
From: RICHARD KENNEDY
Sent: Saturday, May 25, 2024 2:03 PM
To: City Council
Subject: license plate readers

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Hi MVCC,

I'd like to voice my support for the police department's proposal to install license plate readers in our city.

Too often law enforcement lack the necessary tools to combat rising crime and the LP readers will give our local police one more device they can utilize to catch the bad guys.

I've lived in Mountain View for over 25 years and have seen an uptick in crime in my neighborhood in that past few months including numerous car break-ins right around the corner from where I live. Let's support our local police and approved the funding for the LP readers!

Thank you!

Richard Kennedy

From: LELAND PANEC
Sent: Saturday, May 25, 2024 5:34 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Funding for automated license plate readers

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Subject: Funding for automated license plate readers

Hello,

My husband, three daughters and I have lived in the city of Mountain View for 32 years. My husband has had his own business in Mountain View for over 40 years. I was a nurse for 27 years at El Camino Hospital in our beloved city of Mountain View.

The safety of our police officers is near and dear to our hearts.

These license plate readers can surely make a difference and expedite getting crucial information to make necessary decisions and or arrests.

The funding of these license plate readers must take priority as it will only help MVPD protect our city.

Colleen and Lee Panec

~~ Sent from my iPhone

From: Paul Donahue
Sent: Sunday, May 26, 2024 10:26 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Flock Public Safety Cameras (item 6.2)

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I would like to share my thoughts on implementing automated license plate readers in Mountain View. While such technology can be useful to immediately identify stolen vehicles, I have concerns about any retention of vehicle location information for the vast majority of vehicles that are not on a Hot List and that are not suspected of being involved in any criminal activity.

Section 460.6 of the proposed ALPR policy says both that records should be retained for one year and that they will be purged after 30 days. This contradiction needs to be addressed, ideally with the shortest retention period possible.

The policy on data sharing is vague. Does section 460.9 of the policy allow other agencies to make bulk data requests or requests for ongoing data sharing? Can Mountain View's ALPR data be shared with a regional [fusion center](#)? Although the policy and the California Values Act prohibit our sharing of data for immigration enforcement purposes, there are other controversial uses for which out-of-state agencies may not have the same values as Mountain View. Policy 460 would not require the requesting agency to adhere to any particular policies or standards. For instance, the requesting agency may be able to further share the data with third parties, particularly if Mountain View shares data with a federal agency that is not subject to any of the California laws cited in the policy.

While I know that ALPR technology is being deployed by other cities in our area, I urge you to ask tough questions before deploying it here. At the least, I request that you reject staff recommendation #2, instead requiring the contract renewal to come back to the City Council next year along with a report on its effectiveness and a summary of how the data has been shared.

Thanks,

-Paul Donahue

From: Margaret Davidson
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 10:52 AM
To: City Council
Subject: flock cameras

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I don't like the idea of using flock cameras at all. There is already way too much surveillance of everyone and I can't abide the idea that police will have more power over us than they already have.

Margaret Davidson

Mountain View resident

From: Linda Schoenstein
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 1:24 PM
To: City Council
Subject: automated license plate readers

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Hello,

I support the police department's proposal for the funding for automated license plate readers. It is imperative that our police officers have the lawful tools available to them to fight crime, get criminals off the street and into jail, recover stolen cars, and keep our community and citizens safe. By providing this tool, they will stay ahead of the curve and keep up with other local law enforcement agencies that already have it in place. Based on our police department's well established professionalism, I trust they will use this valuable tool ethically while protecting the rights of its citizens.

As a long-time Mountain View resident I support the police department's efforts to secure funding for automated license plate readers.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Schoenstein

From: Serge Bonte >
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 2:04 PM
To: City Council
Cc: Arango, Ed; Canfield, Michael
Subject: re: 5/28/24 Meeting - Agenda Item 6.2 - Flok Cameras

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Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

I won't be able to attend your meeting (in person nor virtually) but wanted to share a few comments on that agenda item,

1. Privacy

I am definitely concerned with the information being accessed by other agencies (out of state agencies tracking down pregnant individuals, ICE....). So please ensure you have the tightest protections around that; My suggestion would be to have a truly independent PSAB acting more as an auditor rather than just being informed in a yearly report.

That said, license plate numbers are already routinely collected outside of FLOK and MVPD (should the vendor be selected by Mountain View).

- Santa Cruz eliminated all paper in their parking garages; a camera reads your license plate when you enter and upon exit displays the amount due by your vehicle. I have no idea who holds that data (parking garage vendor, city of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Police Department...)
- Many cities use mobile ALPR to enforce parking (I believe Palo Alto does so for their neighborhood parking permit). Who holds that data and who can access it?
- Express lanes (even in Mountain View) or Bridges all capture license plate information to send a bill or allow payment in case you forgot your EZ PASS transponder. Who has that data and who can access it?
- that information is also collected by countless private individuals (for instance, Teslas have a dozen cameras, some of them able to see license plates)/ How do we control how long that data is kept or what private individuals (or private automakers like Tesla) do with that information?

2. Missed Opportunity?

Having worked professionally in that space, I know that surveillance cameras can be very valuable to Cities for many other non law enforcement needs: measuring all modes of traffic (counts, speeds) is a key data point for public works and planners, detecting incidents as they occur (crash, inanimate objects on a road or on tracks...) can save vital minutes for an emergency crew to get on the scene....

I feel that if MVPD installs some cameras on our streets, there should be some outreach to other departments to see if their needs can also be met with these cameras. At a minimum, you should demand FLOK to provide a vehicle count log (if their system can correctly identify the model/make of a car and its license plate, it ought to be able to add them up:). This would be invaluable information for Mountain View's public works and planning department; it might eliminate the need to contract some of the North Bayshore traffic counts.

