CITY OF OAKLAND

AGENDA REPORT

To: Office of the City Administrator
Attn: Deborah Edgerly
From: Police Department
Date: April 22, 2008

Re: **An Informational Report From the Office of Chief of Police Detailing the Effectiveness of Currently Installed Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPR) and Costs Associated With Purchasing Six Additional Units For Use By the Oakland Police Department**

SUMMARY

As requested by the Public Safety Committee on January 8, 2008, staff has prepared an informational report detailing the effectiveness of Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR), and providing a cost analysis of six additional units.

FISCAL IMPACT

At the request of the Chair of the Public Safety Committee, outlined below are costs associated with the purchase of six additional units from PIPS Technology, which is the vendor and manufacturer of the ALPR systems currently installed in the Department's vehicles. This fact makes PIPS Technology the only vendor with compatible equipment, and therefore would be the sole source vendor for expansion of this technology.

Quantity	Description	Price Ea.	Price
6	Police ALPR PAGIS unit (P362-950-LE-S) to include: two P362 dual lens cameras with IR @ 950nm and color overview; all custom camera cabling; PIPS ALPR processor-trunk mounted; GPS module; All required PAGIS and ALPR software installed on the processor for the State of California vehicle license database (DOJ).	$18,620.00	$111,720.00
	Installation Supervision by PIPS staff for OPD Shop Personnel (Travel and Living Expenses are included)		$4,500.00
	Sub Total		$116,220.00
	Tax		$ 10,169.25
	3% Contract Assessment Fee		$ 3,774.25
	Total Cost		**$130,163.50**

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This quote includes fees associated with a PIPS engineer providing on-site support and supervision of installation, maintenance, and procedures. Maintenance is covered for a two year period including shipping, repair, and return to the City at no additional cost. At the end of service contract period, the Department would have the option of entering into another two year service contract with PIPS[1]. As long as the City is under a service agreement with PIPS the units will be fixed and replaced at no additional cost. Additionally, software updates are free of charge and on-going as long as the Department is under a service contract. If the service contract is not renewed, the City would be required to pay for repairs and software updates.

Installation of the equipment is the responsibility of Oakland Police Department's (OPD) shop service personnel and requires no additional cost as the installation can be completed with existing staff resources.

BACKGROUND

Over the last couple of years, ALPR (Automatic License Plate Reader) technology has been refined and enhanced for use by the law enforcement community. This technology provides a way for vehicle licenses plates to be automatically scanned by a computer from a moving vehicle or a fixed location.

In August 2006 the City of Oakland purchased four ALPR units from Pips Technology. The four vehicles equipped with ALPR technology are deployed in the City and have currently read 793,273 vehicle license plates; there have been hits[2] on 2,012 license plates.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

During the last year staff has found that ALPR vehicles are a good investigative tool for recovering stolen vehicles and identifying other crimes that occur within the City of Oakland.

Example 1: During a homicide investigation a license plate was obtained from a witness of the suspect's vehicle. The license plate was run through the ALPR database of scanned plates and showed that the vehicle was parked at the scene of the homicide approximately one month before the homicide occurred. During the interrogation of the suspect, he denied ever being in that area before the night of the shooting. With the data retrieved from the ALPR, investigators were able to show that the suspect was lying about his association with the victim and the area.

Example 2: An OPD motor officer was riding on his police motorcycle when he was hit by a vehicle one evening. The driver of the vehicle fled the scene, however due to the impact of the collision; the front license plate of the suspect vehicle was left behind at the scene. The plate was run through the ALPR database and showed that the vehicle had been scanned in Oakland on two

[1] Service contract in the amount of $28,275 to service up to 13, two-camera systems and office software.
[2] A *hit* is defined as a match from one of the above listed databases. Depending on the database that the hit is from determines what action (s) the officer can take (i.e., recover a stolen vehicle).

different occasions. The following day, the registered owner of the vehicle called to report the vehicle as stolen. During the interrogation of the owner she stated that she had never been in Oakland before. The investigator showed her a copy of a photo of her vehicle in Oakland taken by the ALPR vehicle. The suspect then admitted that she had hit the Officer and fled the scene.

