



**STAFF REPORT
HOLLISTER CITY COUNCIL
MEETING DATE: August 4, 2025
REPORT # Police-2025-07**

AGENDA ITEM: INFORMATIONAL REPORT ADVISING THE CITY MANAGER HAS AMENDED THE CURRENT CONTRACT WITH FLOCK SAFETY, INC. TO REPLACE THE RAVEN GUN SHOT DETECTION SYSTEM WITH ADDITIONAL ALPR CAMERAS

DEPARTMENT: Police

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Carlos Reynoso, Police Chief

STAFF CONTACT:

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive the informational report advising the City Manager has amended the current FLOCK Safety, Inc. contract.

DISCUSSION: The City of Hollister's previous contract with FLOCK Safety includes gunshot detection coverage for approximately one square mile on the west side of the city. This area was selected based on crime data indicating that over 85% of gunshot-related incidents reported in the two years prior to implementation occurred within this specific region. The City Council at that time expressed interest in expanding gunshot detection citywide if the pilot proved successful.

As part of this contract, the RAVEN gunshot detection system was installed alongside several FLOCK ALPR cameras. These cameras provide real-time license plate recognition and retention of footage for up to 30 days. The system automatically alerts officers to vehicles associated with crimes, which include stolen vehicles or plates, vehicles wanted in connection with felonies, or alerts flagged for officer safety. Officers receive these alerts via the department-issued FLOCK mobile app and/or their in-vehicle Mobile Data Computers (MDCs), enabling timely and informed responses.

Evaluation of System Performance

Over the past approximately 18 months, the RAVEN gunshot detection system has shown mixed results. It has successfully detected gunfire in a number of cases, which were corroborated by citizen reports. However, there have also been multiple incidents where alerts were generated but no evidence of gunfire was located by responding officers.

In contrast, the ALPR camera system has consistently demonstrated its effectiveness in criminal investigations. Several notable cases, including one where a shooting victim provided inaccurate information, but we were able to successfully obtain accurate ALPR footage. That particular case led to the arrest of a suspect for attempted murder, highlighting the system's ability to produce actionable intelligence even in challenging circumstances.

Proposal

Given the proven reliability and investigative value of the ALPR camera system, staff

proposes reallocating the resources currently dedicated to the RAVEN gunshot detection service to expand camera coverage across Hollister. Specifically, to discontinue the gunshot detection service (RAVEN) and replace the funds used for that portion to install additional ALPR cameras citywide using the freed-up resources, including one PTZ camera at the entrance of the river at the Bridgevale Road entrance.

This change incurred a one-time installation cost of \$5,050, which was covered by the current year's police department budget (FY24-25) and a modest increase of \$1,000 to our annual contract cost, raising the yearly expense from \$80,000 to \$81,000, effective in the upcoming November billing cycle.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$5,050 in installation costs and an increase of \$1,000 a year to annual charge for maintenance and support.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL OR COMMISSION ACTION: Previous approval of the FLOCK Safety, Inc. contract.

CEQA: N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Contract amendment