



Burglaries: Preliminary Response Concepts/Options

LOS ALTOS HILLS, CITY COUNCIL

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023

Opening Comments

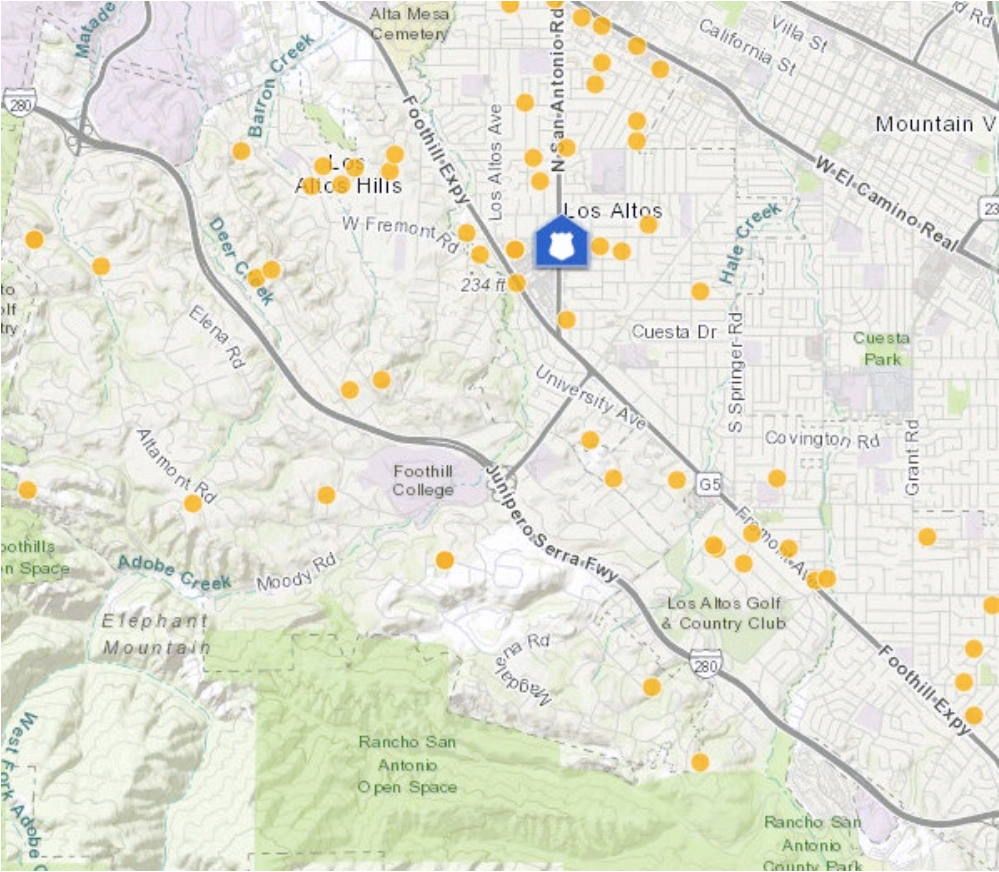
- Emergency needs
- Balanced against need to assess/analyze
- Some ideas may be good/some not
- Three categories (short, mid, and long-term)

