INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Quarterly Review of Data Captured by Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) for the Period Beginning July 1, 2014 through October 1, 2014

RECOMMENDATION

Pursuant to Menlo Park Municipal Code, staff is required to present a quarterly review of the data captured from the Police Department’s automated license plate readers.

BACKGROUND

On September 24, 2013, the City Council approved the purchase and installation of mobile Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) mounted on three police vehicles.

At the May 13, 2014 City Council meeting, the Council approved Ordinance 1007 regarding the use of automated license plate readers.

It states, “Northern California Regional Information Center (NCRIC) will give a quarterly report to the Police Department which shall indicate the number of license plates captured by the ALPR in the City of Menlo Park, how many of those license plates were “hits” (on an active wanted list), the number of inquiries made by Menlo Park personnel along with the justifications for those inquiries, and information on any data retained beyond six months and the reasons for such retention.”

ANALYSIS

From July 1, 2014 through October 1, 2014, the ALPR’s captured 263,430 license plates.

The data captured resulted in 141 “hits” that a captured license plate was currently on an active wanted list. The vast majority of the hits were subsequently deemed to be a “false read” after further review by the ALPR operator. One occupied stolen vehicle was recovered resulting in the arrest of the person operating the vehicle (Menlo Park Police Department Case #14-2946).

During the listed time period, Menlo Park Police personnel made three license plate inquiries into the database while training officers how to utilize the system and input the
appropriate tracking data. There were no inquiries of license plates made, other than the above training instances.

There was no captured license plate data retained beyond the six month limitation set forth in the municipal code.

**IMPACT ON CITY RESOURCES**

There is no impact on city resources.

**POLICY ISSUES**

This report is consistent with council direction to provide quarterly updates on ALPR information.

Report prepared by:
*William A. Dixon*
*Interim Police Commander*