



CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

Flock Camera Report

City Council Meeting

February 4th 2025



RECOMMENDATION

Receive the Ad Hoc Committee report from staff, provide direction regarding the future of the Flock camera system, and adopt Resolution 2025-015 authorizing the City Administrator to execute a modified agreement with Flock Safety Group Inc. for the continued use of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology, with provisions for the new number of cameras leased, and language added to the agreement that protects the privacy of Carmel-by-the-Sea residents, in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 over two years.



Background

- April 2023- Council Approved a two-year contract w/ Flock
- July 2023- Flock Installed Cameras

30 Total license plate reader cameras

24- Falcon “Pole mounted Cameras”

6- Wing “Cameras”



Wing vs Falcon





Community Concerns

- July 2023- Council Appointed Ad Hoc Committee
 - Community Concerns
 - Privacy
 - Number of Cameras
 - Aesthetic
 - Expense vs Safety (2-year =\$146,900)



Privacy

- Privacy
 - Record Only- Not connected to any external databases (DMV, DOJ)
 - Information entered and recovered by Agency-Not Flock
 - Accountability- Transparency Portal



Privacy

BEACH RULES

CARMEL PREPARES

Search



City of
Carmel-By-The-Sea

GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENTS & SERVICES

COMMUNITY

CONTACT

I WANT TO

LIBRARY

VISITORS

Police Building Project Updates and Resources [Read More >](#)

Animal Services

Carmel Beach

Emergency Preparedness

Fire Preparedness

Flock Camera Transparency Portal

Frequently Asked Questions

Parking

Police Building Project

Police Standard Policies and Practices

Security Camera Registration

Seniors Helping Seniors





Privacy

Carmel CA PD

Transparency Portal

Last Updated: Thu Jan 23 2025

Overview

Carmel CA PD uses Flock Safety technology to capture objective evidence without compromising on individual privacy. Carmel CA PD utilizes retroactive search to solve crimes after they've occurred. Additionally, Carmel CA PD utilizes real time alerting of hotlist vehicles to capture wanted criminals. In an effort to ensure proper usage and guardrails are in place, they have made the below policies and usage statistics available to the public.



Privacy

Policies



What's Detected

License Plates, Vehicles



What's Not Detected

Facial recognition, People, Gender, Race



Acceptable Use Policy

Data is used for law enforcement purposes only. Data is owned by Carmel CA PD and is never sold to 3rd parties.



Prohibited Uses

Immigration enforcement, traffic enforcement, harrasment or intimidation, usage based solely on a protected class (i.e. race, sex, religion), Personal use.



Access Policy

All system access requires a valid reason and is stored indefinitely.



Hotlist Policy

Hotlist hits are required to be human verified prior to action.

Usage



Data retention (in days)

30 days



Number of owned cameras

17

External organizations with access

Albany CA PD, Alhambra CA PD, Anaheim CA PD, Angels Camp CA PD, Arcadia CA PD, Atwater CA PD, Auburn CA PD, Azusa CA PD, Bakersfield CA PD, Baldwin Park CA PD, Beaumont CA PD, Bell Gardens CA PD, Benicia CA PD, Beverly Hills CA PD, Bishop CA PD , Brawley CA PD, Brisbane CA PD, Buena Park CA PD, Burbank CA PD, Burlingame CA PD, Butte County CA SO, Cal Fire , Cal State Fullerton (CA), California Department of Corrections, California Highway Patrol, California State Parks, California State University Long Beach Campus PD, Calistoga CA PD, Campbell CA PD, Capitola CA PD, Carlsbad CA PD, Central Marin CA PD, Cerritos College CA PD, Chino PD (CA), Chula Vista CA PD, Citrus Heights CA PD, City of Lemoore CA, City of Riverside CA PD , Clayton CA PD, Cloverdale CA PD, Colma CA PD, Colton CA PD , Concord CA PD, Contra Costa County CA SO, Corona CA PD, Coronado CA PD, Costa Mesa CA PD, Culver City CA PD, Cypress CA PD, Danville CA PD, Delano CA PD, Desert Hot Springs CA PD, Dinuba CA PD, Dixon CA PD, Downey PD CA, Dublin CA PD (ACSO), East Bay Parks CA PD, East Palo Alto CA PD, El Cajon CA PD, El Centro CA PD, El Cerrito CA PD, El



Privacy



Hotlists Alerted On

California SVS, NCMEC Amber Alert



Vehicles detected in the last 30 days

132,080



Hotlist hits in the last 30 days

131



Searches in the last 30 days

47



Public Search Audit

[Download CSV](#)

Additional Info

Full ALPR Policy:

https://ci.carmel.ca.us/sites/main/files/file-attachments/policy_462_automated_licenseplate_reader_policy.pdf?1689800923



Privacy

DATE/TIME	CAMERA	REASON
2025-01-05 T10:13:18.140Z	3136	422 suspect
2025-01-05 T20:56:32.004Z	3136	664 187 PC



Number of Cameras

- How Many?
 - We have six perimeter cameras (2017)
 - Don't alert us like Flock System
 - Aren't connected to other police departments
 - Flock Cameras enhance our effectiveness
 - Balance between Need & Cost



