

# Flock Safety Pilot Program

*Lexington Division of Police*



**LEXINGTON**



# Flock Safety

- Founded in 2017 in Atlanta Georgia
- Currently have License Plate Readers in 1500+ cities across US
- 850+ Law Enforcement Agencies are customers
- Kentucky Agencies are Owensboro, Madisonville, Hopkinsville, Middleton and will soon include Louisville
- Regional agencies include Knoxville, Nashville, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Bloomington, Dayton, Columbus
- Partner with Axon Enterprise Inc. – Our body worn camera vendor



# Flock Safety

- License Plate Readers (LPRs) – Fixed locations
- Powered by solar and connected with cellular data
- LPRs take 6-7 still images when a vehicle passes by
- LPRs can read the license plate and determine the color, make and type of vehicle which are all searchable.
- Vehicle is automatically checked to see if it is on a hot list and law enforcement is notified if there is a “hit.” (NCIC, AMBER Alerts, agency specific lists.
- Will not be used for speed or red light enforcement



# Flock Safety





# Flock Safety

- Images and data are only stored in the system for 30 days
- If they are part of a criminal investigation they must be stored in our digital evidence management system within that 30 days or they will be deleted.
- Flock Safety, Axon and the National Police Foundation have partnered to conduct a study on the effectiveness of license plate readers for law enforcement
- In exchange for participation we will receive 25 LPRs free for one year (\$68,750 value including installation)
- We will share general crime data with them and participate in a monthly call



# Flock Safety

- LPRs are directed at vehicles travelling on a right of way
- LPRs will be located in multiple locations throughout Lexington based on our violent crime patterns
- LPRs are moveable based on changing crime patterns
- LPRs are used to gather leads to investigate crimes reported to us, not for enforcement in neighborhoods
- We met with NAACP, ACLU and the Human Rights Commission to discuss this program and their main concern was where we choose to place the cameras



# Flock Safety

- Primary goals of the program:
  - To solve and reduce crime
  - To locate and recover missing and endangered people (AMBER Alerts, Golden Alerts, etc.)
- As part of participating in the study the National Police Foundation will provide a custom report for our agency detailing:
  - Effect of license plate readers on crime, arrests and clearances
  - Guidance on more effective ways of deploying license plate readers
- Determine if this is an investment we want to continue



# Flock Safety - Policy

- Clearly outlines use of LPR system is for legitimate law enforcement and public safety purposes
- It is a violation of this policy to use the LPR system or associated data for any personal purpose.
- Officers are required to enter a reason for any search
- Audits of use of system will be conducted by Public Integrity Unit
- Because the LPR alert may relate to a vehicle and may not relate to the person operating the vehicle, officers are reminded that they need to have reasonable suspicion and/or probable cause to make a stop of any vehicle.
- Entries to any hot list are vetted by a supervisor/Intel Unit



# Flock Safety – Next Steps

- We have finalized our policy based on a review of other policies and best practices from International Association of Chiefs of Police
- NAACP, ACLU and Human Rights Commission reviewed policy and their input was incorporated in the final policy
- Policy is posted on our transparency page for public input
- Training was conducted in early March
- LPR installation will occur in April



**Questions?**