



Casa Grande City Council Study Session
Meets: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 - 6:00 PM
510 E. Florence Blvd. -
Casa Grande, Arizona

A. Call to Order

B. Agenda

B.1

Presentation, Update, and Discussion Regarding the Safe Cities Program by *Chief of Police of Casa Grande*

C. Adjournment

Note: This meeting is open to the public. All interested people are welcome to attend. In order to allow participants to arrive, settle in, and prepare for the meeting without any last-minute delays, the doors to the meeting location will be open no later than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled meeting time. Supporting documents and staff reports, which were furnished to the City Council Study Session with this Agenda, are available for review in the City Clerk's Office or online at www.casagrandeaz.gov.

Disabled individuals with special accessibility needs may contact ADA Coordinator for the City of Casa Grande at 520-421-8600 or TDD 520-421-8623. If possible, such requests should be made 72 hours in advance.

Posted on September 3, 2026, by 5 p.m. at the below locations:

City Hall 510 E. Florence Blvd. Casa Grande, Arizona	Communications Center 520 N. Marshall Casa Grande, Arizona	City Website www.casagrandeaz.gov
--	--	--

Adriana Carpio-Solis, CMC
City Clerk

How is the Casa Grande Police Department using technology to protect residents?

The Casa Grande Police Department uses a combination of trained officers, community partnerships, investigative techniques, technology, and data-driven policing strategies to protect residents and respond to crime.

Technology is one part of that larger public-safety strategy. Different tools serve different purposes, but they all have the same goal: helping our officers respond faster, gather information, and keep the community safe.

Currently, the Casa Grande Police Department has deployed the following technology throughout the city.

Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Cameras: ALPR technology captures license plate information and vehicle images that may provide investigators with leads when a vehicle is associated with a crime or public safety incident. ALPR is an investigative tool and does not replace officers, investigations, or professional judgment.

Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) Cameras: PTZ cameras provide live video that can be remotely moved left and right, up and down, and zoomed in to provide officers with a better view of an area or incident. This technology can give officers additional situational awareness and support a safer, more informed response.

Community Security Cameras: Ten solar-powered Community Security Cameras were included in the Safe City contract. They provide live video coverage to improve situational awareness, support incident response, and assist investigations.

Five cameras were offered at no cost to local businesses to help fill coverage gaps and strengthen public safety partnerships. The remaining five were placed at City facilities.

Gun Shot Detection System: The system is an acoustic monitoring technology designed to detect, locate, and alert law enforcement to gunfire and other critical public safety events in real time.

Drone as First Responder (DFR): The DFR program uses automated drones stationed at rooftop docking stations to provide aerial support during certain calls for service. When appropriate, a drone can be deployed within minutes and may arrive before ground units, giving officers an aerial view of the situation and helping them better assess conditions before or as they respond. DFR drones are not used for routine patrol.

These technologies are tools that support our officers, they do not replace them. The goal is to give Casa Grande Police Department personnel additional information and resources to respond effectively, investigate crime, and protect the community.

What is ALPR technology?

Automated License Plate Reader technology uses cameras to capture images of vehicle license plates and related vehicle information. The system converts license plate information into searchable data that may assist law enforcement with legitimate public safety and investigative matters.

This can include stolen vehicles, stolen license plates, wanted persons, missing persons, suspect vehicles, stolen property, and criminal investigations.

ALPR technology is an investigative resource, not a replacement for police work.

Why does the Casa Grande Police Department use ALPR cameras?

The Casa Grande Police Department uses Flock Safety ALPR cameras as one of several investigative tools available to officers and detectives.

Technology can help investigators identify vehicles that may be associated with criminal activity or a public safety concern. It can provide information that helps officers develop investigative leads, locate stolen vehicles or property, identify suspect vehicles, and assist in missing-person or wanted-person investigations.

The system does not determine whether someone committed a crime.

It does not determine guilt, authorize an arrest, or replace an investigation. Information generated by the system must be evaluated and verified by law enforcement and handled consistently with the law and department policy.

