

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: December 13, 2022

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Aaron King, Assistant City Manager
Robert Prestwood, City Engineer

Council Action Requested:

Consideration of an Encroachment Agreement for the Installation of Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) – Petition of Flock Safety (Various Locations in the City of Winston-Salem)

Strategic Focus Area: Safe and Secure Community
Strategic Objective: Reduce Crime and Fear of Crime
Strategic Plan Action Item: No
Key Work Item: No



Summary of Information:

The City of Winston-Salem has received a request from Flock Safety to grant an encroachment agreement. This agreement would allow them to install and operate 24 Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs), in the City of Winston-Salem. Flock Safety and Axon (WSPD’s body worn camera system provider) has proposed a “pilot program” to WSPD for the installation of a network of sensors, which will be equitably deployed in all eight wards in the City. These cameras will be mounted on a metal pole and the total height of the sensors will be 13 feet. An information item regarding this pilot program was presented to the Public Safety Committee in March 2022.

Flock Safety’s technology will allow the WSPD to capture vehicle details needed to generate investigative leads to solve crimes, as well as to generate leads on AMBER, Silver, and missing person alerts. It will also be a complement to our ShotSpotter Gunshot Detection System.

This request was discussed at the September 13, 2022 Public Works Committee meeting. During discussion on this item, members of City Council raised questions about the community’s awareness of the license plate reader program. Staff was directed to develop

Committee Action:

Committee	_____	Action	_____
For	_____	Against	_____
Remarks:			

a community engagement strategy about this topic. Staff from WSPD conducted the following community engagement activities:

- A webpage was created which included a FAQ document listed on the website
- No comments were received via the public comment form

Other actions included:

- A webinar was hosted
- News Stories Ran on Local News (ABC 45)
- A news release was sent out
- FLOCK presentation was given by AC Penn
- Numerous Social Media posts were made across City of WS and City of WS Police Twitter, Instagram and Facebook pages.
- Two citizen inquiries were submitted to Council members and the responses were provided

This request has been reviewed by the Public Works Department. It was determined that the encroachment agreement will not have adverse effects on the public's use of City roadways. Approximate locations are shown on the attached maps.