



Memorandum

TO: Police Advisory Committee

FROM: Kristina Bell, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Annual ALPR Report - 2025

DATE: August 12, 2026

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 2025 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, finding 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 2025, 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 1,526 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. Flock Safety does not retain custom "hotlist" entries beyond 30 days. In 2025, the system generated 19,056 hotlist alerts from entries associated with the Stolen Vehicle System (SVS) and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (AMBER Alerts).

- Stolen Vehicles
The system alerted us to 336 stolen vehicle hits and 37 felony vehicle hits.

Audit Report

- Number of Officers Using the ALPR System
During the reporting period, 122 officers and professional staff were trained and authorized to use the ALPR system across various assignments, in alignment with operational requirements and department policy. This represents an increase from the previous year, attributable to the addition of per diem staff and newly hired personnel.
- Frequency of ALPR System Use
The ALPR system was used 17,436 times during the reporting period, with an average of approximately 1,453 activations per month. These figures represent an estimated total based on retrievable data.

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 1-5 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 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.
- Public Records Act (PRA) Requests Received

The department received five (5) Public Records Act (PRA) requests related to ALPR usage during the reporting period. All requests were reviewed and processed in accordance with applicable laws and department policy.

- 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

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.

Case Highlight #1 – Missing At-Risk Adult Located Safely

On August 22, 2025, officers responded to a report of a missing at-risk adult after a caregiver reported that a 90-year-old female had become separated while driving home during nighttime hours. Due to concerns regarding the individual's age, nighttime visibility limitations, and inability to contact her, officers initiated an extensive search effort which included regional broadcasts, notifications to surrounding agencies, and a Silver Alert request.

Using the Flock Group ALPR system, officers were able to identify the vehicle traveling through a neighboring jurisdiction several hours after the initial report. Responding officers checked the surrounding area associated with the ALPR camera hit and ultimately located the missing individual safely at a local hotel after she became lost while attempting to drive home. Officers conducted a welfare check and safely reunited the individual with her residence.

Case Highlight #2 – Domestic Violence / Kidnapping Investigation

In August 2025, officers responded to reports of a disturbance involving a male and female near a residential neighborhood within Redwood City. Witnesses reported observing a male subject forcefully remove a female driver from a vehicle, damage the windshield, force the female back into the vehicle, and flee the area. Additional witnesses later reported hearing the female screaming for help from inside the moving vehicle.

Officers quickly identified the involved vehicle and learned the suspect had a prior history involving similar violent conduct and an active restraining order involving the victim. Utilizing witness statements, surveillance footage, and the Flock Group ALPR system, officers were able to find the vehicle's direction of travel through neighboring jurisdictions.

A county-wide broadcast combined with ALPR camera notifications ultimately assisted law enforcement personnel in locating the suspect vehicle parked in a nearby city. Officers safely located both occupants, and the suspect was taken into custody without incident.

Case Highlight #3 – Stolen Vehicle Recovery / Firearm Arrest

In July 2025, dispatch broadcasted an ALPR alert involving a stolen vehicle traveling within Redwood City. An officer in the area located the vehicle stopped near parked cars along a city roadway. Upon noticing the patrol vehicle, the driver initially appeared to pull over before fleeing at a high rate of speed. Consistent with Department policy, the officer broadcasted the vehicle's direction of travel and did not initiate a pursuit.

Using information provided through the Flock Group ALPR system and coordinated law enforcement communication, allied agencies were able to locate the stolen vehicle in a neighboring jurisdiction. The vehicle eventually crashed, and officers detained multiple occupants. During the investigation, a loaded firearm was recovered from one of the subjects involved. The investigating officer later responded to assist with the identification of the driver.

This incident highlights the value of ALPR technology in identifying stolen vehicles, supporting coordinated multi-agency responses, and assisting in the safe apprehension of suspects involved in criminal activity while reducing the need for vehicle pursuits.

Committee Questions

The Department would like the Police Advisory Committee to:

- Share any questions regarding the ALPR data from 2025; and
- Make suggestions regarding effective community engagement on this topic.
- Identify any concerns related to privacy, data security, or the use of ALPR technology

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.

KB:DV

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'KBell', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Kristina Bell
Chief of Police