Is ALPR technology used for general surveillance?

No. The Casa Grande Police Department does not use ALPR technology for general surveillance of the public. The system is used for official and legitimate law enforcement purposes. ALPR information is treated as an investigative lead and does not replace officer judgment, independent investigation, or constitutional policing practices.

What technology is included in the Safe City Initiative?

CGPD purchased 100 License Plate Reader cameras, 100 Pan-Tilt-Zoom cameras, and 1 portable Pan-Tilt-Zoom camera, which can be positioned as needed to address specific crime problems or public safety needs. Additionally, 10 Community Security Cameras and one Gunshot Detection Zone with 31 devices have been installed. ALPR and PTZ camera deployment will continue through 2026.

Where are the cameras located?

The cameras are placed strategically on major thoroughfares and arterial roadways to maximize effectiveness and coverage for the city. Camera placement is based on public safety needs, traffic patterns, investigative value, and the ability to support citywide coverage.

How are camera locations selected?

Camera locations were selected by evaluating call-for-service data from previous years. Additionally, input from staff, internally and from other City of Casa Grande departments such as Community Services and Public Works, was taken into consideration. Ultimately, all locations are determined by the Casa Grande Police Department based on public safety and investigative considerations.

Do the cameras record audio?

No. ALPR, PTZ, and DFR cameras do not record audio.

Do these cameras have radar technology that is used to issue citations to citizens for violations such as speeding, red light running, etc.?

No. The cameras are not photo radar cameras and do not issue citations for any violations.

Do the cameras use facial recognition?

The cameras do not have or use facial recognition technology, nor can users search the system based on a person's face or facial features, gender, or ethnicity. While uncommon, there are occasions when a person may appear in an image captured by an ALPR camera. For example, a pedestrian may be crossing the street or walking on a nearby sidewalk at the time an image is captured. In other instances, an occupant of a vehicle may be visible, such as someone traveling in a convertible or another open-air vehicle.

These images are incidental to the camera's intended purpose of capturing vehicle and license plate information and are not used for facial recognition.

What information can the ALPR and PTZ camera capture?

Cameras capture license plate information and vehicle-related images. The system may also assist in identifying visually observable vehicle characteristics such as vehicle type, make, color, license plate state, temporary plates, missing or covered plates, and other distinguishing vehicle features. This functionality can assist investigators when only a partial plate or general vehicle description is known.

PTZ cameras continually record activity in their field of view.

What the ALPR Camera Actually Captures

A Flock ALPR camera is designed to capture vehicle-related information visible from a public roadway.

- A license plate image
- The license plate number
- The state that issued the plate, if available
- Vehicle characteristics such as make, model, color, and body style
- Date and time
- Camera location
- Related image connected to the vehicle capture



Example of the type of vehicle and license plate image captured by a Casa Grande Police Department ALPR camera.

What the Camera Does Not Do

It is just as important to understand what ALPR technology does not do.

Casa Grande PD Flock ALPR cameras do not:

- Use facial recognition
- Identify people by their faces
- Collect biometric information
- Track a person's phone
- Track a vehicle by GPS in real time
- Issue traffic citations

- Monitor immigration status
- Monitor people because of political, religious, or other protected activity

How long is ALPR and PTZ data retained?

ALPR and PTZ data captured through the Flock system are retained for 30 days.

The Police Department is currently evaluating the 30-day retention period to determine whether it continues to provide the appropriate balance between investigative value, public safety, privacy, and responsible data management.

Information may be retained longer when it has been preserved as evidence or when retention is otherwise required or permitted by applicable law, department policy, or a lawful records obligation.

Who owns or controls CGPD's ALPR and PTZ data?

The Casa Grande Police Department controls access to its ALPR and PTZ data and determines how that information is used for legitimate law enforcement and public safety purposes.

Under the City's contract and applicable Flock policies, Flock does not independently sell or share CGPD's ALPR or PTZ data for commercial purposes. CGPD's data is not sold to third parties.

