

**BENICIA POLICE DEPARTMENT
AUTOMATED LICENSE
PLATE READERS
PROGRAM OVERVIEW**



Background

- Beginning 2021 held a number of community meetings to discuss the technology.
- May 18, 2021 – Council approved 45 cameras.
- Policy created with best practices, with guidance from City Attorney's Office
- September 2021 – installed and operable.

Automated License Plate Readers

What do they do?

- License plate recognition
- Capture vehicle details
- Alert police of wanted vehicles
- Used to solve crime
- Data automatically deletes every 30 day

What don't they do?

- No facial recognition
- Not a video recording
- Not used for traffic or immigration enforcement

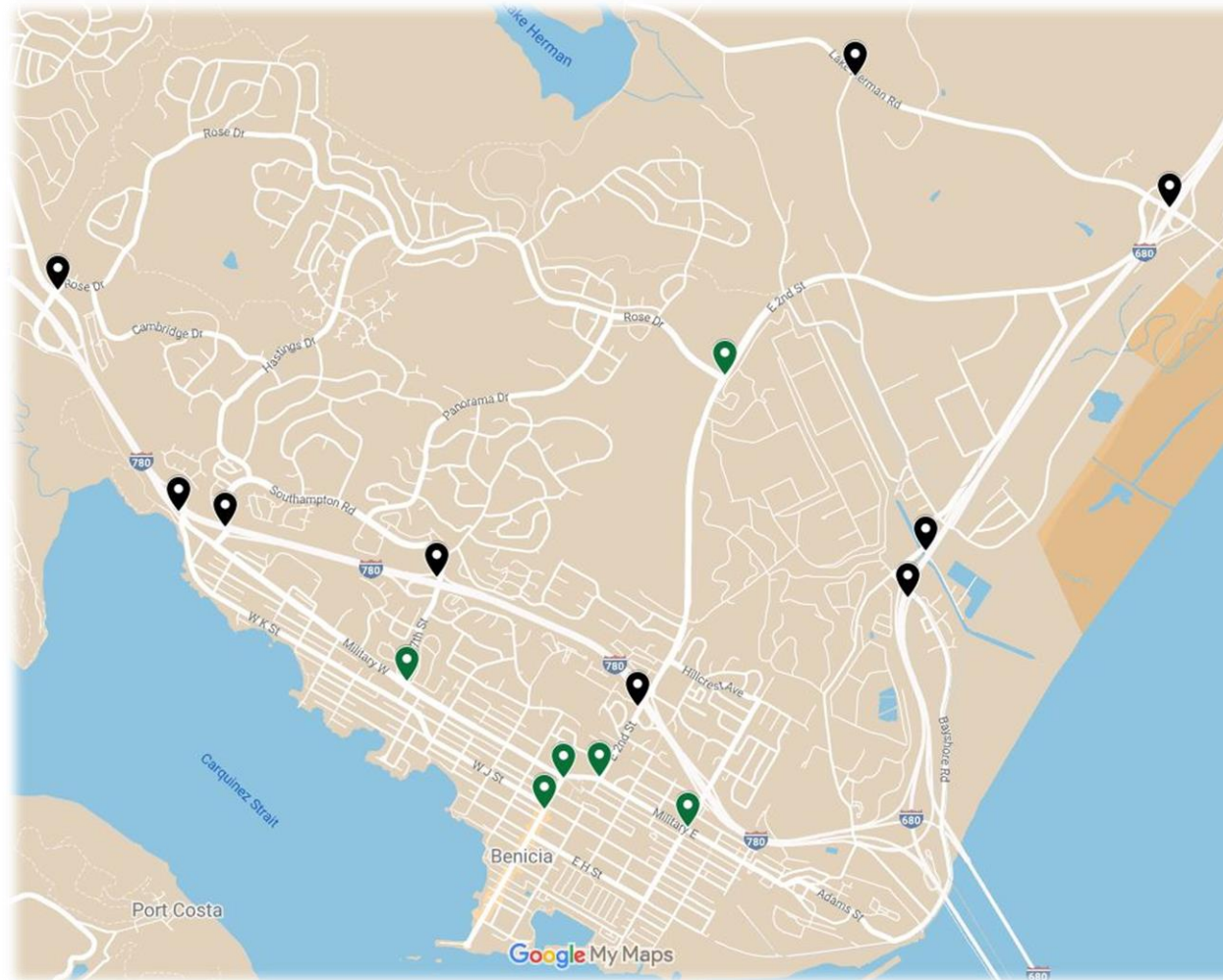


Policy

- Law enforcement purpose only
- Individual login and password
- All users receive training and must acknowledge policy
- All searches are tracked and recorded
- Only share for law enforcement purposes within California.
Written agreement required.
- Internal quarterly audits

