



Agenda Item: 13.A
Date of Meeting: April 27, 2026
Department: Police

STAFF REPORT

To: City Council
From: Nate Derr
Subject: **Flock Presentation**
Prepared On: April 14, 2026
Attachments: Flock Public Meeting - Power Point Presentation
Flock Sharing
Schmidt vs Norfolk

Background/History:

Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology has been used in various forms for several decades. Early license plate recognition systems were first developed in the 1970s and have since evolved significantly due to advancements in digital cameras, computing power, and cloud storage.

Today, ALPR systems are used throughout the United States by law enforcement agencies as investigative tools to help identify vehicles associated with criminal activity. These systems capture images of license plates and limited vehicle characteristics when vehicles pass a fixed camera location.

The Bishop Police Department utilizes technology provided by Flock Safety, which operates a network of stationary license plate reader cameras designed to assist investigations involving vehicles.

The purpose of the accompanying presentation is to provide the City Council and the public with a clear explanation of how this technology operates, including:

- what information is collected
- how the data is stored and secured
- who controls access to the information
- how sharing between agencies occurs
- the legal framework governing license plate observation

While ALPR technology can provide investigative leads that assist in solving crimes, the

use of any technology that collects information in public spaces raises important policy questions.

As with many forms of emerging technology, it is important that communities remain engaged in discussions regarding:

- privacy expectations
- transparency in government use of technology
- responsible data retention policies
- appropriate oversight and accountability

The Bishop Police Department recognizes that technological capabilities continue to evolve. It is important for agencies, policymakers, and the public to remain attentive to both the benefits and potential concerns associated with new technologies.

Maintaining public trust requires ongoing transparency and thoughtful evaluation of how tools are used.

Analysis/Discussion:

How ALPR Technology Works

ALPR cameras capture images of vehicles traveling on public roadways and record the following limited information:

- license plate number
- vehicle characteristics (color, make, body style)
- date and time of capture
- location of the camera

The system does not capture identifying information about drivers or passengers and does not use facial recognition technology.

Captured information is transmitted through encrypted cellular connections and stored securely using cloud infrastructure such as Amazon Web Services, one of the largest cloud computing platforms in the world. This infrastructure is commonly used by banks, hospitals, technology companies, and government agencies to store sensitive information securely.

Authorized law enforcement users may search the system for investigative purposes when vehicles are associated with reported crimes.

Impacts to Council Goals and Strategic Planning Priorities: Community Relations and Transparency

Budget Impacts: N/A

Legal Review: City Attorney Pucci has reviewed this item and finds it complies with the Law.

Recommended Action:

Council to receive a presentation on Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology.

Approved By: Ethan Aukee 4/14/2026

Approved By: Robin Picken 4/15/2026

Approved By: Dean Pucci 4/15/2026

Approved By: Pam Foster 4/21/2026