Agenda Report

November 17, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Police Department

SUBJECT: **PROVIDE POLICY DIRECTION ON THE PASADENA POLICE DEPARTMENT AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READER (ALPR) PROGRAM THROUGH 2028**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Provide policy direction to staff regarding services with Flock Group Inc. DBA Flock Safety (Flock) as described in this Agenda Report and in the attached Department ALPR Community Briefing Fact Sheet.

BACKGROUND:

On July 17, 2023, the City Council authorized Contract No. 32679 for the Pasadena Police Department's Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) program in an amount not to exceed $631,350. The contract provides for an initial two-year term and two optional one-year extensions.

On May 19, 2025, the City Council approved the acceptance and appropriation of $34,390 in Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant funds for the addition of ALPR cameras at selected intersections throughout the City.

On May 20, 2026, a discussion occurred with the Public Safety Committee as an informational item, "Flock Update", with instruction to bring the discussion before the full City Council.

The ALPR program assists the Department in identifying vehicles associated with criminal investigations, recovering stolen vehicles, and locating wanted or missing persons. Attachment A, the Department's ALPR Community Briefing Fact Sheet,

provides information on investigative results, operational benefits, and privacy safeguards.

Payment for the Flock system is made annually and is currently paid through February 2027. Pursuant to the City Council's action in 2023, authority and discretion to exercise the renewal options through February 2028 were delegated to the City Manager. The agreement provides for an amount not to exceed $152,500, to continue operation of the existing ALPR program through approximately February 2028.

The following are safeguards or provisions in place for the Flock services:

- Access is limited to trained, authorized personnel; searches require a documented investigative purpose and case or event identifier.
- Pasadena retains ALPR data for 30 days and controls access and sharing. The Pasadena Police Department decides which authorized California law enforcement agencies receive access; nationwide and out-of-state sharing are disabled.
- Pasadena Police Department prohibits ALPR searches for immigration enforcement, reproductive-health investigations, consistent with California law and Department policy.
- Pasadena Police Department reviews system access and search logs, conducts audits and investigates potential misuse under Department procedures.
- Officers verify ALPR alerts and independently establish a lawful basis before taking enforcement action.

Flock Safety announced in August 2026 that it was reducing its recommended default retention period from 30 days to 7 days. The transition is not automatic for existing customers but does allow the city the opportunity to re-evaluate current retention practices. The decision to retain ALPR data for seven versus 30 days involves balancing operational effectiveness, investigative needs, public safety, privacy considerations, and responsible data management.

Additionally, a key point of clarification are the search results, reports, and data that has been shared publicly either by Pasadena or other agencies. To recap, outside agencies submitting for queries to search another agency's ALPR camera network, previously had the option to include free form text regarding their search reason. The searches and documented reasoning would appear, as entered, in the Network Audit information. This explains why a requesting agency's free text search reasons appeared on Pasadena's Network Audit regardless of whether or not Pasadena Police Department provided access to our data.

In response, Flock introduced across its platform, a required standardized Offense Type dropdown box to be completed by the requesting agency for search documentation purposes. The offense type will replace the free text reason for the search and in the displayed Network Audit information.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The recommended action advances the City Council's strategic goal of ensuring public safety while maintaining established access controls, auditing, retention limits, and restrictions on data sharing. The Department recommends continuation based on documented investigative outcomes and the public-safety value of retaining the existing capability.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), the "Common Sense" exemption, which provides that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Such is the case with the proposed continuation of the ALPR program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

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.

Respectfully submitted,

EUGENE HARRIS
Chief of Police

Prepared by:

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Police Civilian Commander

Approved by:

for MATTHEW E. HAWKESWORTH
Interim City Manager
(ROSA RIGMAN ACM)

Attachments: (2)

Attachment A: Pasadena Police Department ALPR Community Briefing Fact Sheet

Attachment B: May 20, 2026, Public Safety Committee Minutes with ALPR Overview Presentation