



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# Smart Streetlight, Automated License Plate Recognition Contract Moves Forward to City Council

## SDPD SEEKING APPROVAL ON AGREEMENT FOR 500 CRIME-SOLVING CAMERAS

**San Diego** – During a special meeting of the City Council’s Public Safety Committee today, the San Diego Police Department received the green light to seek City Council approval for a contract agreement with Ubicquia Inc. for Smart Streetlights and Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) technologies.

**“We have ample evidence that Smart Streetlights and ALPRs help the San Diego Police Department quickly identify and apprehend suspects in deadly crimes and bring them to justice, which makes our communities safer,” Mayor Todd Gloria said. “I appreciate the many hours our Police Department has dedicated to ensuring transparency around the use of these important tools and look forward to Council consideration of the contract that will enable us to deploy them.”**

The five-year agreement includes the installation and operation of Ubicquia’s Smart Streetlights, paired with Flock Safety’s ALPR technology. The combination of the two technologies provides SDPD with both video and ALPR data collection capabilities in a single platform at a lower cost than if the two were purchased and maintained independently.

**“Having access to video and ALPR data at investigators’ fingertips will be a game-changer for the San Diego Police Department,” Police Chief David Nisleit said. “Our teams have expended hours working through the process to get to this point. We look forward to getting this agreement across the finish line soon so that we can put this technology to work solving crimes.”**

The initial cost for the devices in Fiscal Year 2024 is approximately \$3.5 million and will include, 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. Mayor Gloria earmarked \$4 million in his Fiscal Year 2024 budget for the Smart Streetlight project.

SDPD received approval by the City Council in August for the use of the combined Smart Streetlight cameras and ALPR technologies in an initial 500 locations citywide. The Smart Streetlights can only operate in conjunction with an LED streetlight. If an LED streetlight is already in place, the technology can be easily connected to the streetlight without modification. In the event a designated location is not LED-equipped, the streetlight will be replaced with an LED light.

City Council's approval followed presentations at nine community meetings across the city, responding to more than 100 questions and requests for information from the Privacy Advisory Board, and presenting to both the Public Safety Committee and the full City Council on the intended use of the technology as required by the [Transparent and Responsible Use of Surveillance Technology ordinance, also known as the Privacy Ordinance](#).

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](#).

Field Code Changed

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.

Today's meeting follows an announcement by Mayor Gloria on Thursday to bring forward amendments to the Surveillance Ordinance in November to help move technologies through the approval and procurement processes more quickly so that it does not hinder City department operations and public safety. Chief Nisleit and Assistant Fire Chief John Wood shared the challenges Police and Fire-Rescue departments are already experiencing under the Surveillance Ordinance as written.

The contract will now move forward to full City Council for approval.

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