



ACTION CALENDAR

March 18, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager
Submitted by: Jennifer Louis, Chief of Police
Subject: Revised External Fixed Surveillance Camera Locations and Vendor Transition

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend Council approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to begin the Surveillance Technology Ordinance (STO) process with a proposal to transition the External Fixed Video Surveillance Camera program from Edgeworth Integration, LLC to Flock Safety. This proposal also reallocates camera placements away from corridors already served by the ALPR system and positions them in areas with high pedestrian traffic. The change addresses installation challenges such as PGE power limitations and Caltrans right-of-way delays and strengthens the City's ability to respond to and investigate crime. We recommend that the resolution authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary actions to implement this transition in compliance with applicable ordinances and policies. We also recommend that Council provide authorization as required by the STO to the City Manager to seek available grant funding for surveillance cameras.

The proposed camera placements result from a detailed review of key factors. We identified locations where monitoring would capture individuals entering or exiting areas of heavy pedestrian traffic. Analysis of crime trends and retail theft data revealed zones that would benefit most from surveillance. Local feedback from business districts and community meetings also indicated specific areas of concern. These considerations have led us to propose camera sites adjacent to key intersections:

- Center / MLK
- Milvia / Alston
- Center / Shattuck
- University / Shattuck
- Cedar / Shattuck
- Durant / Telegraph
- 4th / Virginia
- University / MLK
- College / Ashby
- 9th / Gilman
- Solano / Colusa
- 4th / Hearst
- Adeline / Fairview
- Shattuck / Ashby
- 62rd / King
- College / Alcatraz

In the case that additional funding becomes available and/or Council wishes to authorize more locations, we propose additional camera sites adjacent to these intersections: Ashby / Domingo, Ashby / San Pablo, Ashby / 6th and University / San Pablo.

This revision responds to two main issues. First, camera placements along Ashby and San Pablo will encounter delays due to Caltrans right-of-way challenges and Edgeworth cameras have electricity requirements that cannot be accommodated within our flat-rate contracts for traffic signals with PGE, and installing a dedicated meter would be prohibitively expensive. These challenges render the installation of Edgeworth cameras unfeasible. Second, the widespread deployment of ALPRs now covers vehicle movements, which makes the previously approved locations redundant. The new approach concentrates on high-foot-traffic areas that promise improved evidence collection during incidents.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Initial camera placements were selected to address vehicle-related crime patterns. The recent deployment of ALPRs now records vehicle ingress and egress citywide. This overlap has rendered some of the originally planned sites unnecessary. In parallel, installation delays on Ashby and San Pablo have emerged from issues with the Caltrans right-of-way. PGE restrictions have also prevented the use of traffic signal poles for powering Edgeworth cameras.

Switching to Flock resolves these issues because its solar-powered cameras can be mounted on any pole along the City's right-of-way, and focusing on pedestrian traffic removes the impetus for placing cameras on Caltrans ROW. In addition, these cameras integrate seamlessly with Flock's ALPR system. They offer superior technical specifications, featuring advanced pan, tilt, and zoom capabilities along with robust real-time activity alerts.

Adopting a new vendor triggers the requirement to submit a fresh acquisition report under the Surveillance Technology Ordinance. Although the underlying technology remains consistent, the ordinance mandates a new submission and waiting period. In addition, the City must work with Edgeworth and Finance to resolve the \$292,000 already expended. Future council items may include authorizing the reallocation of these funds as well as presenting the new acquisition report after review by the Police Accountability Board.

BACKGROUND

Council actions on October 12, 2021, and January 30, 2024 authorized the installation of External Fixed Video Surveillance Cameras at designated intersections. The original directive allocated \$600,000 from the FY 2024 baseline Public Works budget (General Fund 011) for cameras at key locations, and the City has already disbursed \$290,000 to Edgeworth Integration, LLC. Recent evaluations have uncovered significant challenges with this approach. Edgeworth's cameras and servers draw more significantly more electricity than permitted under our flat-rate contract with PGE for

traffic signals- a limitation that prevents installation at all the approved sites. In addition, Caltrans right-of-way issues are delaying installations specifically along Ashby and San Pablo. Furthermore, the City's expanding rollout of ALPR cameras now renders the original locations redundant for vehicle tracking purposes. The ALPR project is progressing well, with 32 of 52 approved Flock ALPRs installed; the remaining sites along Ashby and San Pablo await Caltrans permits. Given these issues, we propose a revised plan that pivots our focus to high-foot-traffic areas while adopting Flock's solar-powered cameras. This vendor switch resolves our electricity challenges and integrates seamlessly with our ALPR system, offering increased investigative value and more effective evidence collection during incidents..

