




SHAKER HEIGHTS

Memorandum

To: Members of The Finance Committee
From: Wayne D. Hudson, Chief of Police 
ec: Mayor David E. Weiss
Chief Administrative Officer Jeri E. Chaikin
Director of Law William Gruber
Director of Finance John Potts
Date: May 10, 2023
Re: FLOCK SAFETY Contract Extension and Discount

The Shaker Heights Police Department is seeking the City's authorization to renew, enter into and/or otherwise extend our original 1-year contract with FLOCK SAFETY. The total cost for this service was \$19,500.00.

After extensive research, the Shaker Heights Police Department entered into a 1-year contact with FLOCK SAFETY "FLOCK" for the installation of six (6) Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras in 2022 at the following locations:

- Van Aken Blvd. (SB) at South Woodland Rd. - (LPR 1)
- Lee Rd. (S/B) at South Park Blvd. - (LPR 2)
- Warrensville Center Rd. (S/B) at Shelburne Rd. - (LPR 3)
- Chagrin Blvd. (W/B) at Warrensville Center Rd. - (LPR 4)
- Scottsdale Blvd. (N/B) at Lee Rd. - (LPR 5)
- Chagrin Blvd. (E/B) at Menlo Rd. - (LPR 6)

These cameras are solar powered and have the ability to network and/or otherwise share crime information with jurisdictions throughout the United States. The primary purpose for these cameras are notifications to patrol officers of NCIC wants and warrants, such as a stolen vehicle entering the City.

As the contract was nearing expiration, the Department reviewed our records; allocating money in our current budget to continue the contract and learned that these cameras had not only assisted in locating and recovering several stolen vehicles, this unique technology provided the Department a real time tool to track crimes with mobility elements; as well as played a key role in locating a vehicle and suspect wanted in a Homicide. While monitoring data, the Department also learned that an additional camera



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was needed in an area of the City that provided an avenue of ingress/egress to more comprehensively track crime.

When the Department contacted FLOCK to express our interest in continuing the agreement while inquiring about the cost of adding one (1) additional camera at Shaker Boulevard (Eastbound) at Coventry Road, FLOCK offered a \$500.00/camera discount contingent upon extending the life of the original agreement to five (5) years. The total cost of the contract for this period including the discount of \$17,500.00, e.g. (\$500.00 x 7 cameras x 5 years) AND the additional camera would be \$88,150.00, as opposed to \$97,500.00 without the discount.

In furtherance thereof, the Department received a written offer from FLOCK and shared it with the Department of Law for review.

On May 4, 2023, this item was presented to the Safety and Public Works Committee. Committee members had the following questions:

- How are/were the decisions made to place the Cameras at these locations?*
- (A) As the majority of our crimes are committed by individuals who live outside of the City of Shaker Heights, the locations were strategically chosen to capture the areas where most of the traffic enters the City.
- (B) The recommended one (1) additional camera at Shaker Blvd. (E/B) at Coventry Road is based on requests from our patrol officers who see a need for an LPR camera to monitor traffic entering our City from the Shaker Square area.
- What kind of activity have the Cameras produced thus far?*
- (A) A one (1) year analysis of the LPR cameras have tracked 87 Flock “alerts” that resulted in police action. This includes stolen vehicles and felony warrant alerts. Many of these alerts were initiated by stolen vehicles fleeing the City, without pursuit. The breakdown of alerts at each location are as follows: LPR 1 (10), LPR 2 (12), LPR 3 (8), LPR 4 (10), LPR 5 (22), LPR 6 (12), and outside the City (13).
- Is this enough, what other security measures can we take with cameras?
- (A) The city of Madison, Mississippi (27,747 pop.) adopted an ordinance on January 17, 2017, requiring security camera systems for retail business centers’ parking lots, entry and exit door surveillance. This requirement is the duty and obligation of the developer, owner and/or lessor of the real property on which the retail center is located, and not the tenant or lessee of individual units within the retail center. The City of Shaker Heights could adopt a similar ordinance. A robust camera system could supplement the SHPD while at the same time not have our community over policed.
- Can our cameras access other similar type cameras in other jurisdictions?
- (A) Most likely not, due to proprietary technology.

After the questions were answered, the members of the Safety & Public Works Committee voted unanimously in support of the use of funds, following additional detail(s) submission to the Finance Committee on Monday, May 15, 2023. (*See questions 1 and 2.)

It is recommended that the Finance Committee approve the renewal, enter into and/or otherwise extend our original 1-year contract with FLOCK based on reasons stated above as soon as possible. It is further recommended that with this Committee's support, this item be forwarded to City Council with a recommendation for approval.

WDH/sko