*There are no big problems,
there are just a lot of little
problems.*

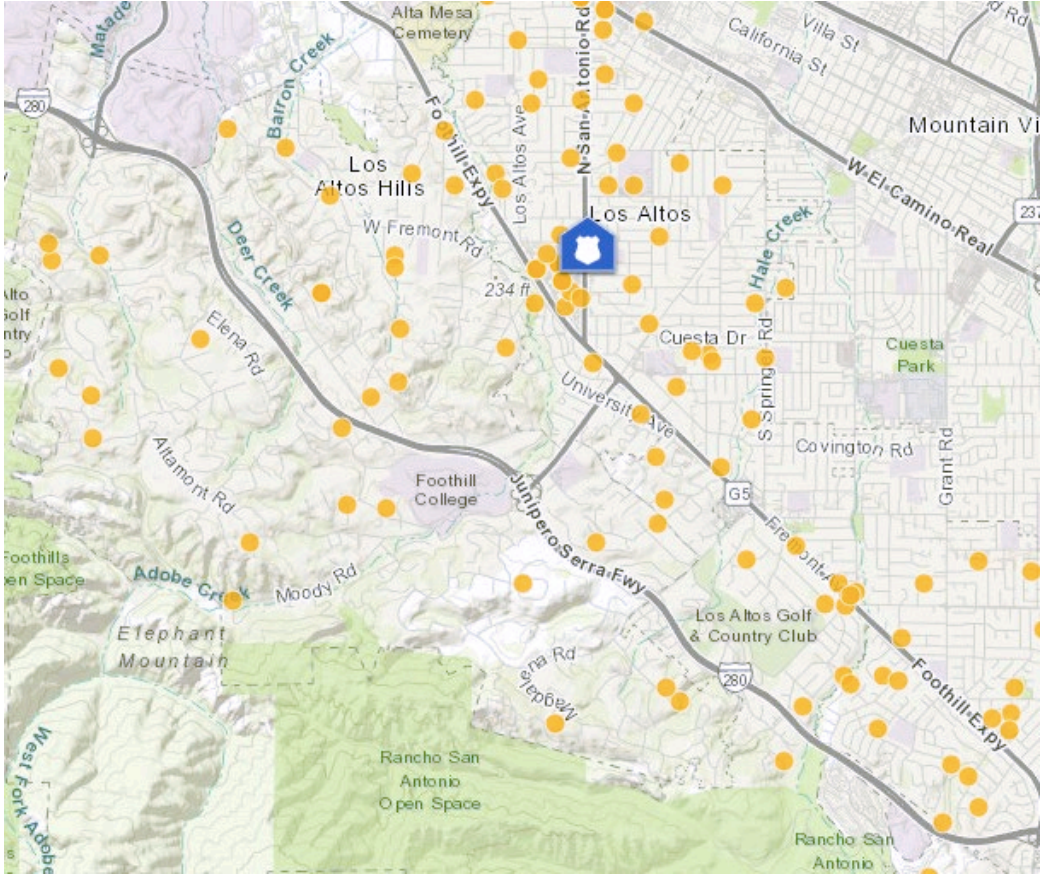
-Henry Ford

Burglary Six Month Comparison (Source: City Protect)

