

Memorandum

TO: City Council
FROM: Brad Martens , City Manager
DATE: June 2, 2025
SUBJECT: License Plate Reader Cameras
ITEM NUMBER: 8.m
SECTION: CONSENT AGENDA

REQUESTED MOTION

Approve the installation of license plate reader cameras by the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office.

INTRODUCTION

The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement services to the City of Shoreview and five other suburban communities. Services include patrol, investigations, apprehension, water patrol, community support services, school resource officers, intel, and carjacking and auto theft. New for 2025, the sheriff's office is requesting the approval from the cities to support the installation of license plate reader cameras in the contract cities.

DISCUSSION

License plate reader (LPR) cameras are widely used in law enforcement to reduce crime and criminal activity as well as to keep communities safe. A document providing an overview of the proposal is attached to this report.

The public safety committee reviewed this proposal at their May 12th meeting. They were generally supportive of the proposal however had several questions that were not able to be answered at the meeting so they did not make a formal recommendation to the city council. The City council then reviewed this proposal at their May 19th workshop and were provided answers to questions raised by the public safety committee which were the following:

- Who will have control of the use? (the entering in of the vehicles to track and to review the data)
 - Only sergeants or higher ranking employees along with investigators who can search the system with a valid purpose and case number attached to the search. The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office will have 100% control of the data.
- Who completes the independent audit?
 - An audit is required by law every two years and submitted to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA)
- What is the timeline for the data to be deleted?
 - State law requires the data to be deleted after 60 days. The system proposed deletes the data after 30 days.
- Who else has access to the data being collected in the contract cities?
 - Other agencies using Flock systems may request access to the data for sharing as is

done with other public safety data. The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office would review each request for its public safety need. The intention is to share and request reciprocal access with agencies in the State of Minnesota.

- Can someone complete a data request for the video?
 - Yes, it is public data. No video is captured, only still images. The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office is working with the County Attorney to develop a formal data request practice for this information to understand what is required to be released.
- Can a federal agency get access to this information?
 - If a federal law enforcement agency requests access the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office would decide whether or not to share the data.
- Does this system also have facial recognition capabilities?
 - The system does not capture anything related to humans. No facial recognition capability.

After discussing the proposal at the workshop, it was the consensus of the city council to support the proposal. It should be noted that while this specific proposal is new for suburban cities in Ramsey County, the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office has been using versions of this technology for a decade. The policy related to this use is attached.

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

[Proposed_Budget_Addendum_-_license_plate_readers.pdf](#)

[Policy_463_-_automated_license_plate_readers.pdf](#)