Town of North Topsail Beach
Board of Aldermen Budget Workshop

Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 8:30 AM
Town Hall - 2008 Loggerhead Court, North Topsail Beach, NC 28460

(910) 328-1349 | www.northtopsailbeachnc.gov

Mayor - Joann M. McDermon   *Mayor Pro Tem - Mike Benson*
Alderman - Richard Grant   *Alderman – Laura Olszewski*
Alderman - Connie Pletl   *Alderman – Tom Leonard*
Town Manager - Alice Derian   *Interim Town Clerk – Nancy Avery*

I. CALL TO ORDER (Mayor McDermon)

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

   Specific Action Requested: Mayor will request a motion to adopt the agenda

III. PRESENTATION

   A. Flock Automatic License Plate Readers

IV. BREAK - 5 minutes

V. RECAP OF DRAFT FY 24-25 BUDGET

   A. Continue discussion on replacement of cameras in Police Department

   B. Finalize funding amount for Ocean City Jazz Festival

       Agreed to placeholder of $10,000 at last budget session

   C. Finalize funding amount for Chamber of Commerce

       Agreed to $2,500 placeholder at last budget session

   D. Finalize funding amount for Topsail Island Shoreline Protection Committee (TISPC)

       Requested Mayor Pro Tem Benson to obtain breakdown of request from TISPC

   E. Decision on whether to continue mosquito spraying as a service

       Carryover from February 27th budget session

   F. Estimated costs for existing pedestrian crosswalks

Carry over from February 7th meeting - Public Works Superintendent to bring simplistic approach to get drivers' attention with estimated costs for existing pedestrian crosswalks.

G.   Clarification on consideration of new pedestrian crosswalks process

H.   Other items

VI. LUNCH BREAK

VII. FIVE-YEAR OUTLOOK

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ethics + Innovation

Privacy

- Footage owned by Agency/City and will never by sold or shared by Flock

- 30 day data retention, then deleted. Short retention period ensures that all data not associated with a crime is automatically deleted & unrecoverable

- NO personally identifiable information is identifiable in Flock

- Not connected to registration 3rd party databases (Carfax, DMV)

Transparency

- Public approval process and community education for each customer

- Flock's transparency portal tells your community how law enforcement use the system, including how many searches are conducted and who data is shared with

Accountability

- Investigative reason required for search

- Flock system proactively provides audit report that includes details of each search in the customer's network

- ALPR policy outlines how the system is used

Section III, ItemA.

3

flock safety™
Let's defeat crime together.™

About Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPR)

The Problem: Violent Crime Is Not Going Away

Nationwide, cities are experiencing a disturbing rise in homicides and violence. The FBI's 2020 Crime Report shows a 30% increase in homicides from 2019 to 2020, the largest single-year increase recorded.

Over two-thirds of the country's most populous cities saw even more homicides in 2021.

One Solution: Technology that Detects Objective Evidence to Clear More Cases

Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) capture computer-readable images of license plates and vehicles, allowing officers to compare plate numbers against those of stolen cars or wanted individuals on a crime database like the NCIC.

ALPR devices assist law enforcement in solving crime in two ways:

- Proactive - ALPR devices provide real-time alerts when a vehicle that is stolen or associated with a known suspect is detected.
- Investigative - ALPR cameras help determine whether and which vehicle(s) were at the scene of a crime.

Is ALPR effective ?

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, when employed ethically and objectively, ALPRs are an effective tool for law enforcement, cutting down on the time required for investigations and acting as a force multiplier. In 2011, a study by the Police Executive Research Forum concluded that ALPRs used by the Mesa, Ariz., Police Department resulted in "nearly 3 times as many 'hits' for stolen vehicles, and twice as many vehicle recoveries."

Communities with ALPR systems report crime reductions of up to 70 percent. In some areas, that included a 60 percent reduction in non-residential burglaries, 80 percent reduction in residential burglary, and a 40 percent reduction in robberies.

Section III, ItemA.

ALPR Provides Objective Evidence While Protecting Privacy

ALPR does not include facial recognition capabilities and does not capture personally identifiable information (PII). While eyewitnesses and individual officers are subject to inherent human bias, ALPR cameras capture wholly-objective images of vehicles and license plates, providing a clear and actionable investigative lead.