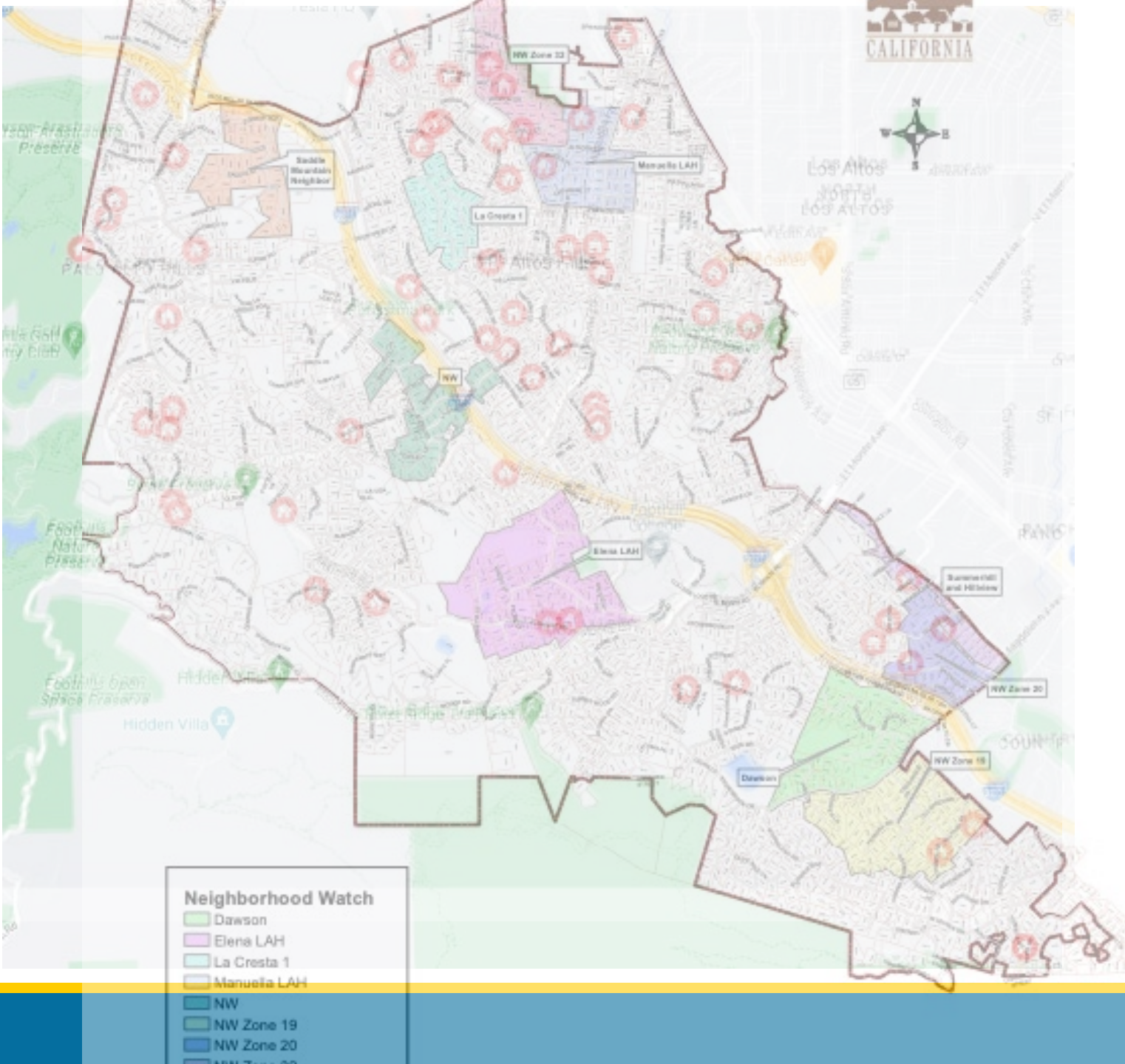
3/1/2022 - 8/31/2022








9/1/2022 - 2/26/2023



Three Semi-Transparent Maps



Neighborhood Watch

 Dawson	0
 Elena LAH	2
 La Cresta 1	0
 Manuella LAH	2
 NW	0
 NW Zone 19	2
 NW Zone 20	2
 NW Zone 32	3
 Saddle Mountain Neighbor	0
 Summerhill and Hillview	1

65 Burglaries in 14 Months

12 in Watch Areas

4 Watch Areas with ZERO

Comparison to Other Communities

City	Total Budget	Law Enf. Budget	% of Budget	Staff Swn/non	Burglaries (2022)	Per 1000
Atherton (6.9k)	\$16.5M	\$9M	55%	21/9	16	2.3
Cupertino (58k)	\$130M	\$16.8M	12.9%	5.6*	85	1.5
Hillsborough (11k)	\$68.5M	\$12.7M	18.5%	28/10	28**	2.5
Los Altos (30.7k)	\$49M	\$22.9M	46.7%	26/21	67	2.2
Portola Valley (4.2k)	\$11.9M	\$1.5M	12.6%	2.5*	5	1.2
Saratoga (30.1k)	\$26M	\$7.3M	28%	13.92*	75	2.5
Woodside (5.1k)	\$14.1M	\$3.9M	27.6%	6.88*	14	2.7
Los Altos Hills (8.3k)	\$15M	\$2.5M	16.6%	2*	51	6.1

