

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL



DATE: April 17, 2018

TITLE: Automated License Plate Reader System Implementation Resolution

Prepared by: Dale Mondary, Chief of Police

Reviewed by: Jennifer Mizrahi, City Attorney

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Receive public comment regarding implementation of an Automated License Plate Reader System pursuant to Senate Bill 34; and
- 2) Adopt a Resolution of the City Council authorizing the City of Desert Hot Springs' Police Department to implement the use of the Automated License Plate Reader System within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City, and direct staff to prepare and approve any necessary amendments to the current Police Department's contract.

BACKGROUND:

For several years, the Police Department has used an Automated License Plate Reader System ("ALPR System") in the City. The ALPR System consists of cameras that automatically take photographs of vehicle license plates which are then translated into letters and numbers. The resulting data is compared to law enforcement databases to see if the vehicle has been reported stolen, wanted for being used in a crime, or is displaying lost or stolen license plates. If the license plate number is found to be wanted, the system alerts the officers driving so they can investigate further. Prior to any enforcement activity being initiated, officers are required to verify the alert with dispatch or directly via the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System ("CLETS"). The Automated License Plate Reader data is only accessible by law enforcement personnel for official investigative purposes and all access is logged by user.

The use of Automated License Plate Reader technology is a valuable law enforcement tool. This technology assists in identifying stolen or wanted vehicles, vehicles associated with missing or wanted people, and stolen license plates.

The Police Department is committed to operating Automated License Plate Reader technology in a measured means that balances personal privacy concerns and public safety. The Police Department follows strict protocols in the access, storage and use of Automated License Plate Reader data to ensure its integrity and compliance with applicable laws. Data may only be used for official law enforcement purposes, and cannot be shared, transferred, or sold for any other use. Employees are required to attend four hours of training about the system and policy prior to being given access to the system. Annual audits of the system to ensure privacy and security are conducted by the City's IT Department.

The authorized vendor with access to the ALPR System is required to maintain security procedures and practices, including operational, administrative, technical, and physical safeguards, to protect Automated License Plate Reader information from unauthorized access, destruction, use, modification, or disclosure.

The Police's Department Automated License Plate Reader Policy is posted on the City's website at: <http://www.cityofdhs.org>.

In 2016, Senate Bill 34 – "Automated License Plate Recognition Systems: Use of Data" became law. This bill requires agencies using Automated License Plate Reader systems to post their

policy on the agency's website and provide the opportunity for public comment at a regularly scheduled public meeting of the agencies governing body.

DISCUSSION:

As mentioned above, the bill requires that prior to implementing an ALPR System, the public agency (City) must provide the public an opportunity to comment at a regularly scheduled public meeting. After providing the public an opportunity to comment, the City Council may adopt the attached Resolution that will (a) implement the ALPR System; (b) authorize Police Department to use the ALPR system in the City; and (c) direct staff to prepare and approve any necessary amendments to the current Police Department's contract to effectuate the same.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact as a result of this action.

EXHIBITS:

- 1) Police Department ALPR Policy
- 2) Resolution