



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6330  
September 19, 2023  
Study Session**

**AGENDA BILL INFORMATION**

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 6330: Stationary Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) Cameras Briefing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Receive report. No action necessary.	

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Police
<b>STAFF:</b>	Ed Holmes, Police Chief Scott Schroeder, Personnel and Training Sergeant
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	n/a
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	n/a
<b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b>	n/a

<b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>	\$ n/a
<b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>	\$ n/a
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	\$ n/a

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this agenda bill is to provide information on stationary automatic license plate reader (ALPR) camera systems.

- Stationary ALPRs are being used by a growing number of cities in the region to help reduce crime.
- These camera systems record the license plates of every vehicle entering and/or leaving a jurisdiction. This information may be useful in deterring criminal activity and may also be used to investigate crimes.
- During this presentation, City staff and representatives from the Flock camera company will provide an overview of the camera systems, including the equipment, potential uses, estimated costs, and maintenance of the system.

This presentation is for information purposes only and no decision has been made to install these cameras on Mercer Island. Should the City Council wish to consider implementation of a stationary ALPR system, the City Manager recommends directing the staff to bring this forward in 2024 for consideration as part of the 2025-2026 biennial budget process.

## ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Over the past several years a number of community members have expressed interest in the City installing stationary ALPR cameras to record vehicular traffic entering and leaving Mercer Island. This presentation was prepared to share information with the City Council and the community on stationary ALPR camera systems. City staff and representatives from the Flock camera company will provide an overview of the camera systems, including the equipment, potential uses, estimated costs, and maintenance of the system.

Stationary ALPR cameras are fixed cameras that would continually record license plates entering and exiting the Island. The data is then stored in the cloud for review, and alerts are sent out for detected stolen plates.

Stationary ALPR cameras on the Island's on and off ramps along I-90 could enhance public safety for the community. For example, data from the cameras could alert officers when stolen vehicles enter the Island. They could also provide additional information on possible suspect vehicles related to crimes that have occurred in the community. Additionally, these cameras could have a crime prevention effect, as everyone who enters or leaves the Island would be notified by posted signs that their license plate has been recorded.

The City already has ALPR cameras on three patrol vehicles, which have proven helpful in identifying stolen vehicles and with parking enforcement.

### Policy and Implementation Considerations

While stationary ALPR cameras provide a public safety benefit, they may also prompt concerns from those who wish to safeguard their privacy. Capturing license plate data every time a vehicle enters or leaves the Island may be concerning for those who are not comfortable with government capturing this type of information. Implementation of a stationary ALPR system would require development of policies related to how the information is used, records retention, and more.

In addition to policy development, several issues must be further explored, including identification of funding for implementation and ongoing operating costs, including staffing needs, auditing, and records retention.

This presentation was prepared to provide information to the City Council and the community on the ALPR camera systems. No decision has been made to install these cameras on Mercer Island.

## NEXT STEPS

Should the City Council wish to consider implementation of a stationary ALPR system, the City Manager recommends directing the staff to bring this forward in 2024 for consideration as part of the 2025-2026 biennial budget process.

## RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive report. No action necessary.