

**TOWN OF WINDSOR  
AGENDA REPORT**

**Joint Windsor Town Council, Windsor Redevelopment Successor Agency and Windsor Water District Meeting Date:** May 20, 2026

**To:** Mayor and Town Council  
**From:** Greg Piccinini, Chief of Police  
**Subject:** Renewal of Automated License Plate Recognition Contract

**Recommendation to Council:**

Approve the renewal of the Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) contract with Flock Safety for 25 cameras, in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 per year for a term of up to three years, for a total not to exceed amount of \$225,000, and authorize the Town Manager to execute the contract to continue operation at strategically selected intersections throughout the Town of Windsor.

**Strategic Plan Element:**

The recommended action supports the goals of Livability and Organizational Effectiveness. Goal Statement: Preserve community character by maximizing the use of existing amenities and creating future opportunities that enhance quality of life for all. Goal Statement: Achieve a high performing organization by nurturing an engaged workforce committed to a shared vision of public service.

**Background:**

The Windsor Police Department has utilized Flock Safety Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) cameras for several years as part of its broader public safety strategy. ALPR technology captures computer readable images of license plates and vehicles, allowing officers to compare plate numbers against databases of stolen vehicles, vehicles associated to wanted individuals, and other investigative alerts. These cameras may be mounted on patrol vehicles or installed at fixed locations such as traffic signals or streetlights, providing continuous, automated scanning capability throughout the Town.

Since the initial deployment, the ALPR system has become an important investigative and crime prevention tool, supporting both real time alerts and follow up investigations. During this period, the network has generated measurable outcomes that demonstrate its operational value, including the recovery of stolen vehicles, the identification of suspect vehicles involved in criminal activity, and assistance in several significant cases. Since the implementation of the ALPR System we have reduced the time of investigations. The following is a short example of some the major cases the system has supported the Windsor Police Department and detectives solve:

**WI231019005**

10/19/2023

**Incident Type:** Carjacking with a firearm

**WI231103001**

11/3/2023

**Incident Type:** Rape

**SD240304011**

3/4/2024

**Incident Type:** Carjacking with a firearm

**WI240610003**

6/8/2024

**Incident Type:** Home Invasion Burglary

**WI240610004**

6/10/2024

**Incident Type:** Felony Hit & Run

**WI250429003**

4/29/2025

**Incident Type:** Bank Robbery

**WI250926007**

9/25/2025

**Incident Type:** Home Invasion Burglary

**WI251001003**

10/1/2025

**Incident Type:** Domestic Violence/Stabbing

**WI251029002**

10/29/2025

**Incident Type:** Elder Abuse/Fraud

**WI251112004**

11/12/2025

**Incident Type:** Stabbing

**WI260112012**

1/12/2026

**Incident Type:** Attempted Murder/Shooting

### ALPR Functions and Built In Privacy Safeguards

ALPR devices assist law enforcement in solving crimes in two ways:

1. Proactive: ALPR devices provide real time alerts when a vehicle that is stolen or associated with a known vehicle associated to a suspect is detected. 2. Investigative: ALPR cameras help determine whether and which vehicle(s) were at the scene of a crime.

ALPR technology does not include facial recognition and is not tied to personal identifying information (e.g., name, date of birth, drivers license, social security number). Furthermore, it is not used for immigration or traffic enforcement.

### Statutory Requirements for ALPR Operation and Oversight

State law establishes strict requirements for the operation, governance, and oversight of Automated

License Plate Recognition (ALPR) systems. The following statutes outline the legal framework that governs ALPR use in California and apply directly to the Town's ALPR program.

Senate Bill 34 (2014)/California Civil Code 1798.90.52 If an ALPR operator accesses or provides access to ALPR information, the ALPR operator shall do both of the following: (a) Maintain a record of that access. At a minimum, the record shall include all of the following: (1) The date and time the information is accessed. (2) The license plate number or other data elements used to query the ALPR system. (3) The username of the person who accesses the information, and, as applicable, the organization or entity with whom the person is affiliated. (4) The purpose for accessing the information. (b) Require that ALPR information only be used for the authorized purposes described in the usage and privacy policy required by subdivision (b) of Section 1798.90.51. (Added by Stats. 2015, Ch. 532, Sec. 3. (SB 34) Effective January 1, 2016.)

