August 23, 2012

Mr. Chris Conley  
American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California  
39 Drumm Street  
San Francisco, CA  94111  

RE: August 13, 2012 Public Records Act Request  

Dear Mr. Conley:  

Your August 13, 2012 letter to the San Rafael Police Department, received on August 15, 2012, has been referred to this office for response. Please be advised that the City of San Rafael does not currently have or use any automatic license plate readers (ALPR’s). The Police Department has ordered two units (hereafter “the new units”), which have not yet been delivered but which are expected by the end of this month. The Department expects to install, do training for, and deploy the units by the end of September, 2012. The following factual information has been provided to me by Police Lieutenant Raffaello Pata, and corresponds to requested item numbers as listed in your letter:  

1. The City currently has not adopted a policy regarding the use of ALPR technology, but will be developing one in connection with training on the new units. Accordingly, the City does not presently have any responsive documents, except as provided in response to Request No. 2 in connection with procurement.  

2. Needs assessment, procurement, analysis and decision making regarding the new units were conducted by the Marin County Sheriff’s Office in connection with a Department of Homeland Security grant application. The Sheriff’s Department requested funding for the purchase and installation of one 4-camera ALPR system each for the County, the City of San Rafael, and the City of Novato. The San Rafael Police Department subsequently determined to purchase an additional 2-camera ALPR system. The ALPR’s have been purchased with Police Department General Funds, with the cost of the 4-camera system being reimbursed by the County of Marin with grant funds. All responsive documents are provided herewith. Additional records regarding the grant may be available from the Marin County Sheriff’s Office.
3. Since the City does not yet have any ALPR’s, there are no responsive records.
4. Since the City does not yet have any ALPR’s, there are no responsive records.
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8. Since the City does not yet have any ALPR’s, there are no responsive records.

Very truly yours,

LISA A. GOLDFIEN
Assistant City Attorney

Enclosures

cc: Margo Rohrbacher, Records Supervisor
     Lt. Raffaello Pata