



City of Forest Park

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES

Chief Nathaniel Clark



LPR (license plate readers)

Currently the department has reviewed three different systems for the LPR (license plate readers) for use within the city. Genetec, Avigilon and FLOCK are the three companies that have been reviewed. The review of the three different companies showed that FLOCK is the only system that will integrate with GCIC/NCIC. This integration allows the FLOCK camera to scan the license plates and automatically search them against the “hot list” that is on GCIC/NCIC. The “hot list” is a list that is updated continually by the law enforcement community. The list contains information on stolen vehicles, property, wanted persons, registration status for vehicles, driver license information and many other items that concern law enforcement.

Both Genetec and Avigilon do not have the ability to interface with GCIC or NCIC. The only license plates that can be tracked or searched for in those systems are ones that have been uploaded into the system by an officer of the police department. Neither system can check cars coming into the city without having the surrounding police agencies provide a daily list of vehicles or persons they are looking for. This must be done at least once a day in order to keep the system current, ultimately the only information that can be searched through these systems is the information we put in.

FLOCK can interface with GCIC and NCIC and provide real time information on the location and direction of travel of any wanted vehicle. FLOCK also allows you to access cameras from other agencies in order to track any wanted vehicles or persons that may be fleeing our city. Agencies that use the FLOCK system can access any FLOCK camera within the U.S. (with permission from the deploying department). FLOCK maintains MOUs with their agencies and provides access as needed to other departments.

Infrastructure was another issue we looked at when evaluating the companies. Both Genetec and Avigilon require extensive infrastructure to be in place before the systems can be operated. Both Genetec and Avigilon representatives indicated the infrastructure (poles, power, data lines) can, and do, run into the millions of dollars, depending on how many cameras are installed. The installation of each camera requires a pole, suitable power supply and data transmission abilities. If the city did not have a city owned power line/supply at a location where a camera was going to be placed, we would have to make arrangements to have a power source installed. This alone requires the cooperation of several different agencies and departments, ie. Georgia Power, Georgia DOT, Clayton County DOT, Clayton County Government are just a few that would have to agree before some infrastructure could be installed. Georgia Power alone charges, on average, \$1000.00 PER MONTH, just to attach a device to one of their utility poles, and that request is not always approved. As FLOCK cameras would be placed on City property and is solar powered, it does not require or need additional approval or authorizations. FLOCK can upgrade the batteries for very high traffic areas if needed and there is the option to power the camera with AC power if the location is not conducive to solar power. The data transmission is wireless therefore there is no need for data lines to be ran.

The installation fee and camera fee for all three companies are the same. Each company charges \$250 install fee and \$2500 per camera. The install fee is a one-time fee. The camera cost of \$2500 is yearly. This is standard throughout the industry. However, with FLOCK, we gain the additional RedSpeed cameras that are already in place. Each of those cameras are FLOCK ready and they do not cost anything



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to turn on. Currently we have 7 RedSpeed cameras that are up and running. It only takes a software install to have them run as RedSpeed and FLOCK cameras. This alone would save the city \$24,750 on install and camera fees.

Another benefit of FLOCK is the install time. Since no major infrastructure has to be installed or complicated agreements signed and negotiated, the install time is much faster. From time of order to up and running could be as quick as two months. That does depend on weather and demand, but it is much faster than the 12 to 18 months that Avigilon and Genetec may require.

In conclusion, the benefits of FLOCK far exceed Avigilon and Genetec, many of our neighboring agencies have FLOCK and the ability to extend that network into our city is invaluable. The fact that the system can automatically respond to any vehicle in the GCIC or NCIC data base without the need for an officer to manually update information it is also a time and money saver. The cost of infrastructure for Genetec and Avigilon can be costly whereas FLOCK has an almost zero infrastructure cost. All of these considerations lead us to the conclusion that FLOCK cameras would be the best choice for our city.

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