

FW: Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) General Order 300.25 - Flock Cameras - Mt Hope Bridge - request to have ALPR presentation to Town council


TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND
2022 APR 28 PM 6:24

Steven St. Pierre <sst.pierre@bristolri.gov>

Thu 4/28/2022 5:40 PM

To: Melissa Cordeiro <mcordeiro@bristolri.gov>

Cc: Kevin Lynch <Klynch@bristolri.gov>

 5 attachments (4 MB)

Flock Safety - Sole Source Letter 8.28.21 (1) (1).pdf; Flock Safety Company Description (1).pdf; Flock Safety Media FAQs-2 (1) (1).pdf; G.O. 300.25.pdf; Letter on Flock Safety Cameras (1).pdf;

Clerk Cordeiro,

On Behalf of Chief Lynch please find the following restatement per your suggestions. Thank you.

The Bristol Police Department humbly requests a new item Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) to be placed on the next Town Council agenda for a formal presentation.

These attached communications are in reference to the Bristol Police Departments' efforts to explore the potential for acquiring and utilizing Flock Cameras <https://www.flocksafety.com/> in an effort to respond to the threat of suicidality with regard to the Mt Hope Bridge. As you are aware this agency has been in frequent contact with the RI Bridge and Turnpike Authority regarding the use of the Mt Hope Bridge for persons with suicidal intent and establishing best practices to combat these tragic events...

As a result, this agency became aware of the use of 'Flock' camera systems in other communities in RI by Municipal and Law Enforcement agencies. These cameras were found to function with great effect and are lauded locally and nationally for their ease of use and effectiveness in meeting many Law Enforcement and Public Safety Missions. This agency consulted with the Cranston Police Department who is presently using the system to great effect and highly recommends the cameras. The systems are effective because of the specific functionality that they utilize, and the user-friendly interfaces. These camera systems are not "Speed Cameras, CCTV Cameras, or traditional Traffic Cameras". When the vehicle license plate is detected "BOLO", it takes still images of the plate as it passes and sends those vehicle images to the desired recipients (in our case the supervisor of dispatcher). The images do not capture faces, gender, race, occupants, or drivers. It is impossible to use these cameras to identify specific groups, or persons, and they can only be used to search for vehicle characteristics. Users cannot access live video feeds only images that have been entered into the system for the cameras to search for, so individual users are not able to manipulate the system to use it to search for operators...

The cost for each Camera is \$2500 for the camera and the annual monitoring and data storage. There is a onetime \$250.00 installation fee for each camera and the company comes out and professionally installs each camera. We would be looking to install a minimum of 4 Cameras, one each at Hope and Woodlawn and Metacom and Woodlawn on the southbound approach to the Bridge and one each on each of the northbound approaches in Portsmouth. This would provide the minimum coverage to the Mt Hope Bridge and allow for the ten second delay in each notification. Though the intended purpose of the system would be for suicide prevention the cameras would also be well positioned for any additional LE usage necessary entering or exiting the town from the south. The East Bay Community Action Program along with the Mathew Patton foundation both are interested in supporting a 1-year pilot program to prove efficacy with the cameras. EBCAP pledged \$8250.00 for 3 cameras and the MP foundation pledged \$2750.00 respectively...

With the agreed upon funding, we can acquire and install 4 cameras with no cost to the taxpayer for this 1-year pilot...

