

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



History

- Property crime is a significant issue in the community.
 - ❖ 95% of crime in Benicia is property crime.
- Analysis of needs and solutions – Automated License Plate Readers.
- February and March 2021 community meetings with all stakeholders (community members, Benicia Industrial Park businesses, downtown businesses).
- May 18, 2021 – Council approved 45 cameras. Measure C funded for FY 21-22 and 22-23.
- September 2021 – installed and operable.



What we have

45 CAMERAS



Benicia:
15 square miles
Population: 28,000

Purple: Entry/Exit Points
Black: Major Intersections

Transparency

- Cameras are only to be used for law enforcement purposes ONLY, and not for other purposes such as immigration, personal use, harassment, and others listed in the Benicia Police Department's policy.
 - Transparency Portal – public facing
- Looked at best practices to create a holistic policy
 - Quarterly internal audit

Benicia CA PD

Transparency Portal

Last Updated: Tue Apr 26 2022

Overview

Benicia PD uses Flock Safety technology to capture objective evidence without compromising on individual privacy. Benicia CA PD utilizes retroactive search to solve crimes after they've occurred. Additionally, Benicia PD utilizes real-time alerting of hotlist vehicles to capture wanted criminals. In an effort to ensure proper usage and guardrails are in place, they have made the below policies and usage statistics available to the public.

Policies



What's Detected

License Plates, Vehicles



What's Not Detected

Facial recognition, People, Gender, Race



Acceptable Use Policy

Data is used for law enforcement purposes only. Data is owned by Benicia PD and is never sold to 3rd parties.



Prohibited Uses

Immigration enforcement, traffic enforcement, harrassment or intimidation, usage based solely on a protected class (i.e. race, sex, religion), Personal use.

Usage



Data retention (in days)

30 days



Number of owned cameras

45



Public Search Audit

[Download CSV](#)

Data Analysis

September 2021-April 2022 (8 months)

- 51 arrests:
 - ❖ 14 were violent offenders (drive-by shooting, robberies, homicide, violent assaults and sexual assaults)
 - ❖ 18% Benicia residents / 82% Non-Benicia residents of all arrests
- 17 guns seized
- 13 cases involved taking drugs off the streets (methamphetamine, heroin and prescription drugs)
- 25 stolen cars recovered
- \$189,260 in recovered vehicle and property



Highlights

- In November 2021, a gold GMC Yukon was identified as a vehicle suspect in a few catalytic converter thefts in Benicia. Using the ALPR system detectives identified the vehicle and the owner, which led to his arrest and a full confession.
- On September 23rd, 2021, 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.
- On March 8th, 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.

Community Feedback

Wow, thank goodness you installed those cameras!!

Like Reply Hide 23w



I'm so happy we have the license plate readers here in Benicia and they seem to be very effective at fighting crime.

Like Reply Hide 7w



Those cameras are proving to be very helpful. Good work all.

Like Reply Hide 23w



Good job, those license plate readers have paid off - stay safe out there 🙏💙🇺🇸

Like Reply Hide 1w



I wish more communities would get those License Plate readers

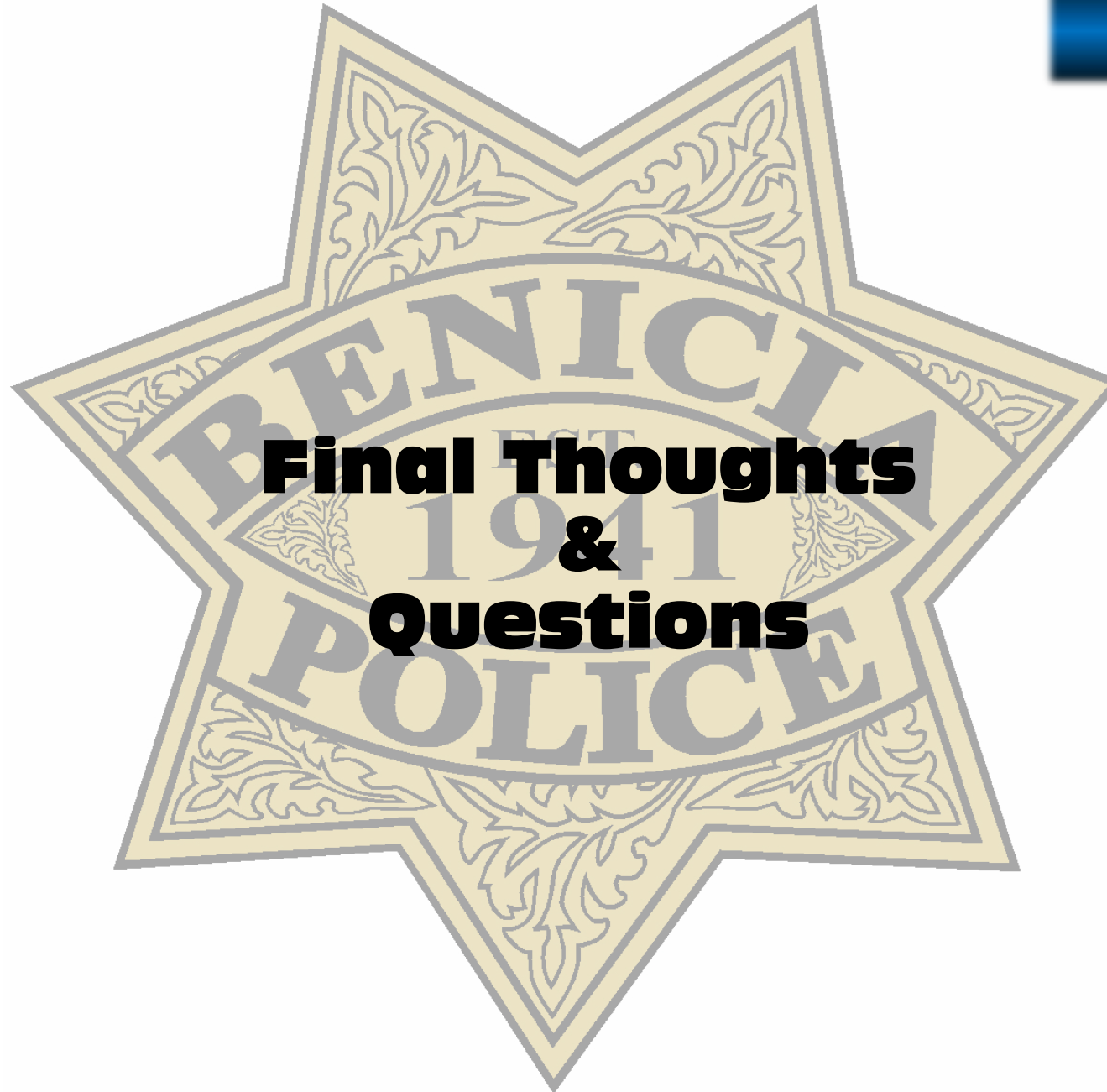
Like Reply Hide 1w



Those license plate readers are great!! Thanks BPD!!

Like Reply Hide 23w





Final Thoughts & Questions