



NAPA COUNTY OFFICE OF SHERIFF-CORONER

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Commitment to Community

Oscar Ortiz
Sheriff - Coroner

To help deter crime and catch criminals in the act, most homeowners utilize some form of surveillance such as a doorbell camera. These systems are ideal for notifications of movement around the home and capturing people. However, unless the person is recognized by the community or law enforcement, it is often not enough actionable information to solve a case when a crime has been committed. Over the past couple of generations, crime solving capabilities have expanded thanks to developments such as fingerprint identification technology, ballistics, forensic science analysis of trace evidence, and DNA technology. In the last five years, the most significant development in law enforcement's ability to solve crime is in the advancement Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR). Criminals hate it!

In most circumstances, particularly in rural communities, a vehicle is used during the commission of the crime. A license plate reader can help deter and solve neighborhood crimes by capturing a vehicle's license plate as it enters and leaves a community. While nobody is live monitoring these cameras, the license plates that are caught on these cameras provides an actionable lead for law enforcement investigations. Successful investigations result in arrest, prosecution, and disposition of cases that help keep our community safe.

Some ALPR providers, such as Flock Safety, offers the ability for community members to install private party ALPR cameras in their neighborhoods and business' parking lots. With Flock and others, the footage is uploaded to the cloud so it can be accessed from anywhere and an app can send real-time notifications to your phone. The community also has the option to share these leads law enforcement when they are victims of crime or want to partner with law enforcement to keep their community safe. This also enhances our ability to solve crimes quickly.

Throughout Napa County, deputies have utilized information from Flock Safety cameras, and other ALPR providers, to solve numerous criminal cases to include shootings, robberies, stolen vehicles, burglary crews, vandalism, among other violent crimes as well as property crimes. This is yet another way we can partner with our community to keep everyone living, visiting, and working in Napa County safe. If this is something that interests you, contact Deputy Ronnie Galindo (Ronnie.Galindo@countyofnapa.org) at our Problem Oriented Policing Program (POPP), or visit FlockSafety.com.