Senate Bill 34 and California Civil Code 1798.90.53 An ALPR end-user shall do all of the following: (a) Maintain reasonable security procedures and practices, including operational, administrative, technical, and physical safeguards, to protect ALPR information from unauthorized access, destruction, use, modification, or disclosure. (b) (1) Implement a usage and privacy policy in order to ensure that the access, use, sharing, and dissemination of ALPR information is consistent with respect for individuals' privacy and civil liberties. The usage and privacy policy shall be available to the public in writing, and, if the ALPR end-user has an Internet Web site, the usage and privacy policy shall be posted conspicuously on that Internet Web site. (2) The usage and privacy policy shall, at a minimum, include all of the following: (A) The authorized purposes for accessing and using ALPR information. (B) A description of the job title or other designation of the employees and independent contractors who are authorized to access and use ALPR information. The policy shall identify the training requirements necessary for those authorized employees and independent contractors. (C) A description of how the ALPR system will be monitored to ensure the security of the information accessed or used, and compliance with all applicable privacy laws and a process for periodic system audits. (D) The purposes of, process for, and restrictions on, the sale, sharing, or transfer of ALPR information to other persons. (E) The title of the official custodian, or owner, of the ALPR information responsible for implementing this section. (F) A description of the reasonable measures that will be used to ensure the accuracy of ALPR information and correct data errors. (G) The length of time ALPR information will be retained, and the process the ALPR end-user will utilize to determine if and when to destroy retained ALPR information. (Added by Stats. 2015, Ch. 532, Sec. 3. (SB 34) Effective January 1, 2016.)

Senate Bill 34 and Civil Code Section 1798.90.55 (a), require any public agency that operates or intends to operate an Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) system to provide an opportunity for public comment at a regularly scheduled public meeting of the governing body of the public agency before implementing the program.

Senate Bill 54 (2017) California Government Code 7284.8 (b) For any databases operated by state and local law enforcement agencies, including databases maintained for the agency by private vendors, the Attorney General shall, by October 1, 2018, in consultation with appropriate stakeholders, publish guidance, audit criteria, and training recommendations aimed at ensuring that those databases are governed in a manner that limits the availability of information therein to the fullest extent practicable and consistent with federal and state law, to anyone or any entity for the purpose of immigration enforcement. All state and local law enforcement agencies are encouraged to adopt necessary changes to database governance policies consistent with that guidance.

### Local Oversight

Because the Windsor Police Department operates under contract with the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office, the Town must also comply with the Sheriff's Office ALPR policy. This policy provides additional safeguards governing how ALPR data may be accessed, used, and shared.

Sonoma County Sheriff Office Policy 430-ALPR 430.4 RELEASING ALPR DATA The ALPR data may be shared only with public agencies and only as otherwise permitted by law (Civil Code § 1798.90.55). For purposes of this section, a public agency is limited to California state or local agencies, including law enforcement agencies, and does not include out-of-state or federal law enforcement agencies (Civil Code § 1798.90.5). Accordingly, SB 34 does not permit California LEA's to share ALPR information with private entities or out-of-state or federal agencies, including out-of-state and federal law enforcement agencies. This prohibition applies to ALPR database(s) that LEA's access through private or public vendors who maintain ALPR information collected from multiple databases and/or public agencies.

**Discussion:**

There are various vendors who supply ALPR technology; however, Vigilant Solutions and Flock Safety are two of the most utilized vendors in California. The following information is based on Flock Safety's ALPR technology, as staff have found it to be the most cost effective solution. The Town of Windsor currently operates 25 Flock Safety cameras deployed at ingress, egress, and major intersection locations throughout the Town. To maintain consistency, ensure seamless integration, standardized protocols, and optimal collaboration among Public Safety Consortium members, it is important to continue using the same vendor for our ALPR technology.

ALPR cameras provide the Town with a highly cost effective force amplification tool. This technology significantly aids law enforcement by efficiently guiding deputies to areas experiencing criminal activities, while also furnishing crucial investigative leads after an incident. Law enforcement agencies can also choose to share their information with other agencies to help solve crimes that occurred in their jurisdiction. The cameras can also integrate information from national or state crime databases to provide real-time alerts when a vehicle associated with a known suspect, or a stolen vehicle passes the camera.

Widely adopted by numerous local police agencies, fixed ALPR technology has and is proven instrumental in resolving crimes and tracing stolen vehicles involved in various criminal activities.

