PASADENA

# Police Department Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Program

GENE HARRIS, POLICE CHIEF

# Recommendation

Police Department

- Provide policy direction on the Pasadena Police Department Automated License Plate Reader program through 2028

# Background



- July 17, 2023 – Council authorized Contract no. 32679 for PPD ALPR program not to exceed $631,350. Contract provides for initial two-year term and two optional one-year extensions.

- May 19, 2025 – Council approved acceptance and appropriation of $34,390 in Justice Assistance Grant funds for additional ALPR cameras.

# Background

Police Department

- March 18, 2026, discussion occurred with the Public Safety Committee as an informational item, “Flock Update” .

- May 20, 2026, information item discussion with Public Safety Committee, instruction to staff to bring the discussion before the full City Council.

# Community Brief Fact Sheet

Police Department

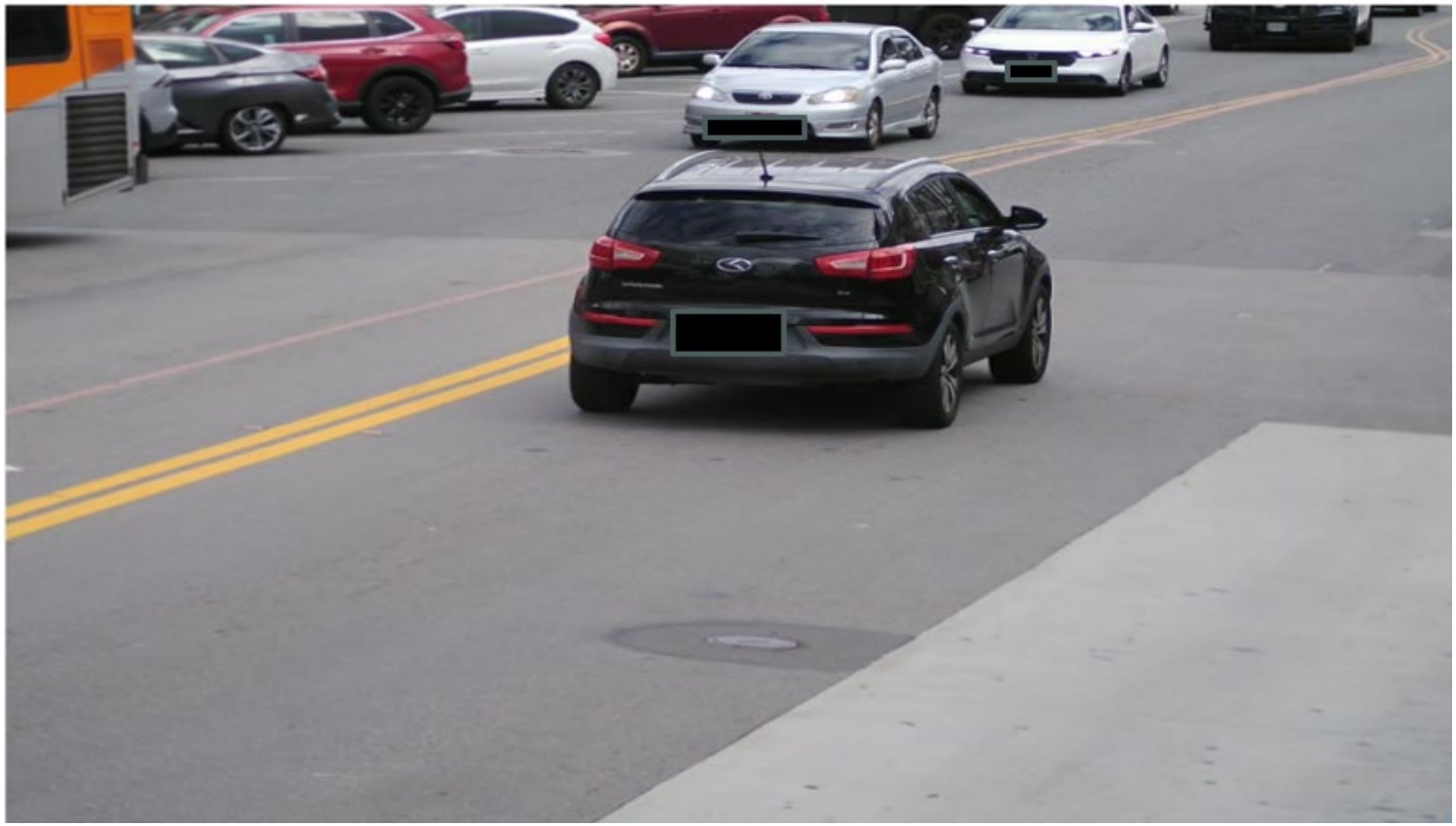
- Police Department ALPR Community Brief Fact Sheet
  - Why Pasadena uses ALPR Technology
  - What an ALPR does and does not do
  - An ALPR alert is an investigation starting point
    - Not a determination of guilt
  - Investigative Value
    - Timely information to establish facts
    - Clear innocent people
    - Crime Clearance Rates

