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Council Committee Advances SDPD's Smart Streetlight, License Plate Recognition Technology Proposal PLAN TO INSTALL VALUABLE PUBLIC SAFETY TOOL MOVING FORWARD TO FULL CITY COUNCIL

San Diego – In efforts to improve police investigative tools, the City Council's Public Safety Committee voted in support today to advance the San Diego Police Department's proposal to use Smart Streetlights and Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) technologies to investigate and solve crimes.

The proposed technology would allow the use of Smart Streetlight video cameras paired with Automated License Plate Recognition by SDPD at 500 initial locations throughout the City. The proposal includes information regarding access, data storage and retention, the release of data and information collected, and more.

"Job number one for any city is to keep its residents safe, and Smart Streetlights have proven their ability to help the San Diego Police Department solve crimes and make our communities safer," Mayor Todd Gloria said. "SDPD has demonstrated it can use this technology responsibly and has provided a wealth of information in order to comply with the City's Privacy Ordinance. I thank the Public Safety Committee for moving this item forward today."

SDPD presented at nine community meetings across the city and responded to more than 100 questions and requests for information from the Privacy Advisory Board and community members regarding Smart Streetlights and ALPR.

"Bringing back the use of Smart Streetlights will be a game changer for the San Diego Police Department. Investigators will be able to narrow in on suspects more quickly and with greater precision," Police Chief David Nisleit said. "We are grateful the Public Safety Committee

recognized the importance of this technology and look forward to presenting the proposal to full City Council soon.”

The Smart Streetlights and ALPR proposal are the first technologies to advance through the new review process outlined in the [Transparent and Responsible Use of Surveillance Technology Ordinance](#), often referred to as the “Surveillance Ordinance,” that was passed by City Council in 2022. Minor revisions were made to the ordinance earlier this week to allow more time for the City to comply with the requirements and narrow the definition of surveillance technologies.

A little more than 3,000 Smart Streetlights were deployed in San Diego before being deactivated in 2020 due to concerns over how the program was rolled out and questions about privacy protection.

Prior to that, SDPD used Smart Streetlight data to help investigate and solve more than 400 crimes, including 56 murders or attempted murders, 26 hit-and-runs, 55 robberies/burglaries, 19 sex crimes and 10 carjackings.

A [Grand Jury Report released in June 2022](#) found that the use of Smart Streetlights by SDPD presented no valid privacy concerns and recommended that the Mayor and City Council authorize and fund the reinstatement of the use of Smart Streetlights immediately.

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.

Smart Streetlights and ALPR will now move forward to full City Council, and if approved, the department can then move forward with a contract for the technology.

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