

**SUBMITTED BY:** Kraig Fullen, Chief of Police

**MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW:** Ana Urquijo, City Manager

**FOCUS AREA:** Community Communication

**ORGANIZATIONAL  
IMPROVEMENTS:**

**SUBJECT:** **FLOCK SAFETY AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READER (ALPR) PROGRAM.**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

At the direction of City Manager Ana Urquijo, as requested by Mayor Grijalva, staff will present information on the Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Program in the city.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Police Department was selected by the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs to receive \$194,178 in funding under the Border Security Fund Grant Program to implement an automated license plate reader (ALPR) program in the city. The funding opportunity was presented to the Mayor and Council for acceptance during the December 13, 2023 meeting under Resolution No. 23-1575. A representative from Flock Safety, who was the preferred vendor, attended the meeting virtually and answered questions from Mayor and Council during the discussion of the item. The motion accepting the funding was passed by a vote of 7-0.

The grant performance period began on October 1, 2022 and runs through September 30, 2027. Following the approval, the ALPR system became operational on or about July of 2024. The Police Department maintains the ability to allow or deny access to the system, including the allowance of limited access. To-date, the department has limited access to local, county, and state agencies only. On December 9, 2025, access was further limited to only those agencies within the State of Arizona based on the recommendation by Flock. Lastly, the department is able to enable a Transparency Portal which is public-facing to explain:

- What Flock Safety is
- How the technology is used
- What is, and is not, detected
- High-level usage data from our agency

Recently concerns have been expressed by Douglas residents about the ALPR program with specific concerns raised regarding the vendor, Flock Safety. This is intended as an informative discussion to clarify how the system operates, safeguards, and how data is used.

**DISCUSSION:**

Pros:

- Realtime alerts are sent to officers via SMS/Email/App for stolen vehicles, missing persons, violent offenders, runaways and as an investigative tool.
- Vehicle Fingerprint technology allows for a search when license plate information is lacking.
- Safeguards
  - Department policy limits access to use by officers who have been trained on the system and is restricted to a "law enforcement purpose only". Requires a Department Report (DR) or Case Number be entered. Access is individually tracked and audited.
  - Flock provides the license plate image. Officer is still required to query the plate through the Arizona Criminal Justice Information System (ACJIS) which has its own "law enforcement purposes only". ACJIS is also subject to audit by AZDPS.
- Approximately 50 agencies throughout the state of Arizona currently using Flock.
- Data auto deletes after 30 days, whereas the audit trail for access and use is permanent.

Cons:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) operates within the system. There is public skepticism on advances with AI.
- Hardware, software, and servers are leased to agency users. We do not own them.
- Public comments/concerns regarding the Definitions and Data Use and Licensing in the Flock agreement (highlighted in the attached agreement).
- Policies are not absolute.
- Termination of the agreement under review by legal.
- \$100,916 remaining on the grant might be forfeited due to the termination of the agreement and/or be insufficient if an alternative automated license plate reader program is considered.
- Alternative technology might also be met with similar skepticism.

Staff is seeking a decision from Mayor and Council based on the presentation and concerns as presented.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None.

**Fiscal Year:** 2025/2026

**Amount Requested:**

**Budgeted:** Y / N

**Account (s):**

**“...I MOVE THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL DIRECT THE CITY MANAGER TO \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.”**