



City of Grass Valley City Council Agenda Action Sheet

Title: Update to Council related to Police Department use of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology

Recommendation: Informational

Prepared by: Alexander K. Gammelgard, Chief of Police

Council Meeting Date: 11/22/2022

Date Prepared: 11/17/2022

Agenda: Administrative

Background Information:

The Grass Valley Police Department's mission is to reduce crime, and improve the quality of life. Although much of the department's resources are utilized in the investigation of crime after it has occurred, the more resources that can be applied to stop crime or deter criminal activity before it occurs, will pay dividends in the long term. Last year, the Council approved funding for the Police Department to engage in an agreement with FLOCK Safety for their fixed-point Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) products.

Since that time, 18 devices positioned throughout the city at key ingress and egress locations have been installed. These locations were prioritized by police staff based upon known avenues of frequent use. These locations provide the optimum effectiveness in capturing ALPR data from a public right of way. The Flock devices utilize technology to deduce license plate data, which is then compared with state/national law enforcement Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) databases to determine if a vehicle is stolen, associated to a missing person, or wanted as evidence in a serious felony investigation. If a match is made, the Flock Safety system immediately provides a mobile notification alert to the officer's in-car computer or handheld device with the vehicle information and last captured ALPR location. The system captures still images only and no streaming video or audio clips. Local plates of interest can also be loaded into the system, for example, a vehicle suspected of involvement in a hit and run. Retention of the data is for 30 days, after which time it is deleted.

ALPR systems have proven themselves time and time again in their effectiveness to solve and deter crime. The use of this technology will continue our efforts toward comprehensive public safety strategies in Grass Valley. In the presentation, examples of the value of Grass Valley ALPR devices will be shared with Council.

Council Goals/Objectives: The execution of this action attempts to achieve Strategic Goal #1 - Exceptional Public Safety

Fiscal Impact: N/A

Funds Available: N/A

Account #: N/A

Reviewed by: Tim Kiser, City Manager