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CITY OF KEARNEY **PRESS RELEASE** ***For Immediate Release***

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Kearney Police Enters Automatic License Plate Reading Camera Pilot Program

The Kearney Police Department received City Council Approval, during the June 14, 2022 City Council meeting, to enter into an agreement with *Flock Safety* for a 60-day automated license plate reading camera (ALPR) pilot program. Twenty-five ALPR cameras will be installed in strategic areas throughout the city to help solve and reduce crime. The cameras are built and installed by [Flock Safety](#), a public safety technology company that helps neighborhoods, communities, and law enforcement work together to fight crime.

Flock Safety ALPR cameras help law enforcement investigate crime by providing objective evidence, license plates, and vehicle characteristics. To proactively prevent crime from occurring in the City of Kearney, the cameras send a real-time alert to law enforcement when a stolen car or known wanted suspect from a state or national crime database enters the jurisdiction. They can also send alerts if a vehicle associated with a missing person in an AMBER or Endangered Mission Advisory Alert is detected.

The Kearney Police Department will adopt and maintain an updated policy around the usage of the ALPR system. Each search requires a justification, and the data is never sold or shared with third parties. All provisions of Nebraska Revised Statutes, Automatic License Plate Reader Privacy Act, to include annual reporting requirements will be strictly adhered to. The cameras will be used to solve and reduce property and violent crime and are not intended for minor traffic or parking violations.

“The Kearney Police Department is committed to providing a high level of public safety and security for our entire community through innovative, creative, and thoughtful means. The addition of an ALPR program will allow members of the department to continue and more effectively investigate, solve, deter, and reduce crime. The system will be used in accordance with state law, department policy, and an emphasis on individual privacy and transparency. It is important to understand this system does not use facial recognition, personal identification information, or conduct traffic enforcement. The data is stored for 30 days and automatically deleted unless used in a criminal investigation. The data is also never sold to a third party. This system will serve as an extension of our community policing philosophy through technology”.

– Bryan D. Waugh, Chief of Police

Flock Safety cameras are in use in over 2,000 cities across 40 states, and the company works with thousands of law enforcement agencies. Law Enforcement have reported crime reductions of up to 70% when deploying Flock Safety in their communities.

We provide services, solutions, and opportunities for our community.

“At Flock Safety, we believe in building strong bonds between police departments and the citizens they pledge to protect, and we are proud to partner with the Kearney Police Department to help them in pursuit of public safety,” said Garrett Langley, CEO of Flock Safety.

Flock Safety indicates the rollout of the program will take approximately 8-10 weeks as they will work directly with City Public Works staff and the Police Department on the optimal locations for the installation of each ALPR camera.

Additionally, in an effort to be open with our community and demonstrate our proper usage of the system and communicate what guardrails are in place, a Flock Safety Transparency Portal will be available for viewing on our website making policies and usage statistics available to the public along with frequently asked questions related to the ALPR program.

After the sixty-day pilot program, the Kearney Police ALPR project team comprised of the Chief of Police, Police Services Commander, Criminal Investigations Lieutenant, Professional Standards Lieutenant, and Property/Evidence Supervisor will compile statistical data related to potential crime reduction, case clearance and general deterrence, in addition to engaging the community through a variety of platforms to include information forums and social media. A full report will then be provided to the City Manager and City Council with a recommendation.

Check out our web site at www.cityofkearney.org.

We are sending this News Release as a service to the news media and citizens of Kearney.

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