



Office of the City Manager

INFORMATION CALENDAR

January 20, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager
Submitted by: Jennifer Louis, Chief of Police
Subject: Surveillance Technology Ordinance Report Update

BACKGROUND

On November 10, 2025, the City Manager submitted the 2025 Annual Surveillance Technology Report to the City Council, pursuant to Chapter 2.99 of the Berkeley Municipal Code (BMC). Following the submission of that report, the City received a request to provide additional context regarding the “effectiveness” of the reported technologies. Due to the proximity of the reporting period’s close to the submission deadline, there was insufficient time to fully analyze and include the most recent data in the original document. This Information Item is intended to provide additional information on the 2025 Annual Surveillance Technology Report regarding the effectiveness of technology for community assessment.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Under BMC 2.99.020(2)(f), a Surveillance Technology Report must include:

“Information that helps the community assess whether the Surveillance Technology has been effective in achieving its identified outcomes.”

Effectiveness in public safety is a multifaceted concept that cannot be captured by a single metric. While statistical data is a critical component, the Department evaluates the utility of these tools through a variety of lenses to ensure a holistic assessment of their value to the community.

The identified outcomes for fixed ALPRs are to aid criminal investigations and recover stolen property. During the reporting period, the technology was effective in meeting these outcomes: the system was instrumental in at least 55 arrests, assisted in over 100 other investigations, including those for homicides, robberies and commercial burglaries, and led to the recovery of at least 43 stolen vehicles. Additionally, robbery closure rates jumped 10 percentage points in the nine months after ALPR implementation compared to the previous nine month period.

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