



Item No. 17 Town of Atherton

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT – REGULAR AGENDA

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
GEORGE RODERICKS, CITY MANAGER**

FROM: STEVEN D. MCCULLEY, CHIEF OF POLICE

DATE: JULY 21, 2021

**SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF A \$21,000 DONATION
IN SUPPORT OF THE PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL
AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READERS (ALPRs); AND
DIRECTION REGARDING THE LEASE OF AN ADDITIONAL 10
ALPR CAMERAS**

RECOMMENDATION

Consideration of and acceptance of a \$21,000 donation toward the purchase of additional ALPR cameras; and provide direction regarding the lease of an additional four (4) Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) and four (4) ALPR warning signs utilizing private funding.

BACKGROUND

At the March 6, 2019 Study Session, staff provided the City Council with an overview of ALPR (Automated License Plate Reader) and security camera technology. The presentation was designed to educate the Council about how the use of fixed ALPR and security cameras could assist the Atherton Police Department in deterring/solving crime. At the October 2, 2019 Study Session, staff engaged the City Council in additional discussion about whether the Town might benefit from having its own fixed ALPR at various locations.

At the November 20, 2019 City Council meeting, Council approved the lease of two (2) fixed ALPR units, which were installed (in January 2020) at the entrance and exit to Holbrook Palmer Park. These units would serve as a test and staff would report back to the Council on their functionality, usefulness, and possible installation at other locations. At the May 6, 2020 Study Session, staff provided the City Council with an approximate location description for 16 cameras and 8 ALPR warning signs.

At the September 2, 2020 Study Session, staff provide the City Council with an authorization request for the lease of sixteen (16) Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs), sixteen (16) customized 12" x 18" ALPR warning signs, and nine (9) customized 24" x 30" ALPR warning signs. The Council ultimately approved the lease of 19 ALPR cameras, in addition to the 2 current ALPR cameras located in Holbrook Palmer Park, for a total of 21 ALPR cameras.

ANALYSIS

The placement of ALPR cameras at strategic locations around Town have proven to be a very valuable crime detection and investigative tool. The devices have helped solve/deter crime in Atherton's neighborhoods. ALPR cameras are currently located at the following locations (please note that each direction noted below indicates the direction the camera faces):

1. Holbrook Palmer Park Entrance
2. Holbrook Palmer Park Exit
3. Northbound Middlefield Road at Ravenswood Avenue
4. Eastbound Watkins Avenue at El Camino Real
5. Westbound Fair Oaks Avenue at Jennings Lane
6. Southbound Middlefield Road at Jennings Lane
7. Northbound Alameda De Las Pulgas at Walsh Road
8. Northbound Frederick Avenue at Ringwood Avenue
9. Westbound Selby Lane at Oakwood Boulevard
10. Westbound Alejandra Avenue at El Camino Real
11. Westbound Valparaiso Avenue at El Camino Real
12. Northbound Camino Por Los Arobles at Valparaiso Avenue
13. Eastbound Atherton Avenue at Alameda De Las Pulgas
14. Westbound Atherton Avenue at El Camino Real
15. Westbound Selby Lane at El Camino Real
16. Eastbound Selby Lane at West Selby Lane
17. Eastbound Camino Al Lago at Alameda De Las Pulgas
18. Westbound Isabela Avenue at El Camino Real
19. Glenwood Avenue at Laurel
20. Westbound Marsh Road at Middlefield Road
21. Eastbound Stockbridge Avenue at Alameda De Las Pulgas
22. Eastbound Britton at Alejandra Avenue **(Privately Funded)**
23. Eastbound Emilie Avenue at Park Lane **(Privately Funded)**
24. Westbound Alejandra Avenue at Brittany Meadows **(Privately Funded)**
25. Westbound Winchester Drive at El Camino Real **(Privately Funded)**
26. Eastbound MacBain Avenue at Emilie Avenue **(Privately Funded)**
27. Inbound James Avenue **(Privately Funded)**
28. Inbound Linden Avenue **(Privately Funded)**
29. Eastbound Oak Grove at Manzanita **(Privately Funded)**
30. Westbound Oak Grove at Encino Road **(Privately Funded)**
31. Northbound Lloyden Drive at Fair Oaks Lane **(Privately Funded)**
32. Eastbound Lloyden Drive at El Camino Real **(Privately Funded)**
33. Eastbound Wilburn Avenue at El Camino Real **(Privately Funded)**
34. Westbound Stockbridge Avenue at El Camino Real **(Privately Funded)**
35. Westbound Almendral Avenue at El Camino Real **(Privately Funded)**
36. Westbound Tuscaloosa Avenue at El Camino Real **(Privately Funded)**
37. Westbound Fletcher Drive at Alameda De Las Pulgas **(Privately Funded)**
38. Westbound Walsh Road at Alameda De Las Pulgas **(Privately Funded)**
39. Westbound Atherton Avenue at Alameda De Las Pulgas **(Privately Funded)**