Locations

45 CAMERAS



15 square miles
Population: ±
28,000

Black: Entry/Exit
points
Green: Major
intersections

ALPR Data Analysis

September 2021-August 2023

- Total arrests: **108** (84% non-Benicia Residents/16% Benicia residents)
- Violent offenders: **10** (murder, armed robberies, assaults, etc.)
- Guns seized: **20**
- Drugs seized incidents: **32**
- Total stolen vehicles recovered: **55**
- Total value of recovered property: **\$574,615**
- Catalytic converter theft incidents: **11**

Successes

First Street restaurant burglary arrests – A burglary occurred at a Downtown restaurant and Detectives were able to obtain the license plate number using the ALPR system, which led them to identify the suspect's vehicle. Detectives were able to get a confession and warrants for the arrest of the suspects.

Armed robbery suspect arrest – Officers responded to an ALPR activation regarding a vehicle used in a robbery at a business in Contra Costa County. One of our Officers located the vehicle behind a Bank in Downtown Benicia. The suspect was arrested after a short foot pursuit and a handgun was located on him.

Successes cont.

Industrial Park burglary arrest – A suspect entered a warehouse where he stole approximately a quarter of \$1 million worth of goods. With the help of ALPR, officers were able to identify the suspect, and a warrant was granted for the suspect's arrest.

Rash of home burglaries arrest – ALPRs helped investigators identified a suspect in a series of residential burglaries. The suspect had a violent criminal history and was subsequently arrested.

Successes cont.

Rose Market homicide – In 2022 the owner of Rose Market on Columbus Parkway was murdered during a robbery. The ALPR system assisted in confirming the vehicle used during the crimes, which provided detectives with valuable information that resulted in the arrest of the shooter three days later as well as recovering the gun. This suspect is also believed to have committed over 20 robberies in the region.

7-Eleven robbery – A 7-Eleven clerk on Military East was robbed at gun point. Detectives were able to quickly determine the getaway car which led them to locating and arresting the suspects two days later, as well as recovering the gun used in the robbery.

Successes cont.

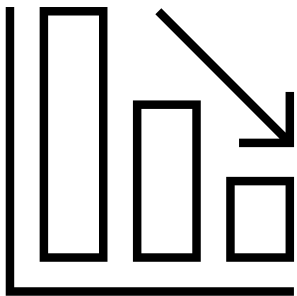
Fast and Easy Store robbery – Two men robbed the clerk at a local convenience store using a firearm. Vehicle was located using ALPRs and a suspect with prior history for robbery was identified. Three suspects were located, linked to the crime, and arrested.

Elderly missing person case – Officers responded to a critical missing person investigation (elderly woman with dementia). While attempting to locate the woman, Officers checked for her vehicle in the ALPR system and was able to find her and eventually brought her back home.

Crime Data

10-year average Part 1 crimes – 478/year or
40/month

Since ALPR, **±12% reduction** of overall Part 1
crimes



Trends

- Increasing number of guns on the street

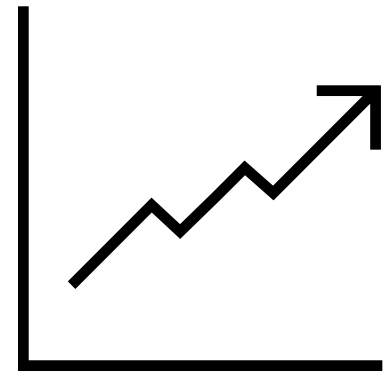
9 VS 24 arrests involving guns (2022 vs January-July 2023)

