



## City Council AGENDA REPORT

**DATE:** 12/04/2023

**AGENDA OF:** 12/12/2023

**DEPARTMENT:** Police

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 State Homeland Security Program Grant Proposal – Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) (PD)

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Motion to:

- 1) Approve the attached FY 2024 State Homeland Security Program Grant proposal letter and direct staff to send the letter to the Santa Cruz County Office of Response, Recovery, and Resilience, Authorized Body of Five no later than December 31, 2023;
  - 2) Approve the installation of automated license plate readers within Santa Cruz city limits, purchased with funds received through the FY 2024 State Homeland Security Program Grant; and
  - 3) Review the Santa Cruz Police Department’s Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) Policy and provide comment.
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**BACKGROUND:** The FY 2024 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) is one of three grant programs that support the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) focus on enhancing the ability of state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, as well as nonprofit organizations, to prevent, prepare for, protect against, and respond to potential terrorist attacks. These grant programs are part of a comprehensive set of measures authorized by Congress and implemented by the DHS to help strengthen the nation’s communities against potential terrorist attacks and other hazards. HSGP is composed of three grant programs:

- State Homeland Security Program
- Urban Area Security Initiative
- Operation Stonegarden

The County of Santa Cruz is eligible to be awarded an estimated \$329,000 through the FY24 State Homeland Security Program Grant (SHSPG), which will be distributed among multiple agencies, including Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Office, City of Santa Cruz Police and Fire Departments, and Scotts Valley Police Department.

FY 2024 SHSPG project proposals will be submitted to the Santa Cruz County Office of Response, Recovery & Resilience (OR3) and reviewed by the Program’s Authorized Body of

Five for the final SHSPG application submission. All proposals must address at least one of the grant's eleven priority areas:

1. Enhance Information and Intelligence Sharing and Cooperation with Federal Agencies, including DHS (National Priority)
2. Enhance the Protection of Soft Targets/Crowded Places (National Priority)
3. Enhance Cybersecurity (National Priority)
4. Enhancing Community Preparedness and Resilience (National Priority)
5. Combating Domestic Violence Extremism
6. Strengthen Emergency Communications Capabilities through Planning, Governance, Technology, and Equipment
7. Enhance Medical and Public Health Preparedness
8. Strengthen Information Sharing and Collaboration
9. Enhance Multi-Jurisdictional/Inter-Jurisdictional All-Hazards/Whole Community Incident Planning, Response & Recovery Capabilities
10. Protect Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (including Food & Agriculture)
11. Enhance Election Security (National Priority)

The City of Santa Cruz Police Department has received funds through the SHSPG in prior years (FY 2019, 2020 & 2023) to cover the cost of body armor, a Throwbot, specialized visual equipment, and personal ballistic shields.

**DISCUSSION:** The Santa Cruz Police Department is seeking approval of an FY 2024 State Homeland Security Program Grant Proposal Letter addressed to the OR3 Body of Five members to request funds to support the purchase of automated license plate readers (ALPRs). The ALPRs would be installed within the city limits of Santa Cruz and accessed by the Santa Cruz Police Department.

If approved, the proposal letter will be submitted to the OR3 Body of Five for review no later than December 31, 2023. OR3 will finalize and submit their application to the California Office of Emergency Services no later than January 31, 2024. Final approval of applications is expected to occur between September and October of 2024. The performance period, when funds can be spent, is expected to occur between October 2024 and June 2026.

Within the proposal letter to OR3, the Santa Cruz Police Department has requested \$84,000 to lease fourteen (14) Flock Safety fixed ALPRs for two years to enhance the department's crime prevention and investigative capabilities throughout the City of Santa Cruz.

The requested equipment is pre-approved by FEMA's authorized equipment list and meets several of the eleven grant priority areas.

Vehicle data obtained by the fixed ALPRs would provide information to police officers to identify stolen vehicles, locate missing children or adults, and investigate individuals wanted for serious crimes. In addition, the city's numerous tourist attractions and public schools create soft target opportunities for criminal and terrorist activities. The use of ALPRs would build on the Santa Cruz Police Department's capabilities to use real-time information and historical analysis to identify and investigate potential threats and enhance its support towards regional public safety efforts.

Please see the Santa Cruz Police Department's draft ALPRs Policy, ALPR Usage and Privacy Policy, and frequently asked questions about ALPRs in the provided attachments.

**HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES (HiAP):** The proposed FY 2024 State Homeland Security Program Grant project proposal is consistent with the Health in All Policies pillars of equity and public health in that it will assist the city in dedicating funding towards infrastructure that reduces bias and supports neighborhood safety and communities free of crime, violence, and social disorder.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** Approval of the FY 2024 State Homeland Security Program Grant proposal letter would have no fiscal impact on the general fund. If funds are awarded to the Santa Cruz Police Department through the State Homeland Security Program Grant, approval of the FY 2024 State Homeland Security Program Grant proposal letter will allow the City to accept \$84,000 in grant funds with no cash match requirement.

**Prepared By:**  
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Analyst

**Submitted By:**  
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Chief of Police

**Approved By:**  
Matt Huffaker  
City Manager

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. FAQ – AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READERS & SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT USE POLICY.PDF
2. FY 2024 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM GRANT PROPOSAL LETTER.PDF
3. SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READERS (ALPRS) POLICY\_DRAFT.PDF
4. SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READER USAGE AND PRIVACY POLICY.PDF