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SUFFOLK, VA INSTALLING LICENSE PLATE READING CAMERAS TO HELP SOLVE CRIME

SUFFOLK, Virginia (July 6, 2022) The City of Suffolk, Virginia and the Suffolk Police Department will install Automated License Plate Reading (ALPR) camera technology in strategic areas throughout the City to assist in solving and, ultimately, reducing crime.

The cameras are built and installed by Flock Safety, a public safety technology company that helps neighborhoods, communities, and law enforcement work together to fight crime. Flock Safety ALPR cameras help law enforcement investigate crime by providing objective evidence of vehicles such as license plates and vehicle characteristics. To proactively prevent crime from occurring in Suffolk, the cameras send a real-time alert to law enforcement when a stolen car or known wanted suspect from a state or national crime database is located in the vicinity of a camera. They can also send alerts if a vehicle associated with a missing person in an AMBER or Silver Alert is detected. The Suffolk Police Department will maintain an updated policy, as they do with all of their policy and procedures, around usage of the ALPR system. Each search of the database requires a justification, and the data is never sold or shared with third parties. The cameras will be used to solve and reduce property and violent crime and are not intended for minor traffic or parking violations.

Suffolk Police Chief, Al Chandler says “We’re excited to bring this technology to the streets of Suffolk. The data shows that this model is proven to be successful when implemented properly and we hope to see a decline in overall crime once the cameras are up and running this summer.”

The Suffolk City Council voted to approve the funding of the Flock Safety system at their February 2, 2022 regular council meeting. The first phase of the ALPR cameras will begin installation on July 6, 2022 through the City. All installations are being done in accordance with existing City of Suffolk ordinances and policies. Additional phases and installations will occur in the coming weeks.

ALPR technology is not new to the Suffolk Police in Department. Previously, the Department utilized ALPR cameras that were temporarily mounted on patrol vehicles throughout the city. These cameras acted in a similar manner to the new technology being installed in a permanent fashion.

Flock Safety cameras are in use in over 2,000 cities across 40 states, and the company works with thousands of law enforcement agencies. Law enforcement have reported crime reductions of up to 70% when deploying Flock Safety in their communities.

“At Flock Safety, we believe in building strong bonds between police departments and the citizens they pledge to protect, and we’re proud to partner with Suffolk Police Department to help them in the pursuit of public safety,” said Garrett Langley, CEO of Flock Safety.

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