

11. Automated License Plate Recognition System

Department(s):

Recommended Action: Receive and file.



City of Santa Ana
20 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana, CA 92701
Staff Report
April 15, 2025

TOPIC: Automated License Plate Recognition System

AGENDA TITLE

Automated License Plate Recognition System

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive and file.

GOVERNMENT CODE §84308 APPLIES: No

DISCUSSION

Pursuant to California Senate Bill 34 (2015), a public agency that operates or intends to operate an Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) system shall provide an opportunity for public comment at a regularly scheduled public meeting of the governing body of the public agency before implementing the program. This staff report is to provide the information regarding the Police Department's intent to procure and use an ALPR system and to allow for the public to provide comment.

The Santa Ana Police Department strives to provide effective police services with integrity, respect, and compassion while fostering strong partnerships with the community it serves. Utilizing available technology that aligns with the City's law enforcement practices remains a top priority. To further this priority, staff intends to adopt an ALPR program in the City of Santa Ana to significantly enhance the Police Department's capabilities by automatically scanning and processing thousands of license plates daily.

This technology allows officers to focus on community engagement and proactive policing while the system efficiently gathers data on vehicle movements. With current staffing deficits within the Police Department, an ALPR program will help close the gap in service by leveraging technology to support policing efforts to effectively respond to and investigate criminal incidents. ALPR technology can assist in the swift identification of vehicles associated with criminal activity and help recover missing persons. This rapid response capability can deter crime and improve overall community safety.

Implementing ALPR technology in Santa Ana can enhance trust within the community by ensuring that policing efforts are data-driven and focused on actual crime trends, while reducing police contacts perceived to be prejudicial or arbitrary. The ability to gather timely and specific vehicle data can determine whether or not police personnel can obtain crucial evidence to assist in bringing justice to victims of crime in our city.

Staff intends to bring agreements for ALPR equipment and software for City Council consideration at a future meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

There is no environmental impact associated with this action.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

EXHIBIT(S)

None

Submitted By: Robert Rodriguez, Police Chief

Approved By: Alvaro Nuñez, City Manager