Cases Where Flock was Used

8/24/23	Stolen vehicle- Arrest
10/23/23	Missing Person Report; FLOCK helped track the location of the missing person;
11/29/23	Burglary to L'Auberge
4/30/24	Seaside PD child predator
5/1/24	Seaside/Monterey – Carjacker, burglar, kidnapper manhunt- Arrest
6/10/24	Stolen vehicle-Arrest
8/9/24	Burglary to Mad Dogs/Bike theft- Arrest
8/12/24	Stolen vehicle/license plate recovery-Arrest

8/30/24	Stolen vehicle- Arrest
9/17/24	Male shooting car windows, Reckless Driver, Assault– Arrest
9/18/24	Stolen vehicle arrest – Two in custody-Arrest
12/14/24	Gang assault, suspect identified by FLOCK
12/18/24	Unattended death (Confirmed timeline of death)
12/20/24	Package thief/porch pirate;
1/1/25	Active shooter threat. Suspect Arrested
1/6/26	Credit card fraud (Purchased jewelry with stolen card/ID)- Arrest



Aesthetic

- Noticeable
- Disrupts Views
- Large w/solar panels
- Added Poles in Village





AESTHETIC

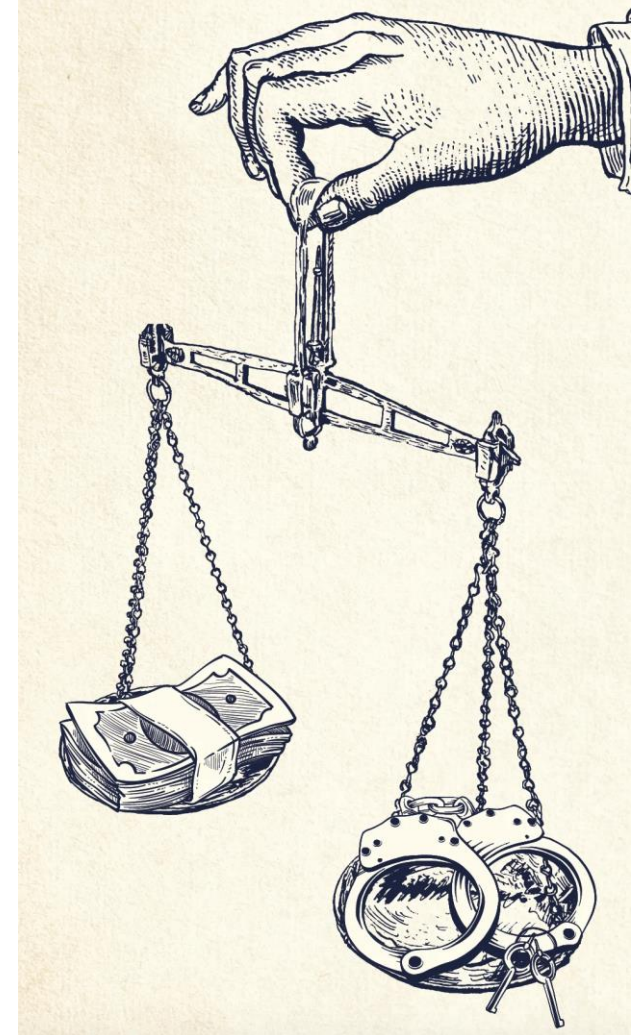
- Potential Option
 - Direct Power to Existing PG&E light poles
 - Eliminates Solar Panels & Poles





Expense vs Safety

- Balance
- \$2500 per Pole Camera
- \$1500 per “Wing” Camera
 - Current Contract:
 - 2023 \$77,900
 - 2024 \$69,000





OPTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Make No Changes to Flock Camera System
2. Cancel Contract w/ Flock- No additional Cameras
3. Renegotiate a New Contract w/ Flock- Less Cameras
4. Start Over and Research Other Camera Companies- loss of data sharing with other agencies



Staff Recommended Option

-Option #3 Renegotiate a New Contract w/ Flock

- Advise Flock of Intent to Modify Existing Contract
 - Keep only 6- Wing Cameras-Located on existing (2017) City Cameras
- Keep option to expand Flock Cameras
 - 6-10 on Existing PG&E light poles in Business District
 - Only after approval w/PG&E & Council on locations & added costs
- Yearly Police Department Report
 - Use/Effectiveness of Cameras
 - Data to Navigate Changes
- Contract Language Prevents Sharing of Personal Data
- No Expansion of System Capabilities Takes Place w/Out CBTS Knowledge & Consent



Staff Option Removed

- Presented at October Ad Hoc Meeting:
 - Create an Opt-Out Program
 - Intended for HOA
 - Potential legal Issues for Cities



Recommendation

Adopt Resolution 2025-015 authorizing the City Administrator to execute a modified agreement with Flock Safety Group Inc. for the continued use of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology, with provisions for the new number of cameras leased, and language added to the agreement that protects the privacy of Carmel-by-the-Sea residents, in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 over two years.



Questions