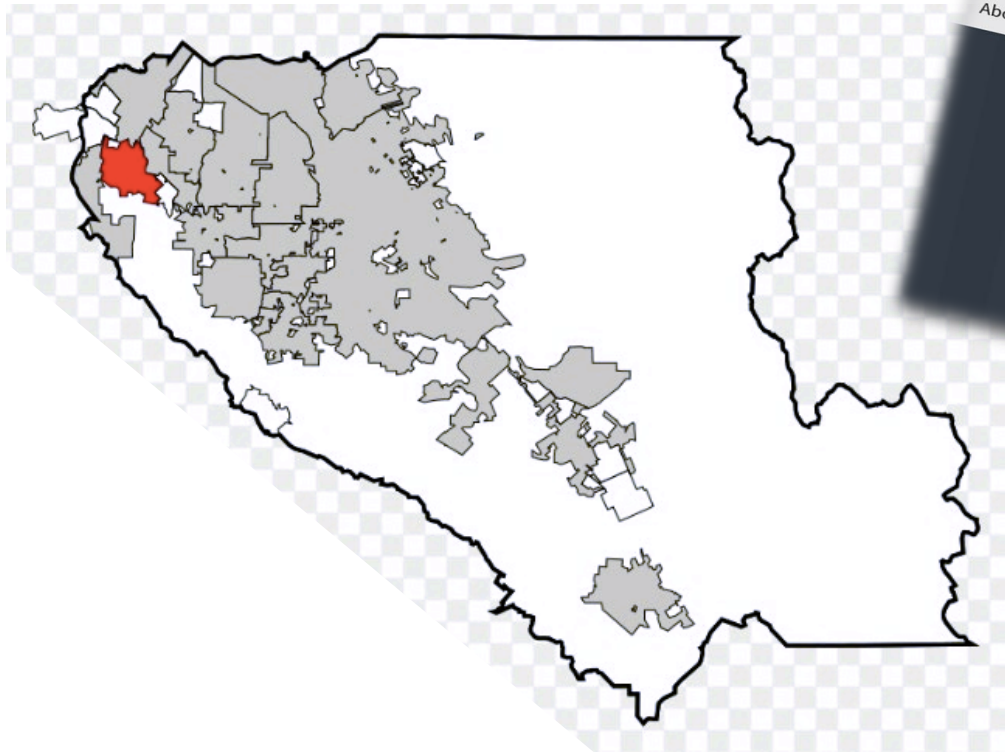
* Sheriff contract represents the number of people typically assigned to work during a 24 hour period. For example, Portola Valley has 1 deputy on days, 1 on at night, and ½ of a deputy is shared during the day with Woodside.

** Represents FY21

The Atherton Model – Going from 45 -> 16

- Sustained community outreach/education in the form of community meetings, mailings of education/prevention information to all residents, use of social media, and the news media.
- The hypervigilance of our residents to ensure they say something when they see suspicious activity.
- The Resident Volunteer Patrol team.
- The Atherton Disaster and Preparedness Team (ADAPT).DAPT group.
- Leverage of the 47 camera ALPR system for crime detection and deterrence.
(26 – Privately Funded)
- Proactive high-profile policing and teamwork with our residents, volunteers, and law enforcement partners.
- Our Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) program.

