

ALPR Follow Up Questions

1. What is the full/actual cost? Please include the cost of staff implementing the ALPR program and responding to alerts.

Flock Cameras cost \$2,500 per year with an installation cost of \$350 per camera in the first year. The total cost for Los Altos, in the first year, will be determined by how many cameras are installed. If the pilot program is approved and Los Altos installs 15 cameras the cost will be \$37,500 in on going costs and \$5,250 in one-time costs.

There is not an “additional cost” for Los Altos personnel to implement Flock. Currently, Los Altos Police Officers and Communication Officers respond to numerous calls for during their shifts. The “hotlist alerts” received from ALPRs will be included as calls for service and prioritized accordingly. Calls for service through Flock OS are generated as “Hotlist Alerts” and Officers are automatically alerted through the Flock operating system that is integrated into the patrol officer’s vehicle. Officers will work to verify the alert and the call for service will be responded to based on the priority of the “hotlist alert” within the context of current calls for service. The hotlist alerts will make policing more effective and increase the number of responses on shift of Los Altos personnel, but it will not cost additional funds, as officers are on shift regardless of the number of calls for service are received.

2. Please show how ALPR program have been effective in multiple other cities and across multiple years.

Most bay area cities have experienced success with ALPR technology as it relates to crime prevention, crime solving and recovering missing at-risk persons. In addition, the Santa Clara County District Attorney has provided support for ALPR cameras (attached to this report) as they are of evidentiary value.

Agencies have recovered missing endangered persons, stolen vehicles/property, wanted persons and have solved many other criminal related incidents due to the utilization of ALPR cameras. Reports have been included in the previous presentation to Council, however, there are not longitudinal studies that staff is aware of showing the long-term outcomes or the experiences of multiple agencies. Flock does not own the data captured on ALPR cameras and therefore is unable to provide statistical data/reports.

3. Can the City require an independent auditor as part of the pilot program?

Yes, Los Altos can include an independent auditor as part of the program. However, the auditor must be cleared by CA POST (California Peace Officer Standards and Training) to receive confidential information. Because of this, the independent auditor would need to be another

Police agency or police personnel. This is not negotiable due to California law and DOJ requirements.

4. How will police officers support this tool? How will it prioritize or re-prioritize calls for service?

ALPR's help Police Officers allocate their time efficiently. As described above, the system sends automatic alerts which can lead to a response or "call for service" for Police Officers. The Communications Officer and Police Officer will determine if the call for service is a priority as compared against current activity.

As an example, if a Police Officer is responding to a noise complaint and receives an alert of a stolen vehicle, they would most likely not respond to the noise complaint but instead respond to the stolen vehicle call as it is a higher priority. If an officer were responding to a burglary call and received notification of a general "be on the lookout" through the Flock system, they would not respond to the "be on the lookout" and would continue their response to the burglary call.

This type of prioritization is common for Los Altos police department personnel and describes how calls for service are managed today. Police Officers and Communication Officers are constantly prioritizing calls for service based on where the response is most valuable to public safety. This management of calls for service does not change with the introduction of ALPR cameras. The Flock system is expected to increase calls for service, but the prioritization of calls will remain at the discretion of the responding personnel.

5. Can we have an audit policy that shows this isn't being used in a disparate manner?

Los Altos has proposed an audit component to add to the policy and as a part of the pilot program. Basic information from the audit can be made public for residents and interested parties to review, however, confidential DOJ data cannot be included in the public report.

Los Altos is committed to transparency and fairness and will not use the cameras in a disparate manner, as a matter of practice and policy. The California Department of Justice completes annual audits of all DOJ data access to ensure compliance with DOJ and legal requirements for access. The data accessed by Flock is tied into the DOJ database. DOJ database information cannot be shared with non-law enforcement entities.

6. Where are the cameras proposed to be placed?

In general, cameras will be placed at high volume intersections, entrances/exits to the city, near/around commercial business districts. Please refer to the map attached to this report, and review this list of proposed intersections:

El Camino/San Antonio
Main St at San Antonio
Foothill Expressway @ Edith Lane
El Monte Rd @O'Keefe
El Monte Rd @Springer Rd
Magdalena Ave @ Gronwall Lane
Grant Ave @ Covington Rd
Fremont Ave @Fallen Leaf Ln
Homestead Rd @ Foothill Expressway
Fremont Ave @ Miramonte Ave
Cuesta Ave @ springer Rd
Jordan ave @ el Camino
Grant Rd @ Foothill Expressway
Berry Ave @ Springer Rd
Los Altos Ave @El Camino

7. How many cameras are proposed?

Currently, staff believes 15 cameras would be appropriate to meet the goals of the pilot program as recommended in this report.

