



## CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

### **AGENDA ITEM**

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Report: Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs, Request for Authorization to Accept Grant Funds in the amount of \$16,333 to be used to Procure Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Equipment.

1. Motion to Accept Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) 2022 Justice Assistant Grant (JAG) funds and authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute the necessary agreements, certification, and other documents required to accept the Grant.
2. Resolution to dispense with competitive bidding and authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to enter into an agreement with Flock Group, Inc. for the procurement of ALPR equipment in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.
3. Resolution to Appropriate \$16,333 in BJA FY2022 Local JAG Program Grant funds.

### **COUNCIL ACTION**

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**Item Type:** Consent

**Approved for** November 1, 2022 **calendar**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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The Glendale Police Department requests acceptance of \$16,333 in grant funds from the BJA FY2022 JAG Grant Program for the grant period of August 1, 2022 to September 30, 2024 to procure ALPR equipment.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

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Approve the motion to authorize participation in the BJA FY2022 JAG Grant Program and accept funds in the amount of \$16,333; adopt the resolution dispensing with competitive bidding, and authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute an agreement with Flock Group, Inc. to procure ALPR equipment; and adopt the attached resolution of appropriation.

## **BACKGROUND**

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The Police Department has previously purchased and successfully implemented ALPR systems. ALPR technology consists of mounted cameras which digitally process photographs of license plates and queries those plates against multiple state and federal law enforcement databases. Sharing the information through the databases among agencies, or system interoperability, is a critical component in the success of the ALPR units as a force multiplier and one of the major reasons the Los Angeles County Police Chief's Association (LAPCA) has strongly supported the acquisition of this technology through grant programs. The cameras connect to the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) hot list and are Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) compliant. Through these resources, the Police Department is able use hot plate alerts, create custom alerts, and search footage to access evidence to assist with ongoing investigations as over 70% of crime occurs with a vehicle.

The Glendale Police Department has adopted strict policies governing the use of the equipment and access to ALPR data. The images are not used to track the whereabouts of individuals or their vehicles or any occupants. The system can however be programmed to alert passing officers to the presence of a wanted vehicle. The license plate information is anonymous and is generalized in a data base that can later be searched with cause by plate number. The value of detecting wanted vehicles and suspects, as well as those on nationwide terrorism watch and want lists, by far outweigh concerns for collection of the anonymous data. The data is collected in open/plain public view and in public places with no expectation of privacy of one's legally required license plate. By collecting this anonymous data (easily gathered by the average consumer with a smartphone or the police officer jotting it down on a pad), technology improves a process used by law enforcement agencies for decades by replacing the manual typing process to run license plates to an automated system that helps police immediately identify a criminal suspect's vehicle. The ALPR system has enabled law enforcement to capture innumerable wanted vehicles and suspects since its inception.

The Police Department implemented the use of Flock ALPR cameras in April 2020 and has been successful at recovering stolen vehicles and locating vehicles wanted in connection to robberies/burglaries using this technology. These cameras are solar powered, self-contained and can be mounted on power poles, light poles, or other fixtures. Although mounted, they can be easily relocated giving the Police Department and the community a valuable tool to address safety issues throughout the city.

## **ANALYSIS**

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Due to the Glendale Police Department's success utilizing Flock ALPRs to locate vehicles connected to suspects wanted for property and violent crimes, including robberies and homicides, the Department submitted a grant application to the DOJ Office of Justice Programs for ALPR cameras. Flock ALPRs have many benefits specifically aimed to reduce property and violent crimes in the community. The equipment uses technology to read license plates and run them through NCIC Alerts, is CJIS compliant, and can be searched against NCIC Hot Lists. This technology is a force multiplier for real time proactive policing as well as a database for investigative leads. The three new Flock ALPR cameras to be procured with the grant funds will increase the number of readers to fifteen. The equipment will be positioned in strategic locations within our city borders to capture data that will be used to solve crimes.

The grant award period is from October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023 and the funds will be used to procure three cameras on a three-year subscription. The grant will cover the first two years. The third year, at the cost of \$7,217, will be funded by the Glendale Police Department's general fund.

## **STAKEHOLDERS/OUTREACH**

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The following community organizations have expressed an interest in this crime solving effort:

- College Hills Association
- Royal Canyon Property Owner's Association
- Chevy Oaks Homeowners Association
- Chevy Chase Estates Association
- Adams Hills Neighborhood Association
- Fair Oaks Homeowners Association
- Whiting Woods Property Owners Inc.
- Glenwood Oaks
- Americana at Brand
- Glendale Galleria
- Individual Community Members

The Police Department utilized the following methods for community outreach:

- Neighborhood Watch Meetings
- Neighborhood Watch Block Captain Meetings
- Property Owners Association Meetings
- Community Academy
- Community Gatherings and Events i.e., Coffee with a Cop, Shields on the Fields, National Night Out

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The ALPR equipment will cost \$23,550, which will be funded by the Glendale Police Department's general fund and the FY2022 JAG grant. The Police Department's FY2022-23 budget can absorb the cost applicable to the general fund. The funding is outlined below:

<b>Existing Appropriation</b>		
<b>Amount</b>	<b>From (Account String)</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
\$7,217	GL: 45150-1010-GPD-7000-P6301 PL: N/A	General Fund

The FY 2022 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program grant award is \$16,333, which was not included as part of the FY2022-23 approved budget. The grant does not require matching funds. Therefore, staff is requesting for an appropriation of \$16,333 from grant revenue. The appropriation request is outlined below:

<b>Requesting Appropriation</b>			
<b>Amount</b>	<b>From (Account String)</b>	<b>To (Account String)</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
\$16,333	GL: 31240-2610-GPD-0020-P0000 PL: GPD00932AG	GL:45150-2610-GPD-0020-P0000 PL: GPD00932AG	Police Fund – Federal Grant

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA/NEPA)**

This item is considered a ministerial activity and therefore not subject to CEQA/NEPA review. There is no possibility that the acceptance of this award may have a significant effect on the environment. (14 Cal. Code Regs. §15601(b)(3))

## **CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE**

The names and business addresses of the members of the board of directors, the chairperson, CEO, COO, CFO, Subcontractors and any person or entity with more than 10% interest in the company proposed for contract in this Agenda Item Report are attached in Exhibit A, in accordance with the City Campaign Finance Ordinance No. 5744.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

Alternative 1: Approve as requested by the Police Department.

Alternative 2: Deny the request of the Police Department which would not expand the ALPR Flock Program.

Alternative 3: The City Council may consider any other alternative not proposed by staff.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION**

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**Prepared by:**

Alex Krikorian, Police Lieutenant

**Approved by:**

Roubik R. Golanian, P.E., City Manager

## **EXHIBITS/ATTACHMENTS**

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Exhibit A – Campaign Disclosures