ALPR Use Cases Include:

- AMBER Alerts: License plate readers in metro Atlanta were able to find a vehicle containing a kidnapped one-year-old, who had been taken from his mother at random off the street. The child was recovered unharmed. Some ALPR systems integrate directly with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's AMBER Alert system, sending real-time alerts to officers in seconds. [New information released about 1-year-old's kidnapping]

- Silver Alerts: Knoxville Police were able to locate a missing elderly man who suffers from dementia after he drove away in a family vehicle. ALPR technology has helped solve hundreds of Silver Alerts across the country. [Missing man with dementia found using Flock camera]

- Firearm violence: The Las Vegas Trail, a high-crime area in Fort Worth, TX, saw violent crime decrease by 22% in 2021 compared with the first nine months of 2019. Fort Worth Police attributed this drop partially to the license plate reader system implemented in the neighborhood during the same period of time. [Crime is down 22% in Fort Worth's Las Vegas Trail. How neighbors and police made it safer]

- Organized theft: Grafton, a growing village with a bustling retail district, is dealing with increased organized retail theft – Two-thirds of all the crimes reported to Grafton police in 2020 were retail thefts. Grafton Police have implemented a license plate reader system to identify vehicles that have been involved in thefts or have been stolen themselves. In one week alone, they recovered three stolen vehicles with drivers planning to engage in retail theft. [Losses mount as retailers fight theft rings, accuse online storefronts of doing little to stop resale of stolen goods]

About Flock Safety ALPR
Privacy and Ethics Factsheet

How does Flock Safety keep devices and data secure?

Flock Safety holds itself to the highest level of security. We have implemented the following security policies and features:

- Flock Safety data and footage is encrypted throughout its entire lifecycle. All data is securely stored with AES256 encryption with our cloud provider, Amazon Web Services.
- On-device, data is only stored temporarily for a short time until it is uploaded to the cloud, at which point it is removed automatically from the local device. This means the data is secure from when it is on the Flock Safety device to when it is transferred to the cloud, using a secure connection to Flock Safety servers. While stored in the cloud, all data (both footage and metadata) is fully encrypted at rest.
- Flock Safety defaults to permanently deleting all data after 30 days on a rolling basis, setting a new standard in the industry.

Who has access to data collected by Flock Safety devices?

- Flock Safety's customers own 100% of their data and determine who has access. Flock Safety will never share or sell the data, per our privacy policy.
- With explicit written permission from the customer, Flock Safety does have the ability to grant law enforcement access to specific footage for a short period (24 hours, 48 hours, or however long the customer desires) in the event of an investigation following a crime. Access can only be granted through the approval of the customer.
- Flock Safety has maintenance software in place to measure device performance and image capture quality. This is used to diagnose issues preemptively and schedule service calls in the event of a device malfunction or emergency.

About Flock Safety ALPR

Privacy and Ethics Factsheet

How long does Flock Safety keep data?

- Flock Safety stores footage for only 30 days on a rolling basis by default, after which the footage is automatically hard deleted. The only exception to this is if a democratically-elected governing body or official legislates a different data retention period.

What features do Flock Safety devices have that enable audits and oversight?

- While searching for footage or other evidence on the Flock Safety platform, law enforcement agencies must enter reason codes to verify the legitimacy of the search and create an audit trail.
- Authorized users go through training to properly use our system and communicate with their dispatch teams.
- Flock Safety customers commit not to use the data collected to work with third-party repossession companies, traffic enforcement, revenue collection, unpaid fines, or towing companies. We do not use facial recognition or capture any personally identifiable information such as name, phone number, or address, and we do not work with federal government agencies for immigration enforcement purposes.
- Flock Safety's ALPR Transparency Portal, an optional free feature for all law enforcement customers, is the first public-facing dashboard for law enforcement agencies, city leaders, and local government officials to share policies, usage, and public safety outcomes related to ALPR technology. The ALPR Transparency Portal helps promote transparency and accountability in the use of policing technology in order to build community trust while creating a safer, more equitable society.

Case Studies

Section III, ItemA.

