



City of Villa Park
17855 Santiago Boulevard
Villa Park, California 92861
(714) 998-1500

**Law Enforcement Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, May 19, 2015
6:00 p.m. @ City Hall**

The Law Enforcement Advisory Committee of the City of Villa Park welcomes you to this meeting. We encourage your participation. This agenda contains a brief description of each item to be considered.

If you wish to speak on an item contained on the agenda, please approach the podium at the time the item is being considered. Upon recognition by the Chair, state your name and address for the record prior to providing your comments. Speakers will be limited to a time period set by the presiding officer.

All supporting information is available for public review in the City Hall offices.

Please Note: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Villa Park will make every reasonable attempt to accommodate attendees or participants at this meeting who need special assistance beyond what is normally provided. Please contact the City Hall at (714) 998-1500 at least 48 hours prior to this meeting to inform us of particular needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible. Please advise us at the time of your call if special assistance is required to attend or participate in meetings on a regular basis.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / INTRODUCTIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. DRAFT REPORT - Status of Law Enforcement in Villa Park
2. Update on traffic citations, traffic collisions, and crime stats
3. Serrano Ave school traffic and overall traffic issues
4. Suggestions for improved roadway engineering and signage locations
5. Automatic license plate readers
6. Community awareness campaign

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on June 16, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.



City of Villa Park

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 15, 2105
TO: Law Enforcement Advisory Committee
FROM: Jarad Hildenbrand, City Manager
SUBJECT: Automatic License Plate Readers

In September 2014, City staff presented the concept of Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) to the City Council with a goal of covering most of the major entrances and exits of the City.

The cameras initial purpose was two-fold: (1) as a post-crime investigative tool, and (2) as a real-time license-plate alert system that compares license plates as they are read to the state/federal law enforcement database of stolen vehicles, vehicles involved in AMBER alerts (child abduction), and vehicles connected to reports of missing persons (MUPS – Missing Unidentified Persons System). The Sheriff's Department is notified if a license plate read by the cameras matches one in the database and can pursue and stop the vehicle once they visually verify that the license plate is a match. The cameras serve a third, less tangible purpose as a deterrent to those that may contemplate committing a crime but decide against it because they fear being identified.

The cameras take a still photo of the rear of each passing vehicle. I stress, the camera only captures an image of the rear of each passing vehicle. The type of vehicle can be identified and an enlarged image of the license plate is displayed along with the vehicle. Because the image is taken from the rear of the vehicle, the occupants of the vehicle are not seen. The system reads 85% to 95% of license plates passing by the capture zone. Occasionally, license plates are missed due to a vehicle being obstructed by another vehicle as it passes through the capture zone, or because the license plate itself is obscured.

Background

ALPRs are in use throughout Southern California. City staff researched a preferred vendor, Vigilant Solutions. In 2012, Vigilant Solutions was selected through a Federal Urban Area Security Initiative Grant administered by the Anaheim Police Department. In order to maintain continuity of the operation between operators and standardized maintenance and training, it is suggested to sole source purchase through Vigilant Solutions.

Features

Their systems offer fixed and mobile mounts, wide angle, weatherproof cameras, wireless configuration and one-year warranties. Vigilant provides a hosted solution and software program for its customers to store and manage the data. The fixed camera systems can be mounted on street poles and draw electricity from existing public utilities using a wireless card to transmit data. Mobile systems can be mounted on patrol cars and speed radar trailers.

Data Collection, Storage and Sharing

The question of how the data is collected and used is an important one for residents of Villa Park. Vigilant will maintain the database as a "private" source of information, available for a designated period of time to the jurisdiction that owns the ALPRs. As noted, the ALPRs do match plates read locally to a statewide database, alerting local law enforcement if a vehicle reported stolen, or a vehicle involved in a child abduction or missing person case passes through the capture zone. Otherwise, the data collected is only available to local police departments, for the specified period of time. The benefit of an ALPR system can be further enhanced by users entering data into the system directly. License plates that are known to be associated with ongoing investigations or criminal activity can be entered into the database and should the car with that license plate travel through Villa Park's capture zone, it will register a "hit" and alert the deputies. Although the vehicle may not be stopped without probable cause, it can be followed by a patrol car which will significantly lessen the chance that the occupant will commit a crime.

Costs

The costs associated with different ALPR options vary. Just to give you an idea the mobility kit, which is what would be attached to our speed/radar trailer, is around \$9,000. A four camera - two cameras for each lane of travel - fixed mount is around \$20,000.

Privacy Concerns

Because these systems retain information on all license plates they read, not just those associated with criminal activity, concerns have been raised. Data collected by the devices can include the time and the vehicle's location, making it possible to map where a specific car was and when. While this can help catch criminals, privacy advocates worry it could be misused to keep tabs on innocent citizens.