



Memorandum

TO: Police Advisory Committee

FROM: Kristina Bell, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Annual ALPR Report - 2024

DATE: May 1, 2025

Approved: _____

Date: _____

Background

This report provides an overview of the use of the Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) system by the Redwood City Police Department for the 2024 calendar year. This report includes an operational summary, audit results, and responses to any concerns or complaints, as required by policy. The purpose of this report is to maintain transparency and ensure public accountability in our use of this technology.

Summary of ALPR System Usage and Purpose

The ALPR system is utilized to enhance public safety by aiding in the identification of stolen vehicles, tracking vehicles associated with criminal activity, and supporting investigations involving wanted suspects. It also helps monitor traffic patterns and support various law enforcement efforts, including the recovery of vehicles involved in serious offenses or missing persons reports.

In 2024, the ALPR system was deployed in a variety of ways, including:

- **Patrol and Investigations**
All personnel utilized ALPR technology on nearly every call where a vehicle was involved in criminal activity. This resulted in an average of 1,376 searches each month.
- **Hotlist Hits**
The ALPR was linked to a "hotlist" of vehicles associated with criminal activity, facilitating the rapid identification and location of suspect vehicles. The system alerted us to 415 vehicles that were entered by RCPD. The system alerted us to 15,273 vehicles entered by partner law enforcement agencies.
- **Stolen Vehicles**
The system alerted us to 748 stolen vehicle hits and 24 felony vehicle hits.

Network Audit Report

- Number of Officers Using the ALPR System
During the past year, 86 officers and professional staff were trained and authorized to use the ALPR system across various shifts. This was done in alignment with operational requirements and department procedures.
- Frequency of ALPR System Use
The ALPR system was used 16,517 times during the year, with an average of 1,376 activations per month.

Results of Internal Audits and Violations

- Internal Audits
Regular internal audits were conducted to ensure compliance with ALPR usage policies and standards. Audits are conducted approximately once per month and involve a random review of 100 incidents of search activity.
- Policy Violations
During the reporting period, an average of 3-5 violations of the ALPR use policy were identified during each audit. The only violations identified involved users failing to provide adequate detail in the “reason” section describing the search. There were no other violations noted, no violations for improper purposes, and in all cases the employee was authorized to conduct the search.
- Actions Taken
Employees who did not provide an adequate search reason were notified and advised of the appropriate responses. The department remains committed to continuous improvement in system use and compliance and will implement progressively stronger corrective actions for repeat violations.

Complaints or Concerns Regarding ALPR System Use

- Complaints Received
The department received zero complaints regarding ALPR use during the reporting period.
- Resolution and Response
Not Applicable.

Transparency Portal

As part of our ongoing commitment to transparency, we have made the following available to the public at <https://transparency.flocksafety.com/redwood-city-ca-pd> :

- ALPR Policy
The Redwood City Police Department's policy governing the use of ALPR technology is publicly available on the Transparency Portal.
- Prohibited Uses
Clear guidelines outlining prohibited uses of ALPR data are accessible, ensuring that the technology is used responsibly and ethically.
- Data Transparency
The portal provides real-time data showing the number of vehicles detected and the number of hotlist hits within the most recent 30 days.

Case Highlights Where Flock was Used

Child Annoyance:

In April 2024, a 14-year-old victim was walking home from school when she was approached by a 46-year-old man who pulled alongside her in his car. Despite the victim stating she was only 14 years old, the suspect attempted to get the victim's phone number so he could call her. When she refused to move closer to his vehicle he sped away. The suspect vehicle was captured on nearby video surveillance cameras, but no license plate was obtained. Utilizing only a description of the vehicle, Detectives conducted various searches of the Flock Safety database. A match was located which revealed the license plate. This information led Detectives to identify the suspect which resulted in an arrest. Without the Flock Safety cameras, RCPD would likely not have been able to identify the suspect through any other means.

Homicide Investigation:

In September 2024, a white Tesla dropped off a gunshot victim to a local hospital and fled the scene. An image of the vehicle was obtained but no license plate information was captured. With only a vehicle description, Detectives were able to conduct a search of the Flock Safety database and locate a possible match. This led to investigative leads and the identification of the vehicle involved in a short amount of time. Without this tool, RCPD may not have been able to identify this vehicle at all, or it would have required significant time and resources to do so.

Domestic Violence:

In November 2024, a domestic violence incident occurred between a husband and wife. The victim received significant bruising as a result. The suspect fled prior to police arrival and was outstanding; however, the suspect vehicle was known to officers and was entered into the "hotlist." The next day, RCPD officers received an alert from Flock Safety indicating that the suspect vehicle was approximately half a mile from the victim's home. Officers immediately responded to the area and arrested the suspect before he could return to the residence.

These cases represent just a small sample of instances where the Flock ALPR system served as a valuable investigative tool in solving crimes and enhancing community safety.

Committee Questions

The Department would like the Police Advisory Committee to:

- Share any questions regarding the ALPR data from 2024; and
- Make suggestions regarding effective community engagement on this topic.

Conclusion

The Redwood City Police Department remains committed to using ALPR technology responsibly and transparently. Through regular audits, public transparency efforts, and responsive actions to concerns and complaints, we aim to foster trust and ensure that ALPR data is used only for its intended public safety purposes.



Kristina Bell
Chief of Police

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