# Image

## Police Department

#30 Colorado Blvd @ Fair Oaks - EB

CA - Pasadena PD • OCR: 1.00 • 11/16/2026, 11:17:38 AM PST





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# Image

## Police Department

#43 Corson St @ Fair Oaks Ave - EB

CA - Pasadena PD • OCR: 1.00 • 11/16/2026, 11:18:22 AM PST





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# Community Brief Fact Sheet

Police Department

- Police Department ALPR Community Brief Fact Sheet (continued)
  - Real world cases
  - Decline in shootings and homicides
  - Major Events & Public Safety
  - Privacy
  - Safeguards
  - Accountability

# Council Minutes May 20, 2026

- Council & Community concerns
  - > 17 speakers voiced concerns about cameras or made related comments
  - > 1 speaker in support
  - > Support for system but change vendor
  - > Privacy concerns
  - > Safeguard concerns
  - > Accountability concerns

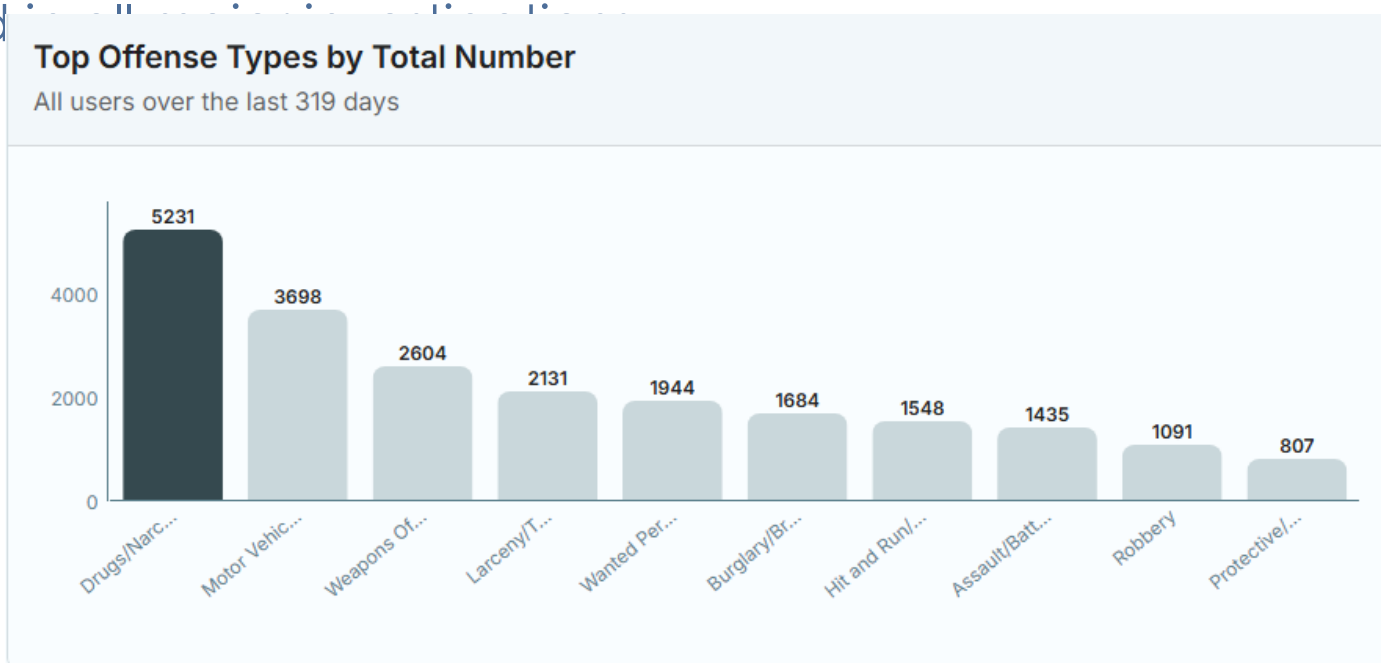
# Council Minutes May 20, 2026

- Council & Community concerns continued
  - > Support for terminating contract without replacing vendor
  - > Concern with Vendor - Flock sharing data with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement
  - > Support for shorter or amended retention
  - > Support for continue use and adjusting program
  - > Form letter(s) request "Put safety over surveillance and cut ties with Flock"

