

Question:

Knowing that the Onslow County Republican Executive Committee has voted in support of the county's automated license-plate-reader cameras, and after reviewing the financial documentation and unresolved accounting questions published by Hubert United, do you personally support the county's continued use—and any future renewal or expansion—of this system? If your support is conditional, what specific financial documentation, performance results, privacy safeguards, oversight or public reporting should be required before additional county funds are committed?

Response:

Thank you for allowing me to speak to this directly.

If elected to the Onslow County Board of Commissioners, my starting point would be this: **the citizens of Onslow County should never be forced to choose between public safety and public accountability. We deserve both.**

I am all for giving law enforcement the tools they need to keep us safe – as long as those tools are effective and used within the law. If automated license-plate-reader (ALPRs) technology continues to be used in Onslow County, or if we expand the current program, I would ask several questions before we spend any more county money.

Fiscally, I want citizens to know where the money came from; how the expenditure was approved; how much it cost initially and how much it costs to operate and maintain; and I want to see the documentation that supports those expenditures. If we have three different people telling me three different stories about where the funding came from, I want those questions answered in public with the records to back it up.

Operationally, I want to know if it is truly helping law enforcement solve crimes, recover stolen vehicles, find missing or endangered persons, or make our communities any safer.

From a privacy perspective, I want to know what information is being collected, how long it is being retained, who has access to it, when it can be searched, and what safeguards are in place to prevent misuse.

I would also demand **regular reporting to the Board of Commissioners and the public** about costs, effectiveness, compliance, and safeguards – while still protecting legitimate law-enforcement activities.

My vote will not be swayed by the position of a political party, committee or organization. The Board of Commissioners answers to the people of Onslow County. I will look at all the facts, listen to both law enforcement and citizens, review the financial records and legal documentation, and cast my vote based on what I believe is in the best interest of our county.

Public safety is important. Privacy is important. Fiscal responsibility is important. Maintaining the public trust is important.

If we can have all four, we ought to demand it. If this program can meet those standards, continuance would be considered. If not, I will not vote to dedicate any more taxpayer dollars to the program until we can ensure it meets those basic requirements.

That is the standard I will hold myself and my fellow commissioners to: protect our people.

That's what it means to be Clear. Committed. Upfront.

Michel Leandre Jr.

Candidate for Onslow County Board of Commissioners.

Clear. Committed. Upfront.