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Staff considered continuing with the original set of intersections. However, internal reviews suggest that the proposed sites offer more targeted coverage, prompting this request to redistribute the installations. Staff also considered continuing with Edgeworth products; however, technical challenges have rendered this alternative unworkable.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The revised strategy enables Public Works to complete the camera installations promptly. Devices will be located at points that best support investigations and discourage criminal behavior. Of the 15 fixed camera locations originally proposed and approved by Council that remain uninstalled, 1 location is included the proposed plan for surveillance cameras (62nd / King), 9 are directly covered by an installed or planned ALPR camera (San Pablo / University; 7th / Ashby; San Pablo / Ashby; Sacramento / Ashby; College / Ashby) and the remaining 5 are on thoroughfares covered by nearby ALPRs (7th / Dwight, San Pablo / Dwight, Claremont / Ashby, Alcatraz / College, Woolsey / Shattuck).

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

Transitioning to solar-powered cameras will reduce the carbon footprint of this project

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The FY 2024 baseline Public Works budget (General Fund 011) provides \$600,000 to support this project. Flock solar-powered cameras are priced at \$5,000 per camera each year. At that rate, the 15 approved cameras will require an annual expenditure of \$75,000. The City has already disbursed \$290,000 to Edgeworth, but Public Works and the Finance Department will work with Edgeworth to reassign these funds to other projects, including camera installations at the animal shelter, transfer station, and corporation yard. An additional \$310,000 remains requisitioned and unspent. This

Internal

amount covers four years of operating costs for the Flock cameras. If the \$290,000 is recovered, it would provide an additional four years of funding.

The Flock surveillance cameras qualify for a consortium purchasing agreement—the same method we used to purchase Flock ALPRs—allowing the City to leverage pre-negotiated pricing and standardized terms.

Additionally, grant funding is available to support the purchase, subject to Council approval per the Surveillance Technology Ordinance. Therefore, we are also requesting permission to seek a grant—including one scheduled to close on March 21, 2025, for up to \$300,000—to cover the purchase costs.

CONTACT PERSON

Jennifer Louis, Chief of Police, (510) 981-5700

ATTACHMENTS

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###N.S.

RESOLUTION APPROVING REDISTRIBUTION OF FIXED CAMERAS AND
AUTHORIZING VENDOR TRANSITION

WHEREAS, the City's earlier plan for External Fixed Video Surveillance Cameras no longer reflects current operational needs because the Automated License Plate Recognition system now covers key corridors; and

WHEREAS, ongoing issues—including delays from Caltrans right-of-way complications and PGE power supply restrictions—have hindered installations at the initially designated sites; and

WHEREAS, a detailed review of crime trends, retail theft data, and community feedback has identified that reallocating surveillance resources to high pedestrian traffic areas will provide greater investigative value and more effective evidence collection during incidents; and

WHEREAS, the updated plan shifts camera installations to select locations, namely:

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|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Center / MLK | • College / Ashby |
| • Milvia / Alston | • 9 th / Gilman |
| • Center / Shattuck | • Solano / Colusa |
| • University / Shattuck | • 4 th / Hearst |
| • Cedar / Shattuck | • Adeline / Fairview |
| • Durant / Telegraph | • Shattuck / Ashby |
| • 4 th / Virginia | • 62 nd / King |
| • University / MLK | • College / Alcatraz |

WHEREAS, switching from Edgeworth Integration, LLC to Flock Safety permits the use of solar-powered cameras that can be installed on any City right-of-way pole and integrated with the ALPR network without previous constraints; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal framework for this revised approach aligns with the Public Works budget while addressing funds previously allocated to projects with Edgeworth Integration; and

WHEREAS, the revised strategy adheres to the approved Surveillance Camera Policy and is expected to provide more effective coverage for investigative purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized to:

1. Initiate the process to transition the External Fixed Video Surveillance Camera program from Edgeworth Integration, LLC to Flock Safety, including the adoption of solar-powered cameras;

2. Reallocate camera placements from corridors now served by the ALPR system to the high pedestrian traffic intersections identified above;
3. Execute all necessary actions, in compliance with applicable ordinances and policies, to implement the revised camera installation strategy;
4. Submit a new acquisition report as required under the Surveillance Technology Ordinance; and
5. Seek, on behalf of the City, available grant funding to assist with the purchase costs of the new system.