

CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: September 9, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

From: Travis Grimm - Chief of Police

Subject: Police Chief Statement Regarding Public Safety Technology, LPRs, and Surveillance Cameras

Background:

Recent actions and discussions at the State of Florida level have created significant uncertainty regarding the future use, regulation, and oversight of automated License Plate Reader (LPR) technology. In response to that changing environment, the Belle Isle Police Department has disabled its current LPR system and is beginning the process necessary to discontinue the existing LPR program.

The Department is also canceling the planned surveillance camera expansion that had not yet been deployed. Rather than continue investing City funds into additional cameras connected to a platform while the State's direction regarding this technology remains unsettled, the Department will pause those investments and evaluate future public-safety technology as the legal, regulatory, and operational environment becomes clearer.

This is not a retreat from technology or proactive policing. Technology remains an important force multiplier for a small law enforcement agency. The Police Department will continue seeking and evaluating lawful technologies, partnerships, investigative resources, and other tools that make officers more effective and help keep Belle Isle safe.

Statement from the Chief of Police:

My responsibility as Chief of Police is simple: keep Belle Isle safe.

If the State has not completely determined what the future of this technology should look like, I am not going to spend taxpayer money or our officers' time fighting a political battle over one tool or one platform. We will let the State work through those issues while we continue doing our job.

But we are not stepping away from technology. I will continue seeking every lawful tool, technology, partnership, and resource that helps our officers protect this community. When there is technology that can make our officers more effective and Belle Isle safer, we will evaluate it and, when appropriate, bring it forward.

Nobody should mistake the loss of these cameras for a reduction in our ability or determination to police this city. Technology does not keep Belle Isle safe. Our officers do.

Our officers will remain visible, proactive, and engaged. We will continue finding criminals, solving crimes, protecting victims, and holding offenders accountable.

And to the criminals who may believe that because the cameras went dark the Belle Isle Police Department went to sleep: you are very wrong.

Our officers are still here. We are still watching. We are still working. If you believe the loss of this technology created an opportunity to commit crime in Belle Isle, think again.

We are not asleep.

We are wide awake.

Staff Recommendation and Council Discussion Points:

This item is presented as an informational statement from the Chief of Police regarding the current status of the City's LPR program and planned surveillance camera expansion, the Department's continued commitment to public-safety technology and proactive policing, and the fiscal impact of discontinuing the two programs.

Discussion Points:

- The current LPR system has been disabled and the Department is beginning the process necessary to discontinue the program.
- The planned surveillance camera expansion will be canceled before deployment.
- The Department is not abandoning technology and will continue evaluating lawful tools, partnerships, and resources that improve officer effectiveness and public safety.
- The loss of these camera programs does not change the Department's commitment to visible, proactive policing, criminal investigations, and holding offenders accountable.
- FY 2026-2027 budgeted funding for both programs, totaling \$105,500, will be reallocated to the General Fund.

Suggested Motion:

N/A - Informational Item Only. No Council action is requested.

Alternatives:

N/A

Fiscal Impact:

The FY 2026-2027 budget included \$52,000 for the planned surveillance camera program and \$53,500 for the existing LPR program. With the surveillance camera expansion canceled and the LPR program being discontinued, a total of \$105,500 in budgeted funds will be reallocated to the General Fund.

- Planned Surveillance Camera Program: \$52,000
- Existing LPR Program: \$53,500
- **Total Reallocated to General Fund: \$105,500**

Attachments:

- None.