To: Ed Kelly  
Assistant Chief of Police

From: Michael Darlington  
Detective  
Investigations

SUBJECT: License Plate Readers

Please find the attached proposal from Vigilant Video on the purchase of license plate reader technology.

License plate reader technology was first developed in 1976 in London as a way to maintain traffic flow in the city. The technology is still in use in London and provides a “Ring of Metal” around the city with numerous mobile and stationary license plate readers. It is believed that the system is able to read and store data on nearly every vehicle that enters or leaves the city.

The technology is being used to combat the vehicle theft issue that plagues many cities. Law enforcement agencies around the country and even overseas have employed the technology to apprehend vehicle thieves, recover stolen vehicles and to reduce the vehicle theft rate.

Mobile license plate readers are installed on patrol vehicles and offer the unit a silent partner who continuously checks license plates for stolen vehicles, wanted vehicles, missing person’s vehicles and armed and dangerous vehicles status. The silent partner can run hundreds of license plates an hour and will alert the officer only when a wanted plate is read.

The system also increases the level of safety for the patrol officer. No longer does he/she have to manually enter the license plate number into the mobile computer while driving. The system automatically runs license plates which allows the officer’s attention to be focused elsewhere.

This technology can further be used for many other proposes. At DUI check points, the license plate reader vehicle can be positioned to monitor vehicles passing through DUI check points, alerting officers when a wanted vehicle is read. Because the system

May 1, 2008
stores the location, time, a picture of the vehicle and a picture of the license plate, the data can be later retrieved for other investigative purposes.

The license reader system can be used in conjunction with the Intergraph mobile dispatch system that is currently being used by the Elk Grove Police Department. The system would work as a slave computer to the Intergraph system and would operate in the background until a "hit" occurs. At that time the system would display on the screen with the information on the license plate and pictures of the vehicle and plate.

There are a number of companies that offer license plate reading technology. Of the companies, we have looked at systems and observed demonstrations from Vigilant Video, Civica, Pips Technology and Remington. Of the four license plate reader systems we observed, we believe that the system from Vigilant Video would provide Elk Grove with the best system and service.

Vigilant Video offers the best pricing and service that the other companies do not offer. For the price the other companies want for two systems, we can purchase four systems from Vigilant Video. The company is base out of Livermore, California. Vigilant Video provided us with a license plate reader system for testing and the results of the testing were positive. The system was able to read hundreds of license plate in a single patrol shift with little interaction from the officer.

I believe that the purchase of the license plate reader system is an important element in the reduction of the vehicle theft rate that has plagued the Elk Grove area. The system could be adopted for many other uses including but not limited to Homeland Security data collection, drug and gang data collection and homicide/major crimes data collection.

Should you have any questions or need additional information regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me.