I would also encourage you to see what other analytics can be added to the FLOK system (capturing vehicle speed would be very valuable when planning road diets, traffic calming..., counting bikes and pedestrians, and again scene analysis to detect crashes or dangerous situations (large objects obstructing a lane of traffic)).

Sincerely,

Serge Bonte

From: Katie Zoglin
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 2:41 PM
To: City Council
Cc: KATHRYN ZOGLIN
Subject: City Council Meeting May 28, 2024; Agenda Item #6.2 (Flock Pubic Safety Cameras)

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Dear Mayor Showalter and and Members of the City Council:

I am a long-term resident of Mountain View and am writing in my personal capacity.

I oppose the proposal that the City of Mountain View enter into an agreement with Flock Safety for automated license plate recognition cameras. As an initial matter, I do not wish to live in a society that is a "surveillance state" or that has this type of camera.

As a former prosecutor, I support law enforcement and its ability to protect the community. I have represented law enforcement departments and individual officers in my past jobs (such as with the San Jose City Attorney's Office and Santa Clara County Counsel's Office). However, I see this proposal as a solution in search of a problem.

I am skeptical of the efficacy of the cameras and see the costs as outweighing the benefits. The staff report addresses "potential benefits." The references to Morgan Hill and Milpitas provide conclusions but no information backing up those conclusions. The staff report provides five examples of when the cameras were used but the examples do not indicate whether the crimes were solved solely due to the cameras.

In addition, the assurances regarding the limitations on the release of ALPR data are overstated and not legally accurate. If a court orders the release of the information, the City would need to comply with the court order. The court order could be for a civil case and it is possible (although rare) that a subpoena could come from an out-of-state jurisdiction.

I realize this may not be an easy decision. I appreciate your time and consideration of my comments.
Sincerely,
Katie Zoglin

From: Derek and Julie Sousa
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 4:39 PM
To: City Council
Subject: May 28 Council Meeting: Automated License Plate Reader Proposal

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Members of the Mountain View City Council,

My name is Julie Sousa and I have been a resident of Mountain View since 1992. I understand that the MVPD seeks to install automated license plate readers at strategic points in the city to assist in its ability to fight crime, locate wanted persons, identify suspect vehicle entering and exiting the city and to assist other local police agencies with similar duties. (See MV Voice May 2024)

Our family supports the police department's proposal for the funding of automated license plate readers. It is imperative that our police officers have the lawful tools and current technology available to fight crime and keep our community and citizens safe. With several other Bay Area agencies implementing this tool, our police department needs the same ability to address our community's law enforcement needs. I have read several articles about this tool and the arguments for and against it. I believe our police department has a well established history of professionalism and that they will use this valuable tool ethically while protecting the Constitutional rights of its citizens.

As long-time Mountain View residents and retired law enforcement professionals (police and prosecution), we support the police department's efforts to secure funding for automated license plate readers.

Thank you for your service and your attention to this important matter,

Julie and Derek Sousa

From: Sue Graham
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 4:53 PM
To: City Council
Subject: City Council Meeting May 28, 2024; Agenda Item #6.2 (Flock Pubic Safety Cameras)

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Dear Mayor Showalter and Members of the City Council:

As a resident of Mountain View I am writing to speak against the installation of the 24 Flock Safety Automated License Plate Recognition cameras for the following reasons.

1. They will cost the city close to \$100,000 a year. There are no data in the proposal that shows that cities like our have lowered their crime rate or solved more crimes. Los Altos Hills have had their ALPERS in for two years and are lobbying their city council to hire more sheriffs. The ALPERS cameras have not reduced crime nor deterred it.
2. I think the fact that the contract can be renewed without going to city council does not reflect democracy. Decisions of this importance should be done by our elected officials.
3. The fact that the number of cameras can be increased by the city manager also takes important fiscal responsibility out of the hands of our elected officials and gives it to city and police staff.
4. As a city, there must be a number of cars that traverse our streets at night and to say that when a robbery occurs, police will be able to match the robbery with the thief and his car based on the cameras seems a stretch. If the thief is driving a stolen car, then identifying the license plate won't lead the police to the thief.
5. One of the selling points is that once thieves know that Mountain View has ALPER cameras, they will avoid our city. It is more likely they will avoid the main roads and cameras and enter our city on small residential streets without cameras.

We are being pressured to install these cameras because other towns are doing it, but I have yet to see any hard data that shows that they reduce crime or help solve crimes.

I urge you to vote no. We can wait another year to see if ALPERS cameras really do reduce crime in nearby cities.

Thank you,
Sue Graham

From: David Shreni
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 10:56 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Flock Camera

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Dear Councilmembers,

According to the MVPD, there have been 21 reported burglaries, auto thefts and vehicle thefts **so far in 2024**...just in this 500-yard circle surrounding our Cuesta Park neighborhood. And those are just the reported crimes. Given the chatter in our neighborhood email list, I'd imagine the reporting rate is half of the actual amount of crime. I know of several that don't appear on the reported map below.

Cuesta Park, with its closeness to SR-237 and 85, is a lovely target for thieves and burglars. No El Camino potholes for them, the ramp to a highway is just a block away.

While I imagine the opportunity for police abuse is there, no system is perfect, and this is a technology that could help our residents and the police immensely (probably more than a \$15 million dollar private gun range). Please join the 500+ other cameras in our area and move forward with this.

David

21 Crimes Found



