



Social Services and Public Safety Committee

May 2, 2023

Summary and Motions

Chair Reynolds called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Committee Members Ellinger, J. Brown, Fogle, Monarrez, Gray, F. Brown, Baxter, Sevigny, and Plomin were in attendance. Council Member Worley and Vice Mayor Wu were also present as non-voting members.

I. Approval of March 14, 2023 Committee Summary

Motion by Ellinger to Approve the March 14, 2023 Committee Summary. Seconded by Baxter. Motion passed without dissent.

II. Crime Reduction Technology

Matthew Greathouse, Commander with Lexington Police Department (LPD), began the presentation with a review of the Flock License Plate Readers (LPR). More than half of the new LPR are deployed and community education videos are available on the LPD transparency page. He also displayed a map to illustrate locations of the LPR cameras and said data will be reviewed and updated quarterly. He noted that the infrastructure for the traffic cameras has been developed over the last 20 years and he displayed a map to point out the locations of traffic cameras in Lexington. He noted the infrastructure for traffic cameras is managed by Traffic Engineering. He spoke about Fusus software and explained that it unifies public safety while allowing for voluntary community partnership integration. Lexington residents can register their camera through Fusus and requests for evidence can be shared with the department when crimes occur in their area. He mentioned the Real Time Intelligence Center (RTIC) which manages the technology integration and said their mission is to provide real time information to first responders on calls within the city. He continued the presentation by highlighting other communities that have utilized the integration of LPR and Fusus cameras.

There was some discussion about sharing video and Greathouse said the owner of the device will determine what can be shared. He noted this comes with whatever restrictions the owner wants to impose (full access, only during certain hours, etc.). When asked what it means by "they are not actively monitored", Greathouse said unless there is an event that requires a police presence, they don't actively monitor. When asked about the retention period, Greathouse said the statutory requirement for video footage is 60 days, but footage can be pulled out and saved as part of evidence in a case. Greathouse explained how officers get access to the camera footage for an investigation and he stressed that no officer has access to the videos except the Intelligence Unit. Speaking about storage and costs, Greathouse feels confident that there is enough storage capacity for these videos and there would not be additional cost associated. Regarding the number of traffic cameras this would include, Greathouse could not confirm the exact number of cameras, but it would include traffic cameras at approximately 135 intersections. Greathouse clarified that cameras on private property are privately owned cameras, not Flock cameras. Addressing the retention period for cases that span longer than 60 days, Greathouse explained that if there is video that pertains to an investigation and a request is made to preserve the video, it will be preserved as a piece of evidence and he noted the video is subject to open records. Speaking about the policy for traffic cameras and if community input was considered, Greathouse confirmed that community input was received from several community partners and they expressed

support. Regarding the registration costs, Greathouse clarified there are two groups within the Fusus platform. For those who have a privately owned camera and want to allow LPD access to footage upon request, there is no cost to register. For those who want to integrate with LPD using a Core device, the registration cost is \$350 for first year (including the device and subscription) and \$150 per year after that. Speaking about Open Records Requests (ORR) and what is available through this process, Greathouse said this is set in statute and the ORR has to be specific. He does not feel the number of ORR would increase significantly. When asked about the policy, Greathouse confirmed it is not continual surveillance, there would have to be an event to occur for the video to be requested and he clarified these are not Flock cameras. When asked about other benefits from this technology, Greathouse noted these cameras are for real time events that can provide useful information. No action was taken on this item.

III. After Action Assessment & Review

Ken Armstrong, Commissioner of Public Safety, spoke about the city's response to the windstorm on March 3, 2023. He spoke about the key factors considered in the response and he pointed out almost all departments can and did play a part in response this event. He reviewed a timeline for the weather event which began days ahead of the storm and lasted days after. He mentioned that sirens were activated at 12:30 and 3:30 and he pointed out the sirens are not meant to be heard indoors. Regarding the state of emergency, Armstrong said the Governor declared for the entire state ahead of time and the Mayor signed the declaration, backdating it to Friday (March 3). The state of emergency was not declared ahead of time because we were prepared enough that we would not need the extra resources this would provide. While we did not return to normal operations until the following week, many divisions worked throughout the storm and directly after. Armstrong reviewed each division within Public Safety and highlighted the key takeaways from this event. He pointed out that Environmental Quality & Public Works, Department of Social Services, and Housing Advocacy and Community Development provided services during and after the storm. Moving forward, Armstrong said Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will only be activated in person and there will be back up communications in place. Finally, he directed residents to where they can find information and be prepared in the event of an emergency.

When asked why sworn officers were using their vehicles to power the lights rather than traffic safety officers, Armstrong said there were several intersections that were out and there weren't enough traffic safety officers to cover the demand. When asked if there is better technology than inverters to provide power at intersections, Director Jeff Neal with Traffic Engineering, said inverters are the best technology now because typically there are only a couple of intersections down. He said they do have battery back-up systems, but depending on what you are trying to prepare for, there is only so much that can be done.

When asked if we can have beready.com actively communicated during the storm, Armstrong said Division of Emergency Management (DEM) updates as much as they can (beready.com) as events occur. He pointed out that sometimes the information residents are looking for is not something we can provide. Regarding how we go about improving KU's communication, he said KU had an after action meeting after the storm and he said they could not get in touch with some of the community partners, but they had a state EOC and a local command center. Armstrong confirmed in the future there will be a direct line of communication or someone physically present. Pat Dugger mentioned they spoke with KU about messaging and they were aware of all of the damage so in the first 24 hours, all they could do was make their system safe to work on. She pointed out if people know what the situation is and it is going to be at least X-number of days, they can plan for that. Addressing what KU is doing to mitigate tree damage and lines going down, etc., Albright explained there were holes in the distribution system.

There was a suggestion that our Government Communications staff put a plan in place and how it can be communicated. When asked what goes into state of emergency and how the EOC is activated, Dugger said the EOC is a localized center where they coordinate a response for an emergency or a disaster. That can be done by the EOC plan adopted by Council in 2021 and it can be activated by the Director of Emergency Management, Commissioner of Public Safety, Chief Administrative Officer, or Mayor for necessary events. The declaration of a state of emergency is set forth in statute and allows the Mayor to declare the community is in an emergency situation. This would allow the Mayor to issue a curfew, make purchases, request assistance from the state, etc. On Saturday, this was not needed, but it did not prevent us from the response, coordination, enacting mutual aid agreements, or asking for assistance. Speaking about virtually opening the EOC, Dugger confirmed that those in the direct response phase would not report virtually in the future. When asked about warming stations and having a way to take care of medical devices, Armstrong said they are purchasing equipment for this reason so moving forward we will be prepared. Regarding warming centers, he said Red Cross is normally responsible for setting up a center like this. He pointed out that several community centers were opened and programs were offered for kids. He said overnight needs would be handled by Red Cross, but only if there is severity. No action was taken on this item.

IV. Items Referred to Committee

Motion by J. Brown to remove *Division of Community Corrections Update* from the list of items referred to committee. Seconded by Ellinger. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Baxter to remove *After Action Assessment & Review* from the list of items referred to committee. Seconded by Sevigny. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Baxter to adjourn at 2:44 p.m. Seconded by Gray. Motion passed without dissent.