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## **DRAFT MINUTES**

### **REGULAR MEETING OF THE Community Safety Committee**

**Monday, April 6, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.**

El Cerrito City Hall Council Chambers  
10890 San Pablo Avenue  
El Cerrito, Ca 94530

**CONVENE REGULAR MEETING** Chair Cobb called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

1. **ROLL CALL** – Present: Chair Cedrick Cobb; Vice Chair Dolgonas; Members Rosa Esquivel, and Howard Hickman. Absent Geroge Gager and Richard Ehara.
2. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**  
None
3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**  
**Moved/Seconded:** Member Esquivel/Dolgonas **Action:** Passed a motion to approve the minutes from the March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. **Ayes:** Members Cobb, Dolgonas, Esquivel, and Hickman **Noes: None**
4. **COUNCIL AND STAFF LIASION REPORTS**  
**Council Member Ktsanes provided an update. Here is a summary;**
  - Overview of agenda preparation process for upcoming City Council meetings.
  - Upcoming discussion regarding **senior exemption programs** related to the library:
    - One program appears unfunded and possibly inactive.
    - Another functions more as a tax-related exemption.
    - Criteria and eligibility are still under review by legal counsel.

- Future agenda item:
  - **Flock (ALPR) contract renewal** expected to be presented to City Council in approximately two weeks.
  - Discussion will include both public safety benefits and civil liberty concerns.

**Sergeant Leone provided an update. Here is a summary;**

- Officers responded to a series of **11 auto burglaries** in one neighborhood.
- A witness provided a description of suspect vehicles.
- Using **Flock license plate reader system**, officers:
  - Identified suspect vehicles.
  - Determined vehicles were stolen after the crimes.
  - Located one vehicle and processed it for evidence.
- Evidence recovered:
  - Fire department portable radio (returned to owner).
  - Stolen tools (returned to owner).
- DNA and fingerprint evidence collected for further investigation.
  - Case highlighted as an example of effective technology use.

## **5. POLICE DEPARTMENT FLOCK ALPR CAMERA PRESENTATION**

Lieutenant David Wentworth provided a presentation on Flock. Here is a summary;

### **Program Overview**

- 40 cameras installed citywide (June 2023).
- System captures:
  - License plate images
  - Date, time, and location
- Data retention: **30 days**.

### **Uses**

- Detect stolen vehicles entering/leaving the city.
- Assist in post-crime investigations.

### **Successes**

- Assisted in solving:
  - Homicide investigation (tracking suspect movements).
  - Fatal hit-and-run (suspect identified within 24 hours).
  - Home invasion robbery (suspect arrested within 48 hours).

- Contributed to:
  - 40-year low in burglaries and stolen vehicles.

## Issues Identified

- Early implementation (June–August 2023):
  - No administrative control.
  - Data was shared with two federal agencies
- Additional access incidents:
  - USPS (via system loophole—later closed).
  - Veterans Affairs Police (misidentified as California agency).

## Corrective Actions

- Federal access was removed and restricted.
- Monthly system audits implemented.
- Increased contract safeguards proposed.
- Transparency portal available to the public.

## Costs

- Approx. **\$103,500 per year**
- Total 3-year contract: **\$328,500**

## Committee Discussion

- Members discussed:
  - Benefits of Flock system for crime prevention.
  - Concerns regarding:
    - Data privacy
    - Unauthorized access
    - Vendor oversight
- Comparison to other vendors noted, but Flock preferred due to network size and integration with other agencies.

## Public Comments

Public raised several concerns:

- Data privacy and cybersecurity risks.
- Potential access by federal agencies without city knowledge.
- Possibility of subpoenas and undisclosed data sharing.
- Skepticism about true deletion of data after 30 days.
- Recommendation for:
  - Independent statewide oversight entity for technology vendors.
  - Broader expert review of surveillance systems.

Additional comments:

- Request for balanced presentations, including civil liberties perspectives (e.g., ACLU input).
- Questions about scope of data collected (clarified as limited to license plate, time, and location).

## Committee Action

**Moved/Seconded:** Member Dolgonas/Esquivel **Action:** Passed a motion to support continuation of the Flock program. **Ayes:** Members Cobb, Dolgonas, Esquivel, and Hickman **Noes:** None

### 6. ACCEPT NOMINATIONS AND VOTE FOR CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR POSITIONS

**Moved/Seconded:** Member Esquivel/Dolgonas **Action:** Passed a motion to have Dolgonas serve as Chair and Cobb serve as Vice-Chair. **Ayes:** Members Esquivel, Hickman, Dolgonas, and Cobb.

### 7. DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF EXISTING AD HOC COMMITTEES

- Discussion of ongoing committees:
  - Vegetation management
  - Red flag parking program (pending further study session)
- Noted member absences and recruitment challenges.

### 8. UPDATE FROM AD HOC COMMITTEES

### 9. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Plan to participate in **Fourth of July event:**

- Booth confirmed
- Opportunity for community outreach and crime prevention education

### 10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

**Chair:**

This is to certify the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting on April 6, 2026, as approved by the Community Safety Committee

**Staff liaison:**