CGPD may share ALPR information with other law enforcement agencies when there is a legitimate public safety or investigative purpose. Currently, CGPD shares ALPR data with law enforcement agencies within Arizona.

The Police Department remains responsible for determining when information may be accessed, how it may be used, and when it may be shared, consistent with applicable law and department policy.

Does CGPD share ALPR data with federal agencies?

No. CGPD does not share ALPR and PTZ data with Federal Agencies including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Does CGPD share ALPR data with other law enforcement agencies?

Yes. CGPD may share ALPR information with other law enforcement agencies when there is a legitimate public safety or investigative purpose.

Currently, CGPD shares ALPR data with law enforcement agencies within Arizona.

A stolen vehicle, suspect vehicle, or missing person may move quickly from one jurisdiction to another. Sharing information with vetted law enforcement partners can help officers identify suspect vehicles, recover stolen property, locate missing or endangered people, and develop investigative leads more quickly.

Data from PTZ or Drone Cameras are not shared with any other agencies.

Who can access the system?

Access is limited to authorized personnel who have a legitimate law enforcement or public safety reason to use the system.

CGPD personnel must complete department-approved training before they are permitted to operate equipment or access data.

Each authorized user has an individual account and password.

Access is controlled, and system activity can be reviewed.

Are searches logged and audited?

Yes.

System activity is documented by user, date, time, and activity, creating an audit trail that allows CGPD to review how the system is being used.

CGPD has several layers of oversight:

- Sergeants audit their officers' searches weekly.
- Division lieutenants conduct additional weekly audits.
- The Records Division conducts a random monthly audit.
- The Audit Assistance Tool identifies unusual or outlier search patterns for additional human review.
- Searches identified as potentially outside policy are referred through the chain of command to the Chief of Police for review.

These safeguards are designed to ensure the system is being used for legitimate law enforcement and public safety purposes.

Does the system show each search conducted on a license plate?

Yes.

The organization audit provides a record of vehicle searches conducted within the system. This allows authorized personnel to review system activity, including who accessed the system and when.

What safeguards are in place to prevent misuse?

The Safe City Initiative Technology Use Policy has established safeguards governing who can access ALPR technology, how it may be used, and how system activity is reviewed.

Users must be authorized and trained. Individual login credentials are required, and system activity is logged and subject to regular audits.

ALPR technology may only be used for legitimate law enforcement purposes.

If an employee misuses the system, it may result in loss of access, an internal investigation, disciplinary action, or termination, depending on the circumstances.

Public safety technology must come with accountability. CGPD takes that responsibility seriously.

Has CGPD received any complaints involving ALPR misuse?

To date, CGPD has received one citizen complaint alleging misuse of the ALPR system.

The department conducted a thorough investigation, and the officer involved was fully exonerated of any misuse.

Anyone who believes ALPR technology has been misused may contact the Casa Grande Police Department at **520-421-8700** and ask to speak with a supervisor.

How does CGPD verify an ALPR alert?

An ALPR alert is not proof that a vehicle or person is involved in criminal activity.

It is an investigative lead that must be independently verified by an officer.

CGPD policy requires officers to:

1. Visually verify the license plate against the information provided by the Flock system.
2. Verify the status of the license plate through MVD when circumstances allow.
3. Establish an independent legal basis for any enforcement action.

If the information provided by Flock does not independently establish reasonable suspicion for a traffic stop, the officer must develop reasonable suspicion through other facts before initiating the stop.

The camera generates the lead. The officer makes the decision.

Does CGPD use ALPR to monitor First Amendment activity?

No.

ALPR technology may not be used to monitor lawful activities protected by the First Amendment, including religious attendance, political events, protests, advocacy meetings, or other lawful activities.

Use of the technology must be connected to an official and legitimate law enforcement purpose.

Does the use of ALPR violate the Fourth Amendment?

Courts have considered the use of ALPR technology under the Fourth Amendment. To date state and federal courts have determined it is not a violation of the Fourth Amendment.