- Crime is down, but arrests up

±20% increase in average arrests

- Increasing number of narcotics-related arrests

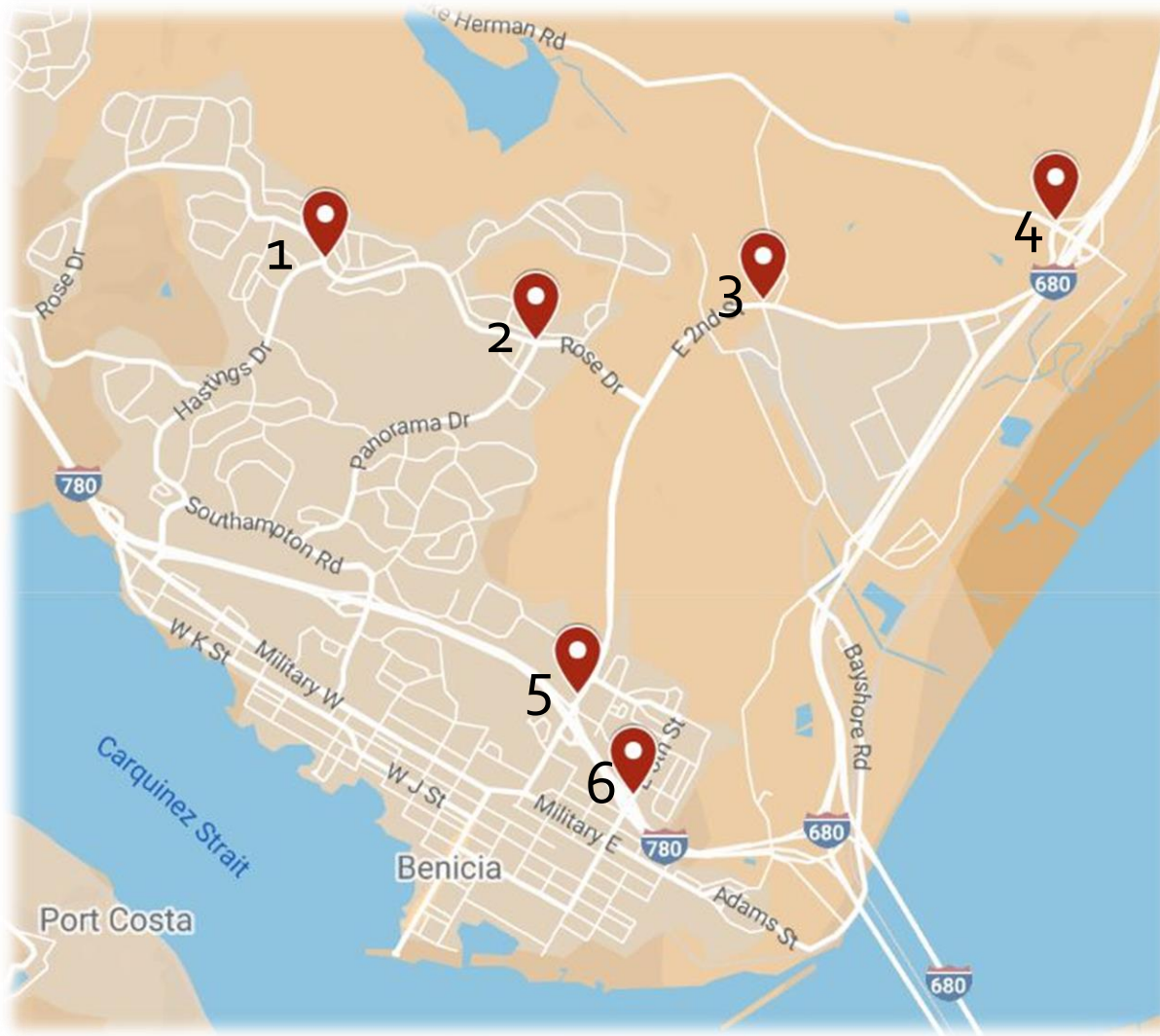
More in 7 months of 2023 (101) than all of 2022 (98)



