



Flock Safety Camera Program Update

- 23 Flock Safety Cameras in the Homeacres Neighborhood

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Department of Resource Management

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Summary

- BOS approval in Sept. 2023 of 2-year pilot project to contract for 23 Flock safety cameras in the Homeares Neighborhood.
- Operation of the safety cameras is in accordance with the Solano County Sheriff's Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) practices.
- This program has been successful, and the community supports its continuation. The current agreement will conclude in October.
- Due to the program's success, staff are recommending the Board approve an extension of the pilot for two additional years totaling \$138,000.



Summary Continued

- Prior to pilot program launch, staff distributed 550 surveys to residents in the area to gauge interest in various housing rehabilitation and safety programs.
 - The proposed pilot program to install and use Flock Safety Cameras received strong community support.

- The funding to continue this effort will come from a reduction in committed funds to the Home Rehabilitation and Neighborhood Safety Program which was also authorized by the Board from this funding source.
 - This is being recommended by staff due to lower than anticipated participation in the rehabilitation program (5 loans made, to date).



Discussion: Data Results

- In the first full year of operation (2024), the Flock Safety Cameras have been very successful.
 - Total "hits" in 2024: **6,412** (*A hit indicates recognition of a wanted license plate*).
 - 3,347 custom hotlist hits (*Plates entered by an officer both in and out of jurisdiction*)
 - 2,945 lost or stolen license plates
 - 118 stolen vehicles
 - 2 felony vehicles
 - In 2024, the 23 cameras in Homeacres were used by the Sherriff's Department to solve 34 cases, leading to 16 arrests.



Discussion: Data Use, Protection and Privacy

Some key points about the Flock Group, Inc. safety camera system and the Sheriff Office's implementation of the program include:

- Data Use: The Sheriff utilizes real time alerting of "hotlist" vehicles to capture wanted criminals. All system access requires a valid reason and access actions are stored indefinitely.
- Data Protection: Flock Group, Inc. does not access, share or sell data. The data is owned by the Sheriff's Office, who retains full control of who it is shared with and uses it for law enforcement purposes only. Data is never sold to 3rd parties and all data is retained for no more than 30 days.
- Protection of Individual Privacy: The cameras use "vehicle fingerprint" technology to capture objective evidence on a vehicle such as license plates and unique vehicle markings and attachments. There is no facial recognition or information collected on people, gender or race.
- To address American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) concerns, collected data is to be shared only upon written authorization from the Sheriff's Office and will not be used for immigration enforcement, purposes related to gender affirming care or reproductive care, traffic enforcement, harassment or intimidation, usage based solely on protected class (i.e. race, sex, religion), or for personal use. If any misuse were detected, the Sheriff's Office can turn off access to granted users or agencies.



Recommendation

The Department of Resource Management recommends the Board:

- 1) Receive an update on the pilot Flock Camera program;
and
- 2) Consider approving an amendment totaling \$138,000 for two additional years of service with Flock Group, Inc. for the continued operation of 23 Flock Safety cameras in the Homeacres neighborhood in Southeast Vallejo.