



STAFF REPORT
5/26/2021

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Luis Lopez, Development Services Director

SUBJECT: Agreement with Flock Group, Inc. for the purchase of 65 cameras and a subscription for Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) software system for Coachella neighborhoods, in the amount of \$162,500 annually plus a one-time 10% installation charge.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute the attached “Government Agency Customer Agreement” with Flock Group, Inc. with Supplemental Conditions and attached Order Form, and subject to final minor edits by the City Attorney.

BACKGROUND:

On January 27, 2021 and March 17, 2021 the City’s Public Safety/Code Enforcement/Building Subcommittee discussed the need for an “Automated License Plate Recognition System” to deter criminal activity in the central Coachella neighborhoods. The Subcommittee invited public comments at the March 17, 2021 meeting and heard from members of the public regarding the feasibility of the ALPR system, and “privacy” issues associated with implementing this type of system.

The consultant, Flock Group, Inc. is a uniquely-qualified vendor that has a proprietary software, and hardware systems that can bundle their services to assist a local Police Department with deterring criminal activity within neighborhoods. Therefore, staff is unable to use competitive bidding for this particular vending contract. Additionally, staff and the Subcommittee reasonably believe that the proposed system is a necessary tool for improving public safety within the City of Coachella given our limited resources for adding more police personnel.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

The ALPR system takes random still photographs of vehicular license plates as they enter or exit a particular neighborhood. The system then compares plate numbers to the Police Department database of wanted criminals, persons having arrest warrants or probable cause for arrest (i.e., vehicles containing a fleeing suspect, etc.). The ALPR system is a lesser invasion of privacy than other security surveillance systems that may use facial recognition, and the use of this technology is narrowly tailored to reduce crime by identifying particular vehicles only, and not identifying

actual suspects or random activity. Local agencies have shown that this tool leads to increased criminal suspect arrests and prosecutions. Over time, criminal activity in neighborhoods is substantially reduced due to public knowledge of the system's ability to track vehicular movements within a confined area.

Attached to this staff report is a standard "Government Agency Customer Agreement" with attachments for "Supplemental Conditions" and "Insurance Requirements" prepared by Flock Group, Inc. (dba "Flock Safety") for the City of Coachella to purchase a subscription to the service. There is an attached Order Form for the initial purchase of 65 cameras and the annual subscription rate. The cost of the subscription is \$162,500 annually, and the cost of installation of the cameras is \$16,250. The agreement is for 12 months and is renewable automatically for an additional 12-month term, provided a 60-day written notice is provided to the vendor. In case of a voluntary termination of the agreement, the City would return the camera units to the vendor without penalty.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Authorize the City Manager to execute the attached Government Agency Customer Agreement for a contract price of \$162,500 plus a \$16,250 installation charge, and subject to final minor edits by the City Attorney.
2. Authorize the City Manager to execute the attached Government Agency Customer Agreement for a contract price of \$162,500 plus a \$16,250 installation charge.
3. Take no Action.
4. Continue this matter and provide staff direction.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This Agreement would cost the City of Coachella \$162,500 plus a one-time \$16,250 to be paid out of the City's Police Department line item professional services budget, and would be budgeted in the upcoming 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Operating Budget.

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE(S):

Staff recommends Alternative #1 as noted above.

Attachments: Government Agency Customer Agreement
Addendum - Supplemental Conditions
Exhibit B - Insurance Requirements
Flock Safety - Order Form