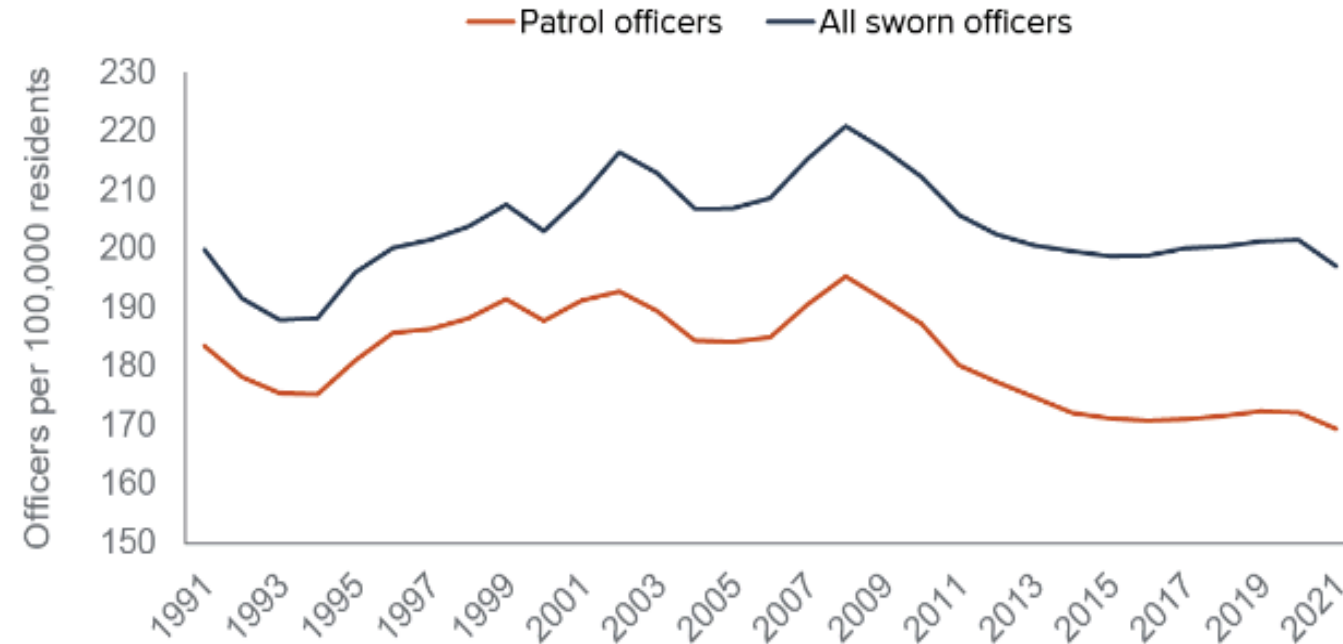
How does Los Altos Hills “Fit in” to the big picture?



- *Short staffed*
- *Oct-Dec, 2022—192 burglaries*
- *Problem is statewide*

In California...

The number of patrol officers per 100,000 residents has declined to 1991 levels



BAY AREA

**San Mateo Sheriff says
staffing levels
'unsustainable'**



Short Range—Deal with the Emergency (cont.)

1: Immediate Community Outreach/Education Campaign (Atherton Model)

Education – Hardening – Defense – Deterrence

- Scope:
- (1) Post card and marketing materials on how to harden residence
 - (2) Promote Neighborhood Watch programs
 - (3) Establish Volunteering Policing Program
 - (4) Promote proper alarm installation and usage
 - (5) Direct alarm connection to dispatch
 - (6) Formation of a Public Safety Committee

Short Range Options—Deal with the Emergency

2: Hire uniformed private security—short term contract (60-90 days)

Scope: Provide preventive patrols as eyes/ears for law enforcement

Pros: Sends positive message to the community—doing something!

Cons: Perception of over policing, liability, over-reach of enforcement

Tasks to accomplish

- Identify scope of work (e.g. hours/days to deploy, activities to undertake, etc.)
- Obtain quotes for services
- Bring details to City Council for review/approval/funding
- Hire/supervise the selected vendor
- “Hot wash” evaluation—30 days into the program (tweak as needed—report to the City Council)
 - Currently there are 3 major firms in the area doing this kind of work.
 - Allied Universal; Securitas; Pro Guard
 - **Approximately Vehicle, Gas, and \$50/hr**

Short Range—Deal with the Emergency (cont.)