8. Please explain the impact this may have on the budget. Including opportunity cost.

The total expected fiscal impact to the City to complete the project is \$42,750. Should the Council continue the program after the first year of operation, with no changes, the on-going annual cost would be \$37,500.

As described above, officers would continue to prioritize and respond to calls as they do today. The opportunity cost, as defined by Council, is unlikely to be realized as officers currently have the capacity to respond to a higher number of calls during a shift.

9. Please provide a policy that is not in draft form, incorporates the feedback from the Council.

The updated policy, which includes feedback from Council and the public, has been submitted with the staff report.

10. Please ensure the mobile and stationary ALRP policy are congruent.

The proposed policy before Council is complete. The section addressing mobile ALPRs has been removed as this technology is not actively being used by the Los Altos Police Department.

11. Please provide the full Vallejo policy. Please provide the ACLU comments.

The City of Vallejo, like the City of Los Altos, engaged the public prior to making decisions on the use and implementation of automatic license plate readers. Vallejo sought feedback from the public and took the recommendations into account when creating their policy. Specifically, the ACLU made recommendations on limited data retention, case number, and a publicly posted policy. These recommendations are available in articles provided by ACLU and posted on their website.

Los Altos went through a similar public review process seeking feedback and accepted recommendations from civic groups to incorporate the same recommendations as the ACLU made to Vallejo. In addition to these recommendations, Los Altos also incorporated recommendations around completing an annual audit and assigning an independent agency to review use.

12. Please provide more details on the proposed pilot:

The proposed pilot will assist Los Altos PD with gathering specific evidentiary data helpful to criminal investigations. The data will be accessed to gain leads on crimes that have already occurred and will also provide real time alerts to focus our patrol officer’s crime fighting efforts more effectively. The data collection and usage will be analyzed at the 6-month mark to determine how many investigations the ALPR technology has assisted with as well as how many real time hits were received and responded to.

When a “real time” hit is responded to and the involved vehicle is located, the data will be analyzed to determine how many of those stops ended with an arrest.

The goal of the proposed pilot program is to increase arrest rates for all crimes, but for purposes of the pilot program, the focus will be on crimes involving stolen vehicles, burglary, and catalytic converter thefts.

Please see table below for total arrests and arrest by specific crime for 2020, 2021, and 2022.

Year	Total Arrests	Burglary Arrests	Grand Theft	Vehicle Theft
2020	170	4	4	3
2021	145	1	2	2
2022	133	9	3	1

13. Please provide specific information on which crimes will have solvability increase by 10%

During the last discussion it was proposed the solvability rate of specific crimes would be increased by 10% as a measurement of success of the pilot program. The term “solvability” and the metric proposed was difficult to explain as the term is not generally well known. To

simplify the goals of the pilot program, staff is recommending increasing the arrest rate on the following crimes:

- a. 10851 VC- vehicle theft
- b. 459 PC- burglary (commercial and residential)
- c. 487 PC- grand theft (includes catalytic converter)

Because the arrest rate in these three areas is low, staff is recommending an increase in arrests associated with these three crimes as an appropriate metric to measure effectiveness of ALPRs in Los Altos.

14. Please review “common crimes” in Los Altos and determine if ALPRs will have No, Low, Medium, or High impact on solvability

It is anticipated that the ALPRs will have a high impact (increased arrest rate) of the crime of vehicle theft (10851 VC) and grand theft (487 PC). These crime types involve vehicles and will be captured with this technology.

As it relates to the crime of burglary (459 PC), this type of crime is expected to have a medium impact with the installation of ALPRs. This is because these crimes are usually investigated after they have occurred. ALPR cameras will assist with the follow up investigation as well as in developing leads that will increase the likelihood of an arrest. However, it is important to note that ALPRs are an investigative tool as part of a larger investigation. It has investigative value and acts as a pointer to assist with the investigative process. They are not the only tools involved in investigating crime.

15. Please describe what success will look like

Success will mean the ALPR system has worked to assist with our investigations of crimes, both in progress and after the fact, with an increase in arrests in the crimes identified above. The pilot’s success will further be measured by strict adherence to the adopted policies and procedures, and the completion of the required audit and review by an independent agency without findings of misuse.