Castle Rock PD

According to C-MATT, Castle Rock was the only Metro-Denver City to reduce auto-theft (with a 25% reduction) in 2020 - 2021, they were also the only Flock Customer
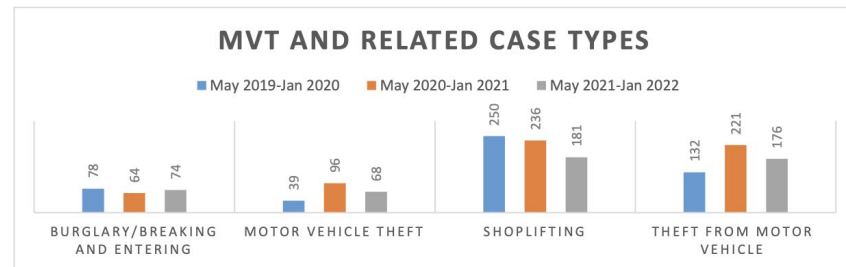
Flock hits resulting in the recovery of a stolen vehicle or eluding:

- 27% resulted in the recovery of other stolen property
- 29% led to the seizure of illegal drugs (966.3 grams)
- 8 guns recovered/seized
- 79 warrants served
- 30% involved a VCT (29 times)
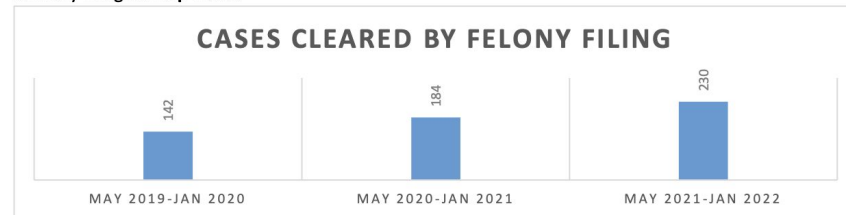- 5% led to a pursuit and 24 vehicles eluded

Section III, ItemA.

In the last 9 months there have been **360 calls for service** mentioning "LPR" in the call notes. Flock facilitated the recovery of **65 stolen vehicles**.

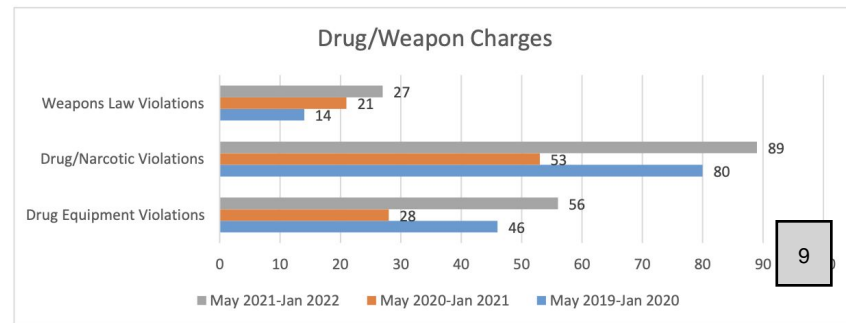Compared to the same time frame last year...

...vehicle trespasses are **down 20%** and motor vehicle theft is **down 29%**...

MVT AND RELATED CASE TYPES

Legend: May 2019-Jan 2020 | May 2020-Jan 2021 | May 2021-Jan 2022

	BURGLARY/BREAKING AND ENTERING	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	SHOPLIFTING	THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE
May 2019-Jan 2020	78	39	250	132
May 2020-Jan 2021	64	96	236	221
May 2021-Jan 2022	74	68	181	176

...felony filings are **up 25%**...

CASES CLEARED BY FELONY FILING

MAY 2019-JAN 2020	MAY 2020-JAN 2021	MAY 2021-JAN 2022
142	184	230

...and drug/weapons charges are up a combined **69%**.

Drug/Weapon Charges

	May 2019-Jan 2020	May 2020-Jan 2021	May 2021-Jan 2022
Weapons Law Violations	14	21	27
Drug/Narcotic Violations	80	53	89
Drug Equipment Violations	46	28	56

9

Vacaville PD **Vacaville, CA**

33%
Decrease in Reported Vehicle Thefts

35%
Increase in Arrests related to Vehicle Thefts

2x
Requested increase in # of cameras

Less Vehicle Thefts are happening in Vacaville, and more of them are getting solved

Section III, ItemA.