# ALPR Searches

Police Department

- Pasadena's ALPR program demonstrated investigative value
  - > Minutes Matter - 2026 cases
  - > Documented investigations
  - > Used






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# ALPR Searches

| Rank | Offense Type | Number of Searches |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Drugs/Narcotics | 5,231 |
| 2 | Motor Vehicle Theft/Stolen | 3,698 |
| 3 | Weapons Offense (Guns/Shots Fired) | 2,604 |
| 4 | Larceny/Theft Offenses | 2,131 |
| 5 | Wanted Person (Arrest Warrant/Fugitive) | 1,944 |
| 6 | Burglary/Breaking & Entering | 1,684 |
| 7 | Hit and Run/Car Accident | 1,548 |
| 8 | Assault/Battery Offenses | 1,435 |
| 9 | Robbery | 1,091 |
| 10 | Protective/Protection Order | 807 |

# ALPR Safeguards

Police Department

- The Police Department has established meaningful safeguards
  - restricted access
  - regular audits
    - Monthly Department Audits
    - Automatic Audit Assistance to flag unusual activity (daily)
    - Yearly audit in conjunction with the IPA
  - limited data retention
    - 30-day data retention
      - Can be configured longer or shorter
  - transparency regarding information sharing

# ALPR Safeguards



- Independent Police Auditor and Community Oversight Commission
  - > July 2026 Report ALPR Policy Recommendation
  - > New technology ad-hoc Committee
- Extension request through Feb 2028 allows us
  - > Begin a new RFP while still having a system in place for public safety
  - > DOJ grant for expansion will expire September 2027
- Moving forward together
  - > System constantly evolving to meet new community needs
  - > Camera placement, data retention period, and data sharing are all controlled by department and can be changed

# Fiscal Impact

Police Department

- The included extensions through February 2028 are not to exceed $152,500. Funding for this action will be addressed by the utilization of existing budgeted appropriations.

# Policy Options

## Police Department

- **Option 1** - Continue Existing Program and Safeguards. Maintain the existing 30-day retention period, current California law-enforcement sharing settings, auditing, case-code requirements, and existing privacy safeguards.

- **Option 2** - Continue with Enhanced Oversight and Transparency. Maintain ALPR operations while continuing monthly audits, broader periodic system reviews, formal review of sharing relationships, use of Audit Assist, collaboration with the Independent Police Auditor, standardized outcome tracking, periodic Public Safety Committee reporting, and enhancement of existing public-facing transparency resources.

# Policy Options

Police Department

- **Option 3** - Modify Retention or Sharing Parameters. Direct PPD to evaluate a shorter retention period, additional offense-based sharing restrictions, or other modifications while preserving ALPR capability for Pasadena investigations.

- **Option 4** - Further Restrict Interagency Sharing. Maintain Pasadena's cameras for PPD use while limiting some or all external California law-enforcement access. This would increase local control but reduce reciprocal regional investigative capability.

# Policy Options

## Police Department

- **Option 5** - Continue Through the Currently Paid Service Period and Evaluate Alternatives. Decline to exercise the final one-year Flock extension while continuing operation of the existing system through the service period associated with the February 2026 payment. During this period, direct PPD to conduct an RFI and evaluate alternative ALPR systems, costs, privacy safeguards, data-sharing controls, and transition requirements. PPD would have no Flock ALPR capabilities after February 2027.

- **Option 6** - Immediately Discontinue the Flock ALPR Program effective November 2026. This option would eliminate the existing Flock capability before expiration of the currently paid service period and would result in prepaid services remaining unused, with Finance advising that the General Fund would need to reimburse the Asset Forfeiture Fund for that amount. It would also require development of alternative investigative resources and consideration of the approximately $34,000 in grant funding associated with the pending expansion.

# Questions