In October 2006 the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) adopted a resolution (Attached) in support of the use of license plate recognition technology. The resolution outlined several benefits of ALPR technology, encouraged its use, and prompted the U.S. Congress to supply adequate funding opportunities for agencies interested in deploying ALPR technology in their communities.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The PIPS ALPR system is made up of two roof mounted cameras and a trunk mounted computer. The system is integrated into the patrol vehicle's Mobil Data Terminal (MDT). The MDT is the officer's interface for the ALPR system, and displays the license plates and pictures scanned so the officer can manually confirm the data being shown.

The license plate is then compared to multiple databases and the officer is instantly notified via the MDT screen of any wanted vehicle matches in the system. The Police Department controls these databases which can be both manually and automatically updated. Current databases include stolen vehicles, wanted felony vehicles, lost or stolen plates, and Criminal Investigation Division (CID) wanted vehicles. Vehicles wanted for particular crimes such as missing persons, Amber Alerts, etc. can be manually entered into the system. Once a license plate is scanned it is stored in a central database (approximately six months to one year) which can be accessed at a later date for other investigations related to other crimes.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: The ALPR system will decrease the potential for vehicle collisions as a result of officers manually running vehicle license plates while driving. This will reduce the City of Oakland's potential liability from vehicle collisions as well as decrease officer hours lost due to injury as a result of vehicle collisions.

Environmental: No environmental opportunities have been identified.

Social Equity: The ALPR can scan and run more plates than a police officer could manually input, thereby increasing the number of stolen vehicle recovered as well as locating wanted subjects in other crimes. This will enhance the community by making Oakland a safer city.

Disability and Senior Access

There are no ADA or senior citizen access issues identified in this report

RECOMMENDATION / RATIONALE

Auto-theft continues to plague the City of Oakland and is one of the highest drivers of crime statistics. Numerous sweeps, task forces, and special details have been used to combat this ongoing crime issue. The Oakland Police Department now has an opportunity to employ emerging technology to directly affect this criminal activity

Based on the ongoing vehicle theft problem in the City of Oakland and the overwhelming success of the four ALPR vehicles currently deployed by the Department, staff supports and recommends the purchase of six additional ALPR systems. The added systems would increase the coverage areas, resulting in more stolen vehicles being recovered as well as increasing the investigative effectiveness of these systems in other crimes.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE COUNCIL

There is no action requested of the Council; this is an informational report.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne G. Tucker
Chief of Police

Prepared by:
Dave Kozicki
Deputy Chief of Police
Bureau of Field Operations

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO
THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:

Office of the City Administrator

Attachment: IACP Resolution

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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

RESOLUTION

Adopted at the 114th Annual Conference
New Orleans, Louisiana
October 16, 2007

SUPPORT FOR LICENSE PLATE READER SYSTEMS

Submitted by the Narcotics & Dangerous Drugs Committee
NDD.020.a07

WHEREAS, effective anticrime programs are effective antiterrorism programs; and evidence indicates that terrorist organizations which are funded in part by the sale of illegal drugs adds a new dimension to the need for continued investigation of narcotics related crime; and

WHEREAS, license plate reader and related digital photographing systems at border checkpoints incorporate the use of technology that provides a searchable database, including associated photographic images; license plate information; and statistical data such as date, time, and entry lane; and

WHEREAS, license plate reader systems and related digital photographing systems, working in combination with existing law enforcement databases, have the potential capability of identifying conveyances used for illegal activity, including the transportation of drugs and bulk cash; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement intelligence information may be shared more efficiently through greater use of technology and information sharing programs such as license plate reader systems to help ensure that investigative links are made to organized drug trafficking and related crime to the maximum extent possible; and

WHEREAS, all countries are encouraged to use technology such as license plate reader and related digital photographing systems, where practical, to share appropriate law enforcement information; and

WHEREAS, license plate reader and related digital photographing systems provide law enforcement with important tools necessary to combat all types of crime and is particularly useful in combating narcotics trafficking; and

WHEREAS, a significant commitment of resources will be required by federal, state, and local law entities to fully take advantage of this emerging technology; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the International Association of Chiefs of Police duly assembled at its 114th Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, strongly encourages the U.S. Congress to fully fund license plate reader and related digital photographing systems, including interrelated

information sharing networks, for the northern and southern borders of the United States; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that all countries are encouraged to use like technology, to the extent possible, to share appropriate law enforcement information; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the IACP supports the development of a comprehensive License Plate Reader guide for law enforcement executives that addresses current technologies; best practices; privacy issues, legal implications, and open source data systems.