Current Deployment

The Town's existing 25 Flock Safety ALPR cameras are deployed using a combination of two strategies: 1. Perimeter - ALPR cameras are installed at the ingress and egress points of the jurisdiction. 2. Perimeter and Major Intersection - In addition to the ingress and egress points, additional cameras are installed at strategic intersections with heavier traffic volume. This deployment strategy aids in capturing ALPR data when vehicles do not traverse through an ingress or egress point. This full perimeter and intersection deployment has provided comprehensive coverage throughout the Town of Windsor and continues to serve as an effective public safety tool.

Three-Year Contract Term and Cost Stability

The current Flock Safety contract for all 25 ALPR cameras is due for renewal. The annual cost to renew the contract is \$75,000.00 per year for all 25 cameras. This amount includes all maintenance costs, cloud storage, and system support. Flock Safety will continue to bill the Town on an annual billing cycle.

Staff recommends that the Town Council approve the contract renewal for a term of up to three (3) years at the current annual rate of \$75,000.00, for a total not to exceed amount of \$225,000.00 over the full contract term. Entering into a multi year agreement at this time secures the current cost rate and shields the Town from potential price increases that may occur if the contract were renewed on a year to year basis.

As the Town continues to evaluate ways to decrease spending and manage fiscal constraints, locking in the current rate provides meaningful cost certainty and long term budgetary predictability. Without a multi year commitment, the Town would be subject to potential rate increases at each annual renewal cycle, which could result in higher costs for the same level of service. Industry trends indicate that technology service contracts commonly experience annual cost increases in the range of 3-5%, meaning a year to year approach could expose the Town to significantly higher costs over the same three year period.

A three year contract term provides the following benefits to the Town: Cost Certainty - The annual rate of \$75,000.00 is guaranteed for the full three year term, eliminating exposure to future price escalations. Fiscal Responsibility - A fixed rate, multi year agreement directly supports the Town's ongoing commitment to prudent financial management and cost containment during a period of fiscal constraints. Operational Continuity - A multi year term avoids potential service disruptions or gaps that could arise from annual procurement and negotiation cycles. Long-Term Savings - By securing the current rate now, the Town avoids projected cost increases that would otherwise compound over the contract period. Budget Planning - A known, fixed annual cost enables more accurate long term budget forecasting across three fiscal years.

### Privacy

The images captured by ALPR cameras are owned by the Town of Windsor, designating the Windsor Police Department as the sole system administrators. The ALPR data cannot be sold or shared by the vendor. It is stored in a secure government cloud that meets FBI Criminal Justice Informational Systems (CJIS) requirements.

Images captured by the ALPR cameras are stored in the cloud for 30 days, unless downloaded for criminal based evidentiary purposes. As previously mentioned, the technology is not facial recognition software, helping to ensure privacy for the occupants of vehicles. All searches of the system are logged in an audit trail, and a specified and lawful reason is required for the search. Access to the system is limited to legitimate law enforcement purposes only using a "need to know, right to know" standard, which is the same standard used by law enforcement agencies with other criminal justice databases.

### Other Agencies using ALPR Technology

A 2019 study by the Auditor of the State of California found that over 58 percent of the 391 police and sheriff departments surveyed used ALPR technology and an additional 36 planned on adding the technology.

Local agencies that use Flock ALPR technology include Cloverdale (7), Healdsburg (12) Santa Rosa Police Department (114) , Sonoma Police Department (16), Petaluma Police (4).

### **Fiscal Impact:**

Sufficient appropriations are included in the Fiscal Year 2026-27 General Fund budget for the first-year contract renewal cost of \$75,000. Approval of the three-year contract renewal, in a total not to exceed amount of \$225,000, presumes General Fund appropriations of \$75,000 for annual operating costs in each of the subsequent two fiscal years (FY 2027-28 and FY 2028-29).

By committing to a three-year term at the current rate, the Town proactively contains costs and avoids potential annual price increases, directly supporting the Town's efforts to manage spending within current fiscal constraints. This fixed rate agreement provides budget certainty and represents a fiscally responsible approach to maintaining this critical public safety technology.

**Environmental Review:**

This action does not constitute a project within the meaning of Section 15378 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and requires no environmental review.

**Attachment(s):**

- 1. Agreement - Town of Windsor - 3 Year
- 14.1 PowerPoint (Distributed 2026.05.19)
- 14.1 Correspondence (Distributed 2026.05.19)
- 14.1 Correspondence (Distributed 2026.05.19)
- 14.1 Correspondence (Distributed 2026.05.20)

**Prepared by:**

Greg Piccinini  
Chief of Police

**Approved by:**

Jon Davis  
Town Manager