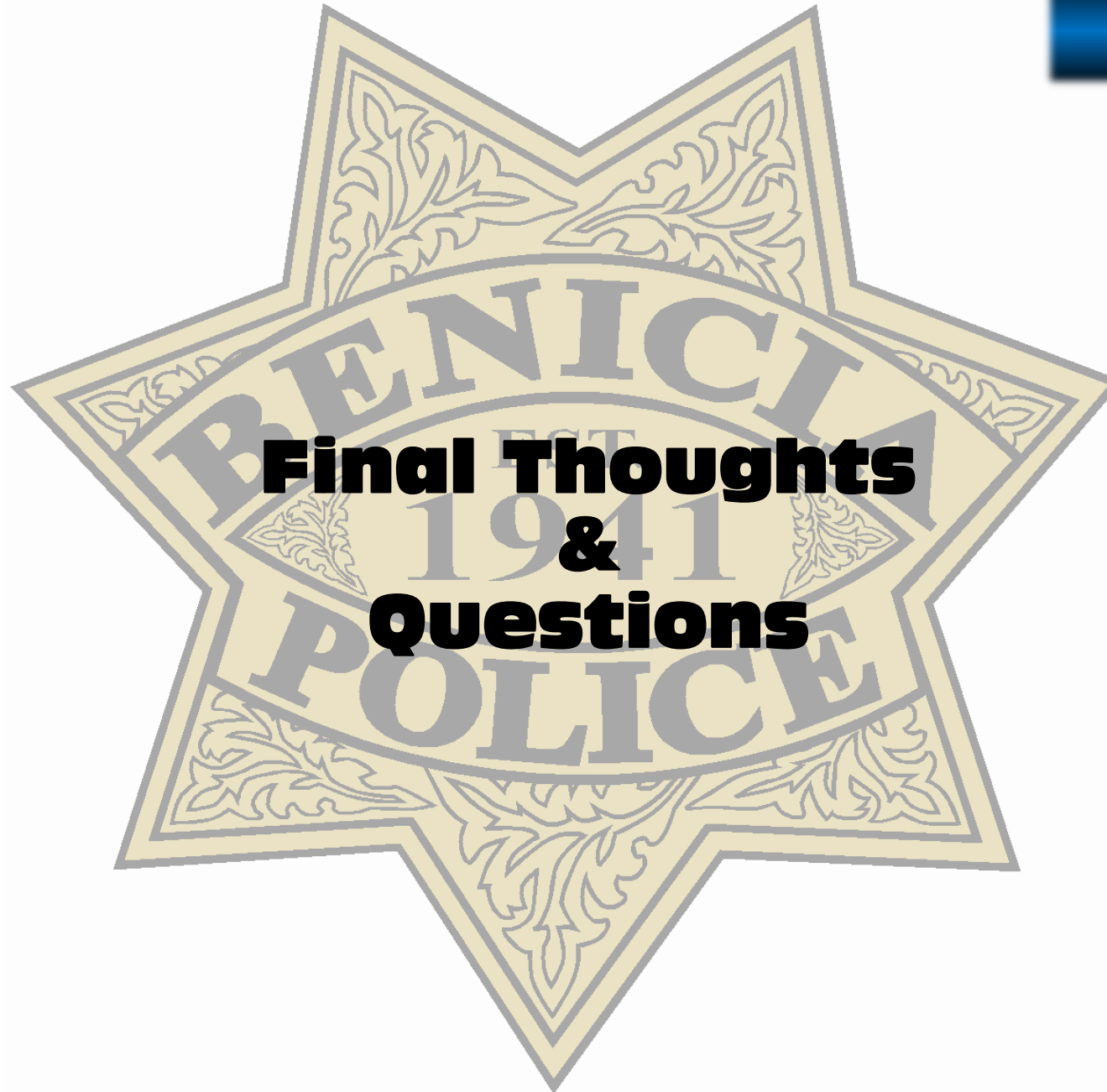
Recommendations

- Renewing contract for 5-years with Flock Safety for cost efficiency
- Identified gaps in coverage to further enhance safety –
6 new locations/cameras

Future Plans



- 1 – Rose Dr & Hastings Dr
- 2 – Rose Dr & Panorama Dr
- 3 – E. 2nd St & East Industrial Way
- 4 – Lake Herman & Lopes Rd
- 5 – E. 2nd St at WB Interstate 780
- 6 – E. 5th St at WB Interstate 780



Final Thoughts & Questions