



Village of Winnetka

Village Council Study Session

June 14, 2022 at 7:00 PM
Village Hall
510 Green Bay Road

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Public Comments**
- 3. Discussion**
 - a. Automated License Plate Readers
- 4. Adjournment**



Agenda Item Executive Summary

TITLE: Automated License Plate Readers

PRESENTER: Marc Hornstein

AGENDA DATE: June 14, 2022

CONSENT: No

ITEM TYPE: New Business

ITEM HISTORY:

None.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Public safety and crime prevention remain the core priorities of the Winnetka Police Department. Staying up to date on current and emerging technology is essential in our efforts to fulfill our mission of preserving public safety for the Winnetka residents we serve.

Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR's) have gained popularity in many communities as a tool to detect and prevent crimes. Many crimes are committed with the use of a vehicle. Fixed or mounted cameras can capture color photographs that identify a vehicle's registration, color, and make. Since 2017, law enforcement has seen a trend in the northern and western suburbs where auto theft crews enter a suburb in a stolen vehicle with the intent to steal additional vehicles. Between 2017 and 2021, 44 vehicles were reported stolen in Winnetka. The Winnetka Police Department engaged in several pro-active initiatives to deter this crime. These initiatives produced positive results and only 2 vehicles were reported stolen in 2021. While 2021 showed a decline in auto thefts, the Winnetka Police Department will remain committed in deterring auto related crimes. In addition to deterring crime, ALPR's can help alert officers of missing persons, endangered elderly, and AMBER alerts. A vehicle that passes a fixed ALPR allows the system to capture the registration and compare the numbers against a list of stolen vehicles or vehicles associated with an endangered person from a data base such as the National Crime Incident Center (NCIC). If the system identifies a flagged registration, officers should receive an alert in less than 60 seconds. ALPR's would not be used for traffic enforcement by the Winnetka Police Department.

The Winnetka Police Department recognizes and respects the desire for individuals' privacy. ALPR's do not include facial recognition capabilities and they do not capture personally identifiable information. The department has created a draft policy to regulate the use of ALPR's. Data and images obtained from ALPR's will automatically be purged on a rolling 30-day schedule unless specific data is directly in support of an active investigation.

Each ALPR is solar powered and mounted to a pole. Staff has identified a preferred vendor, Flock Safety for ALPR's. Each ALPR costs \$2,500 per year. There is an installation fee for each unit of \$350

if the ALPR is placed on a Village controlled road or \$750 for a road controlled by the Illinois Department of Transportation. Flock also offers an enhanced software package for a flat fee of \$2,500 regardless of the number of units that provides advanced features such as vehicle convoy analysis. Convoy analyses is a technology that detects if multiple vehicles are traveling together. Auto related thieves are known to travel in convoys. Staff intends to deploy two ALPR's on IDOT controlled roads and purchase the enhanced software package.

Two ALPR's @ \$2,500 each = \$5,000

Installation of two ALPR's on IDOT road @ \$750 each = \$1,500

Enhanced software package @ \$2,500

Total expenditure: \$9,000

The expense will be collectively paid for from the Technology Licensing and Maintenance account (100.26.01-557) and funds awarded to the Village via 725 ILCS 150/13.2 (asset forfeiture) by the Illinois State Police. There is budget capacity to fund the two proposed APLR's this year. Staff intends to evaluate and consider budgeting for up to four additional ALPR's in FY 2023.

Several other north shore communities intend to implement Flock ALPR's in 2022 and 2023. We believe this regional approach will reduce crime along the north shore, and improve regional policing initiatives.

RECOMMENDATION:

Discussion regarding the Implementation of APLR's to assist with enforcing auto related crimes and enhancing public safety.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Power Point Presentation

ATTACHMENT 1



WINNETKA POLICE DEPARTMENT

LICENSE PLATE READER DISCUSSION



LICENSE PLATE READER DISCUSSION

- Public Safety and Crime Prevention remain the core priorities of the Winnetka Police Department.
- Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) are an effective tool to detect and prevent crimes.
- ALPRs are also used to alert officers of missing persons, endangered elderly, and AMBER alerts.
- Fixed or pole mounted ALPRs can capture color photographs that identify a vehicle's registration, color, and make.



LICENSE PLATE READER DISCUSSION



LICENSE PLATE READER DISCUSSION

- Since 2017, the northern and western suburbs have experienced significant auto-related crimes. Between 2017-2021, 44 vehicles were reported stolen in Winnetka.
- The Winnetka Police Department engaged in several proactive initiatives to deter these crimes (alternative patrol strategies and public education). Only 2 vehicles were reported stolen in 2021.
- While we are pleased with the reduction in vehicle thefts, we need to remain committed to deterring such crimes.
- A vehicle that passes an ALPR allows the system to capture the registration and compare the numbers against a list of stolen vehicles or vehicles associated with a missing or endangered person, such as the National Crime Incident Center (NCIC).
- Numerous area examples where ALPR aided in the investigation/clearance of crimes.



LICENSE PLATE READER DISCUSSION

- Use of ALPRs to be regulated by Winnetka Police written policy. The policy will be transparent and shared with the public.
- ALPRs are not used for traffic enforcement.
- ALPRs do not include facial recognition capabilities.
- Data and images obtained from ALPRs will automatically be purged on a rolling 30-day schedule unless specific data is directly in support of an active investigation.
- We own the data. We decide which other law enforcement agencies we want to share data (if any).



LICENSE PLATE READER DISCUSSION

- Data is stored in AWS Government cloud.
- End to end encryption of data.
- Data is not sold to any third-party vendor.
- Internal controls and ability to review and audit data access.



LICENSE PLATE READER DISCUSSION

- Initial locations of ALPRs are the 1300 block of Willow Road and the 1100 block of Sheridan Road.
- Glencoe, Northfield, Wilmette, Highland Park, Lake Forest, and other North Shore communities intend to install ALPRs. Kenilworth, Northbrook, Skokie, Morton Grove, and Niles have already installed ALPRs.
- The regional approach to installing ALPRs helps manage the number of units each community needs to install.
- The preferred vendor by all North Shore communities is Flock.



LICENSE PLATE READER DISCUSSION

- Two ALPRs: \$5,000 (\$2,500/each)
- Installation of two ALPRs on an IDOT road: \$1,500 (\$750/each)
- Enhanced software package: \$2,500
- Total expenditure: \$9,000
- On-going expense would be \$2,500 per camera on an annual basis.



LICENSE PLATE READER DISCUSSION

- The expense is planned to be paid from the Technology Licensing and Maintenance account (100.26.01-557) and funds awarded to the Village via 725 ILCS 150/13.2 (asset forfeiture) by the Illinois State Police. There is budget capacity to fund the two proposed APLR's this year. If Council concurs, Staff intends to evaluate and consider budgeting for up to four additional ALPRs in FY2023.
- Staff is requesting Council direction on moving forward with the license plate reader implementation.
- Questions?

