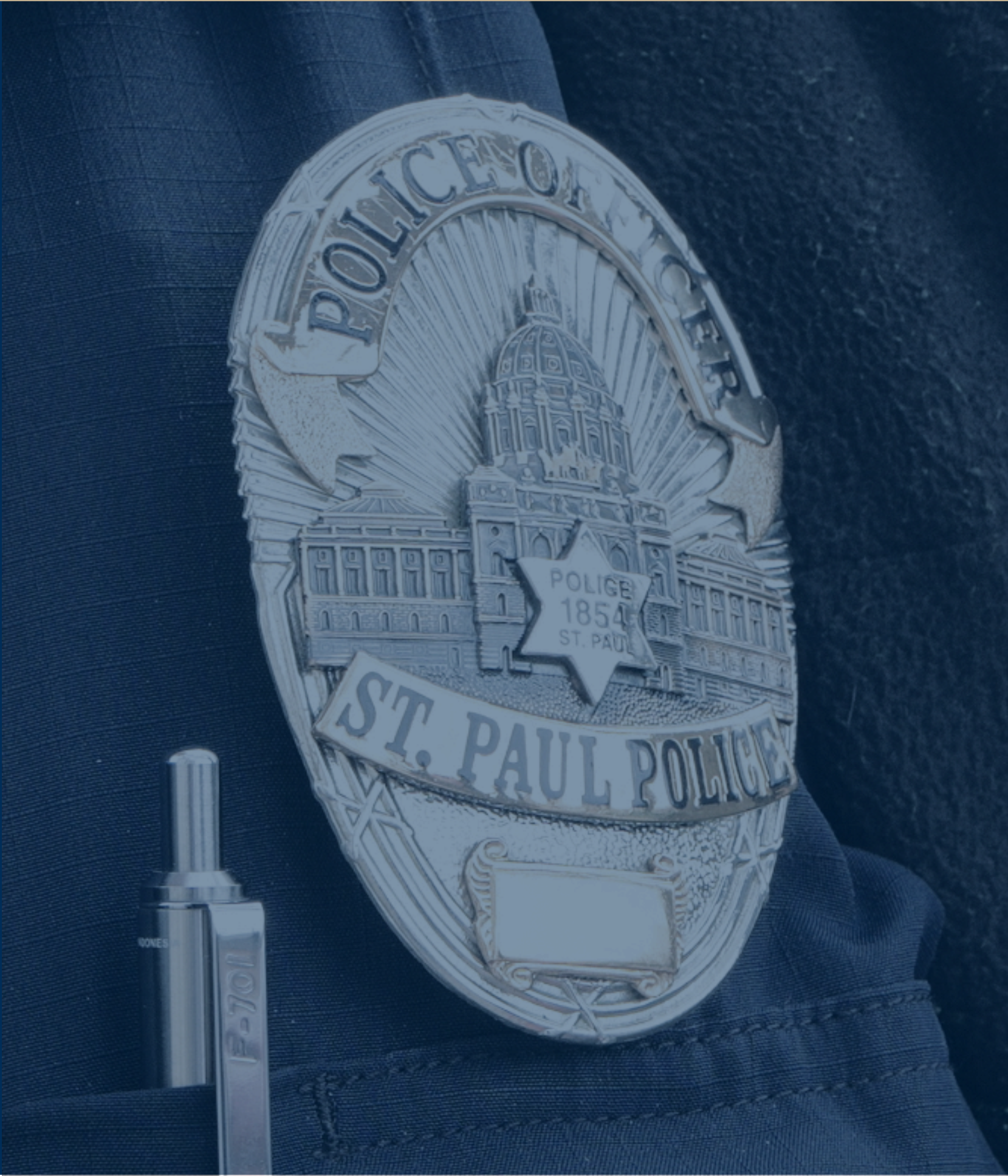
- Hit-and-run with injuries at Smith Ave. N. and Kellogg Blvd. W.
- RTIC launched a drone and checked ALPR for the suspect vehicle.
- Information helped locate the vehicle and driver; driver was arrested.
- **Guardrail:** Injury-crash investigation; specific suspect vehicle.



Locating A Fleeing Suspect

June 9, 2026

- State Patrol pursuit entered Saint Paul.
- RTIC used CCTV to capture an image of the suspect.
- Information was shared with Saint Paul officers and State Patrol; suspect taken into custody.
- **Guardrail:** Active fleeing incident; limited public-safety purpose.



SPPD's Commitment

- Lawful purpose.
- Limited use.
- Trained operators.
- Documented actions.
- Audit.
- Public transparency.
- Corrective action when necessary.
- Safety and constitutional rights together.

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