40. Southbound Alameda De Las Pulgas at Stockbridge Avenue (**Privately Funded**)
41. Eastbound Polhemus Avenue at Alameda De Las Pulgas (**Privately Funded**)
42. Northbound Elena Avenue at Valparaiso Avenue (**Privately Funded**)
43. Northbound Santiago Avenue at Valparaiso Avenue (**Privately Funded**)

The placement of ALPR cameras at strategic locations adds a significant investigative option that assist the Department in solving and deterring crime in Atherton's neighborhoods. ALPRs provide law enforcement with a pointer system that can help identify vehicles associated with suspects, witnesses, or victims, and develop exculpatory information that assists with focusing investigative resources. The data allows law enforcement to connect serial criminal activities that may have occurred in disconnected law enforcement jurisdictions.

Staff was approached by a resident that desires to donate \$21,000 to the Town for the express purpose of closing the gaps in ALPR coverage around Town. This funding would support the placement of four (4) additional ALPR cameras for the minimum 2-year contract. Staff has determined that the following four (4) locations would provide the best coverage for vehicles traveling into Atherton (please note that each direction noted below indicates the direction the camera will face and that due to traffic volume and multiple lanes on El Camino Real, two cameras are required in each direction):

1. Northbound El Camino Real at Walnut Avenue
2. Northbound El Camino at Walnut Avenue
3. Southbound El Camino Real at Selby Lane
4. Southbound El Camino Real at Selby Lane

The Public/Private partnership between residents and the Police Department funding the placement of ALPR cameras has been very successful. However, we have not yet reached the 2-year mark for the agreements where the residents have to commit to additional funding. At present, the private resident funds single or multiple ALPR cameras under the Town's vendor contract and the Police Department assumes the administrative responsibilities associated with the camera's operation. At the conclusion of the initial two-year agreements for privately funded camera locations, the Town can elect to remove the camera if private financial support is withdrawn. The annual cost to fund all 47 cameras would be \$117,500.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the City Council accept the donation of \$21,000 and authorize the use of the funds to install four (4) Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) at the above identified locations. The donation would pay for all four (4) ALPR cameras for a period of two years, including the majority of the installation costs.

POLICY FOCUS

The investment in additional ALPR cameras will ensure that the Town is equipped with technology that can help to identify vehicles associated with criminal activity, thus deterring and helping to proactively suppress criminal misconduct in Town.

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost to lease four (4) ALPRs is \$21,000 for two years. The private funding of \$21,000 will support the initial purchase and two years of annual cost as well as the majority of the installation costs related to each camera.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with this agenda item being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting in print and electronically. Information about the project is also disseminated via the Town’s electronic News Flash and Atherton Online. There are approximately 1,200 subscribers to the Town’s electronic News Flash publications. Subscribers include residents as well as stakeholders – to include, but not limited to, media outlets, school districts, Menlo Park Fire District, service providers (water, power, and sewer), and regional elected officials.

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE FEEDBACK/REFERRAL

This item ___ has or X has not been before a Town Committee or Commission.

- Audit/Finance Committee (meets every other month)
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee (meets as needed)
- Civic Center Advisory Committee (meets as needed)
- Environmental Programs Committee (meets every other month)
- Park and Recreation Committee (meets each month)
- Planning Commission (meets each month)
- Rail Committee (meets every other month)
- Transportation Committee (meets every other month)
- Tree Committee (meets each month)

ATTACHMENTS

ALPR Pin Map

Map of ALPR Cameras
(locations are approximated)

