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San Diego Police Get Final Approval to Deploy Smart Streetlight, Automated License Plate Recognition Technologies

CRIME-SOLVING CAMERAS FIRST TO RECEIVE AUTHORIZATION UNDER SURVEILLANCE ORDINANCE

San Diego – After nearly 8 months of discussion, the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) received the final approval today to deploy Smart Streetlights and Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) technologies in the City of San Diego.

“Smart Streetlights and ALPRs will make our communities safer. They have been proven to help quickly identify and apprehend suspects in deadly crimes and bring them to justice,” Mayor Todd Gloria said. “I want to thank the City Council for recognizing their value for public safety and approving the contract that now will enable us to deploy them.”

Today's approval entered SDPD into a five-year agreement with Ubicquia Inc. for 500 Smart Streetlight cameras, paired with Flock Safety's ALPR technology. The combination of the two technologies provides SDPD with both video and ALPR data collection capabilities at a lower cost than if the two were purchased and maintained separately.

“The San Diego Police Department is excited to join the list of agencies nationwide leveraging video and ALPR data to hold criminals accountable,” Police Chief David Nisleit said. “I can't thank our Council enough for recognizing the value this technology will bring for our investigators and justice for victims of crime. Our teams will be working swiftly to bring them online as soon as possible to keep our communities safe.”

The project is anticipated to cost approximately \$3.5 million in the first year which includes a one-time \$1.5 million installation and maintenance cost and \$2 million for hardware, software and connectivity. The program will cost approximately \$2 million annually after the first year.

Smart Streetlights and ALPR are the first technologies to complete the process required by the City's [Transparent and Responsible Use of Surveillance Technology Ordinance](#). The 8-month process included presentations by SDPD at nine community meetings, online public comment and hearings at four Privacy Advisory Board meetings, two City Council Public Safety Committee meetings and two City Council meetings.

Every City department must comply with the ordinance for each technology that meets the criteria for surveillance. The City has approximately 300 technologies that may be defined under the ordinance, with more than 70 of them being used by SDPD to conduct investigations, enhance response to critical incidents and public threats, and safeguard the lives of community members. SDPD and the Fire-Rescue Department have more than a dozen other technologies in various stages of the ordinance process.

SDPD publicly posts information about the technologies used by the department including access, data storage and retention, the release of data and information collected, and more on its [Technology webpage](#).

With today's authorization, SDPD will now work with Ubicquia to deploy the Smart Streetlights and ALPR, with hopes of having them operational by January.

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