CGPD's policy requires officers to independently establish the legal basis for enforcement actions. An ALPR alert by itself does not establish guilt or automatically authorize a traffic stop or arrest.

The department's responsibility is to use the technology consistent with the law, department policy, and constitutional policing principles.

How is ALPR data used in investigations?

ALPR technology can assist investigators both during and after an incident.

For example, it may help identify a vehicle associated with a stolen vehicle, stolen license plate, missing person, wanted person, or other criminal investigation.

After an incident, investigators may also use ALPR information to determine whether a vehicle matching information from an investigation was in a particular area during a relevant timeframe.

That information becomes one piece of a larger investigation that may include witnesses, interviews, physical evidence, video, records, and traditional investigative techniques.

Can ALPR and PTZ data alone be used to arrest someone?

No.

ALPR and PTZ information are an investigative lead, not a determination of guilt.

An arrest must be supported by the totality of the evidence and applicable legal standards. Officers and investigators must independently establish the facts necessary to take enforcement action.

A license plate appearing in the system does not, by itself, mean the driver committed a crime.

How effective is the system?

CGPD evaluates Flock based on its value as one investigative and public safety resource.

The department has used ALPR and PTZ technology to assist with criminal investigations and public safety incidents, including identifying suspect vehicles, locating stolen vehicles, assisting in missing-person investigations, and developing investigative leads in serious cases such as homicides, aggravated assaults, and drive-by shootings.

But Flock is not what solves a crime.

Our officers, detectives, dispatchers, crime analysts, evidence, witnesses, investigative work, and community partnerships solve crimes. Flock is one tool that can help them do that work more efficiently.

How is the program funded?

The program is funded through a combination of City of Casa Grande funding, State of Arizona funding, and grants.

Did City Council approve funding for Flock?

Yes.

Funding for the Flock program is part of the City's budget process, which is reviewed and approved by the City Council.

As part of that process, Council reviews and approves departmental budgets, including the Police Department's budget and resources dedicated to public safety.

On September 15, 2025, City Council voted to approve the contract and use of funds for the program.

Is the CGPD Safe City Initiative Technology Use Policy available to the public?

Yes.

The Casa Grande Police Department has a written policy governing the use of ALPR and PTZ technology.

<https://casagrandeaz.gov/safe-city>

Why aren't specific ALPR records posted publicly online?

Public records are handled in accordance with applicable law.

Specific records may contain sensitive law enforcement information, information related to an active investigation, or other information protected from disclosure under Arizona law.

Requests for records are reviewed individually to determine what information can legally be released.

How can I request public records?

Members of the public can submit a public records request through the City of Casa Grande's public records process.

<https://casagrandeaz.gov/170/Public-Records-Requests>

How can I report a concern or suspected misuse?

Residents who have concerns about the use of system technology are encouraged to contact the Casa Grande Police Department.

To report a concern or suspected misuse, call **520-421-8700** and ask to speak with a supervisor.

How often is the Safe City Initiative Technology Use Policy reviewed?

CGPD reviews its policy and procedures as needed.

Changes in state or federal law, court decisions, technology, or operational experience may prompt the department to review and update the policy.

Depending on the nature of the change, the review may involve Police Department command staff, City leadership, legal counsel, and other appropriate stakeholders.

As technology, the law, and community expectations evolve, CGPD will continue to evaluate its policies and practices.

Where can I learn more?

Residents can learn more about Casa Grande's Safe City Initiative and the use of technology through the City's website and transparency resources:

Safe City Initiative Webpage: <https://casagrandeaz.gov/safe-city>

Transparency Portal: <https://transparency.flocksafety.com/casa-grande-az-pd>

Flight Dashboard: <https://community.casa-grande.az.us.aerodome.com/>

Who can I contact with additional questions?

Residents with additional questions may contact the Casa Grande Police Department Public Information Office at: PolicePIO@CasaGrandeAZ.gov

Residents who wish to submit comments may email, PolicePIO@CasaGrandeAZ.gov or send comments through the Engage Casa Grande page, www.CasaGrandeAZ.gov/EngageCG