3: Explore Developing a Property Recovery Reward Contest

- Scope:** City and private donations fund the contest. After the City posts images/descriptions of stolen items, contestants help law enforcement find stolen property by constantly searching on websites like Craigslist, ebay, pawn shops, and Facebook marketplace. They get a “reward” when property is recovered or when their info leads to an arrest.
- Benefit:** Develops leads and leverages the public’s creativity/crowd sourcing capacity—may help nullify the value of the stolen goods.

Tasks to accomplish

- Write out the contest concept, rules, and administrative structure (e.g. a director and board)
- Develop means of property recovery (from on-line “leads”)
- Present to City Council for support/initial funding
- Seek technology support from a local tech leader (to develop a stand alone website)

Short Range—Deal with the Emergency (cont.)

4: Review Sheriff's contract—add full time deputies as soon as possible

Scope: Provide extra preventive patrols

Benefit: Sends positive message to the community—adding resources

Option A - Continue Efforts to Fill Council Approved Overtime; and/or

Option B – Renegotiate Contract to add minimum staffing level

NOTE: Indications are that added positions are possible. Need to “open” contract discussions in early March.

Tasks to accomplish

- Identify scope of work (e.g. hours/days to deploy, activities to undertake, etc.)
- Develop criteria for measuring results
- Bring option, if plausible to the City Council for review/approval/funding

* Currently 7,281 Total Patrol Deputies hours assigned per FY Plus OT Deputies as assigned

Short Range—Deal with the Emergency (cont.)

5: Add investigative hours to the Contract or hire a retired Santa Clara Investigator

Scope: Reviews new burglary cases and those from the last 6 months.
 Added time meeting with victims, finding/assessing ALPR data,
 and searching for stolen property sold or marketed on the internet

Benefit: Performs additional needed functions

Tasks to accomplish

- Discuss concept/obtain City Council consensus to explore further
- Confirm concept's viability/interest with SCSO
- Arrange for office space, supplies, computer, if officed locally
- If a retiree, coordinate as needed with SCSO/HR/etc.

*Currently have 600 hours of detective work per Fiscal Year (Cost is approx. \$245/hr)

Summary of Short-Term Options (Proposed Motion)

1. Immediate Community Outreach/Education Campaign “Atherton Model” (nominal cost)

2. Hire Private Security—90 Days, 16 hours/Day—7 days a week coverage (est. \$80K)
3. Explore Developing a Property Recovery Reward Contest (est. \$10K to start)
4. Review Sheriff’s contract—add one full time deputy (est. \$450K per year)
5. Add 600 investigative hours to the Sheriff’s Contract (est. \$150K)

Comments or consensus on any mid-range concepts?

Many of which are part of the Atherton Model

8 Mid-Range Options (3-12 months out)

1. Extend private security presence if deployed (and if successful)
2. Consider pros/cons of establishing Paid Community Service Officers (CSOs)
3. Temporarily reduce access in parts of Los Altos Hills (i.e. private gates on private streets)
4. Coordinate undercover sting/surveillance operations (w/other jurisdictions)
5. Improve coordination with regional task forces
6. Request aid from A.G., D.A., FBI regarding sophisticated fencing operations
7. Establish program for free on-sight security assessments (by trained CSOs)
8. Leverage technology, for example: sharing existing camera feeds

Mid Range—ALPR Effectiveness Review

Underway through MRG

Scope: Compare costs versus benefits, other options to get more value from the ALPR investment, evaluate right-sizing the system for maximum ROI

Benefit: Ensure funds are used efficiently, and the system's full potential is utilized.

Tasks to accomplish

- Develop examination methodology
- Conduct various inspections to verify system's use
- Review system design with users and the manufacturer
- Compare long-range costs to other similar technology options

3 Long-Range Options (1+ year)

1. Consider creating or allowing some “gated” areas—all or part (legal concerns should be explored)
2. Without significant improvements in the next year or two, consider creating a LAH Police Department
3. Concept of ballot measure to pay for significant security related expenses

Questions/Discussion/Comments/Public Input