



CITY of CALABASAS

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

DATE: JULY 22, 2021

TO: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

**FROM: TOM MERICLE, TRAFFIC ENGINEERING CONSULTANT
JOHN BINGHAM, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES MANAGER**

**SUBJECT: AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION (ALPR) PROGRAM
(AKA FLOCK CAMERA SYSTEM)**

MEETING DATE: JULY 26, 2021

PRESENTATION:

Public Works Department Traffic Engineering Consultant Tom Mericle, will present the Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) system to the Public Safety Commission.

BACKGROUND:

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LACoSD) has proposed a new and innovative program to improve ways of mitigating and solving crime in Calabasas; the use of automated license plate recognition. The city was also approached by Greater Mulwood Homeowners Association about a similar request for them to use on private property. The new system involves the use of automated license plate recognition (ALPR) cameras that would allow law enforcement to be notified of vehicles with a certain license plate numbers that have been put into the system. The camera system also allows for LACoSD to go back in time to capture license plate(s) to aid in crime investigation. These types of systems are used at a number of agencies across southern California and have been a successful tool for improving crime reductions.

DISCUSSION:

Automated license plate recognition (ALPR) systems automatically capture vehicle's license plate information via computer processing of a photograph, compare the plate number to one or more law enforcement agency databases (e.g., Stolen Vehicles; Warrants; Terrorism Watch List; Amber Alerts; etc.), and alert law enforcement personnel when the license plate of a vehicle of interest has been recorded. It also stores the photo and associated data for a set period of time (typically 30 days) that allows law enforcement to look back at which vehicles were present by time of day. It automates a tedious, manual process that is difficult for officers to complete, and vastly improves the efficiency and effectiveness of

identifying wanted vehicles and persons of interest among the thousands of vehicles driving on our roadways. These systems do not record any video, only single photographs, license plate number, and certain vehicle characteristics identified by the system. After a period of time the data is overwritten with new data so there is no long term storage unless pulled out of the system for enforcement investigation purposes. LACoSD has indicated that they intend to use the system for the following improved community policing efforts:

- Receive real time field information of suspect vehicles in the area allowing them to solve crimes more quickly and the potential to prevent crimes.
- Monitor for stolen vehicles.
- Collect license plate information for suspected street racing.

Initially, the cameras are being proposed to be installed initially at five locations as follows:

1. Las Virgenes Road at Agoura Road
2. Calabasas Road at Parkway Calabasas
3. Calabasas Road at Old Town Calabasas
4. Mulholland Highway at Old Topanga Canyon Road
5. Park Ora Road at Park Sorrento Road

These locations were selected by LACoSD because of proximity to vehicles entering the City, and locations of known speeding and illegal street racing.

This picture shows a Flock camera and solar panel system mounted to a traffic signal pole. The camera is hidden in the shadow of the solar panel.



BUDGET IMPACTS:

Adoption of an ALPR program and policy does have fiscal impacts. Implementation of the program may have costs associated with initial placement, ongoing maintenance and operations, as well as City/LACoSD staffing costs. Estimated startup and ongoing costs of the two systems are:

Name	Startup Costs (estimated)	Ongoing Fees/Year
Flock Safety	\$1,250	\$12,500
Vigilant Solutions	\$300,000	\$2,800

REQUESTED ACTION:

Review the staff report and attachments and make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the potential implementation of an automated license plate recognition system.

ATTACHMENTS:

City’s Draft Proposed ALPR Policy to comply with Civil Code § 1798.90.5 et seq.
 Flock Safety Proposal to Los Angeles County Sheriff