



## CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING

<b>AGENDA SECTION</b>	WORK SESSION
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	JUNE 1, 2026

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>Ongoing ALPR Discussions. (30 Minutes)</b>	
<i>Presenting Item: Chief Matt Markham</i>		
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b> Police Department	<b>BY/DATE:</b> Matt Markham / May 27, 2026	
<b>CORE CITY STRATEGIES:</b> <i>(please indicate areas that apply by adding an "X" in front of the selected text below)</i>		
X_ Community that Grows with Purpose and Equity	X_ Engaged, Effective and Forward-Thinking	
_ High Quality Public Spaces	_ Resilient and Prosperous Economy	
_ Safe, Accessible and Built for Everyone	_ Inclusive and Connected Community	

### BACKGROUND

In 2024, the City of Columbia Heights entered into a three-year agreement with Flock Safety for the use of Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs), with 12 cameras currently operating throughout the city. The technology has assisted law enforcement in solving crimes and locating missing persons.

In response to public concerns regarding privacy and data sharing, the City has reviewed and updated its policies and protocols to ensure City-controlled data is protected and not used for immigration-related enforcement purposes. The Columbia Heights Police Department remains committed to maintaining trust with all residents while continuing to use ALPR technology in a responsible and transparent manner.

### SUMMARY OF CURRENT STATUS

On May 14, 2026, the City of Columbia Heights Police Department, Mayor Amáda Márquez Simula, Anoka County Commissioner Mandy Meisner, and the Anoka County Sheriff's Office hosted a Flock Town Hall at Columbia Heights City Hall. The [Town Hall](#) was recorded and is available for viewing online.

Additionally an ALPR quote has been received from Axon, offering an alternative platform for comparison. This quote provides insight into cost structure, technical capabilities, data integration options, and potential alignment with existing departmental Axon systems.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

#### Second Town Hall

Staff recommend holding a second town hall focused specifically on community expectations, privacy considerations, and potential policy frameworks for ALPR use. To ensure transparency and neutrality, staff proposes engaging an independent narrator/moderator who will:

- Facilitate discussion.
- Capture and consolidate community questions, concerns, and recommendations
- Produce a written summary documenting "next steps" informed by resident feedback.

Council direction is requested regarding timing, format, and desired deliverables from this session.

**Formation of an ALPR Technical Advisory Task Force**

To strengthen public involvement and inclusive representation, staff proposes establishing an ALPR Technical Advisory Task Force composed of residents representing diverse backgrounds, technical perspectives, and lived experiences. Staff recommends empowering the Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee (MCAC) to serve as the selection body for task force membership. Proposed responsibilities of the Task Force include:

- Reviewing technical specifications for ALPR vendors
- Assessing policy considerations
- Providing recommendations to Council prior to any procurement or deployment decisions

Council direction is requested on the Task Force's scope, selection criteria, and any expected timelines.

**Requested Council Action/ Discussion Topics / Key Questions**

Staff is seeking Council input and direction on the following:

1. Additional information or analysis needed regarding Flock Safety or Axon ALPR systems.
2. Approval to schedule a second town hall meeting and proceed with securing an independent facilitator.
3. Approval to initiate the formation of the ALPR Technical Advisory Task Force, with MCAC conducting member selection.
4. Any other guidance on public engagement or evaluation processes the Council wishes to include.

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

Axon Informational Power Point  
Axon Quote and Share Center Details  
Correspondence from MN ACLU