



DATE: October 25, 2023

TO: Harry Griffen Park Joint Powers Agreement Governing Board

FROM: Scott Hildebrand, Police Lieutenant

VIA: Greg Humora, City Manager

SUBJECT: Edits-HGP Camera Staff Report.docx

In response to the board's inquiry about camera monitoring of Harry Griffen Park, I've explored different options detailed below. They offer various capabilities with different limitations at different price points.

## **CAMERA OPTIONS**

### **Hardwired Camera**

Hardwired cameras are not an option. According to City staff, La Mesa does not have a fiber Internet connection at Harry Griffen Park, nor is the connection close enough to reach the park with Wi-Fi.

### **Camera Trailer - \$30,000-\$40,000 fixed purchase + LTE plan/month**

A camera trailer offers the most flexibility and the best coverage. Different models offer between two and four cameras to see in different directions. Some models also offer speakers to allow direct communication with people in the area. It would be towable to nearly any location within the park. Solar panels would offer continuous coverage unless the trailer were placed in a heavily shaded area. The La Mesa Police Department has experience in employing similar trailers and would be responsible for day-to-day operations. The camera RTSP feed could be added to the LMPD Dispatch Center. The footage would be retained on the device until overwritten. The trailer is somewhat vulnerable to vandalism.

A camera trailer of this type belonging to the El Cajon Police Department was deployed in the park recently, with effective results.

### **Flock Condor - ~\$3,000/year/camera**

The City of La Mesa is considering a Flock license plate reader (LPR) camera system. The City of El Cajon already has a successful Flock camera implantation. Flock offers a non-LPR camera solution called "Condor." The Condor camera would integrate into an existing Flock system, with 30 days of footage retained. It can be mounted wherever its included solar panel is sufficiently exposed to power the unit. LTE cell communication is included in the purchase price. The Flock system is cloud-based, and Flock installs, maintains, and periodically upgrades their cameras. The Condor camera would not be financially viable for the park unless linked to an existing implementation because system administration costs are at least \$15,000/year.

### **Pole Camera - \$3,000 to \$5,000 fixed purchase + LTE plan/month**

A camera box can be affixed to a City light pole in the park. Since the light is only energized at night, a model including batteries to charge at night and run during the day would be required. The camera RTSP feed could be added to the LMPD Dispatch Center. The footage would be retained on the device until overwritten.

### **DISCUSSION**

The camera trailer offers flexibility to address new challenges as they emerge in the Harry Griffen Park; however, it requires a large initial capital outlay and would necessitate one of the members of the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to service and maintain the trailer within their vehicle fleet. On the other hand, the Flock solution is self-contained and maintained by the vendor. Assuming La Mesa's Flock program is approved, both the La Mesa Police Department and El Cajon Police Department could be given access to the camera feed(s). No action would be required by any members of the JPA. The pole camera would be a middle ground, offering a similar initial cost to the Flock camera, but with maintenance falling to a member of the JPA.