Fire apprenticeship, expanded license plate reader program among budget requests
- The Reporter

"Word has gotten out about these ALPR programs, and folks that are in the business of stealing cars will typically do a little bit of research and find out that a city that has an ALPR program they then want to avoid"

-Chief Ian Schmutzler

10

Lexington PD   Lexington, KY

In 3 months with 25 Falcons, the Lexington PD had the following outcomes...

Total value of recovered vehicles:
$861,025.00

Total of Success Stories:
98

NCIC Stolen Vehicles:
57

NCIC Warrant:
2

Investigative:
26

Section III, ItemA.

NCIC Missing Person:
4

Warrants/Subpoenas Served:
55

Missing Persons Recovered:
11

Guns Seized:
25

# of Charges:
246

# of Persons Charged:
97

CASE STUDY: *Long Term Crime Reduction*

🛡️ **CCPD** 📍 **Cobb County, GA**

"[We're] able to react to crimes in progress with actionable evidence obtained quickly and effortlessly by Flock Safety."

- Chief VanHoozer

215 Beat
64% Entering Auto
63% Non-Res Burglary

Precinct 2
35% Entering Auto
40% Robbery

	5 Yr Avg	2018	2019	'18 -> '19 % Change
Robbery	29	23	11	-52%
Res Burglary	59	34	27	-21%
Non-Res Burglary	23	27	10	-63%
Entering Auto	147	138	50	-64%
Theft	135	160	150	-6%
Vehicle Theft	55	52	45	-13%

Crime ~~reduction~~ prevention

Flock ALPR

Perth Amboy PD **Perth, NJ**

- Results with 6 months of Flock Safety
  - 7 stolen vehicle recoveries
  - 3 stolen plate recoveries
  - 8 fictitious recoveries
  - 10 arrests
  - Assisted with 30 separate investigations for SIU

- In a NYC subway shooting in April of 2022, Flock Safety cameras captured the U-Haul used by the suspect of the shooting, helping detective establish a timeline and location of the suspect that morning prior to the shooting

Section III, ItemA.

Suspect Brooklyn subway shooter indicted on two federal counts, including terror charge

Dayton PD   **Dayton, Ohio**

Before Flock Safety, crime in Dayton was 2.1X the national average.*

Result: 46% reduction in violent crime within target area after 6 months

Problem

- Violent and non-violent crime on the rise
- Community members feel unsafe

Goals

- 29 strategically placed LPR cameras to capture evidence that solves crimes
- Proactively reduce crime to increase quality of life

🛡 **Gwinnett County PD - Central Precinct**

📍 **Gwinnett County, GA**

"2021 is the first time in six years that they have had under 1,000 entering autos."

Central Crime Statistics Comparisons 2020 to 2021

Crime Type	2020	2021	Difference	+/- Percentage
Homicide:	17	10	-7	-41%
Robbery:	135	109	-26	-19%
Aggravated Assault:	259	229	-30	-12%
Aggravated Battery:	26	16	-10	-38%
Residential Burglary:	226	204	-22	-10%
Commercial Burglary:	190	120	-70	-37%
Entering Autos:	1097	947	-150	-14%
Motor Vehicle Theft:	375	345	-30	-8%

Section III, ItemA.

15

San Marino PD   **San Marino, CA**

70%	**19%**	**36%**
Decrease in residential burglaries	Decrease in part 1 crimes	Requested increase in # of cameras

Police Chief and City Council Attribute Crime Decrease to More Cases Cleared With LPR Cameras

Section III, ItemA.

As the number of cleared cases increases, crime correspondingly decreases.

30-Day ROI with Flock Safety

WPD   **Wichita, Kansas**

First Camera Installed

November 5, 2020

11 Stolen Vehicles Recovered

November 6, 2020

49 Arrests Made

November 30, 2020

$496,000 reached in Vehicle Recoveries

December 1, 2020

53 Stolen Vehicles, 32 Stolen Plates Recovered

December 4, 2020

Section III, ItemA.

17

Wichita, KS PD

197 vehicles recovered
88 stolen plates
$1.9M in vehicle recoveries
211 arrests, mostly felonies
28 guns seized
1 lb+ of meth
5 lbs+ of marijuana and other drugs

Section III, ItemA.
Stats are from November 2020 - May 2021

"One of the most impactful technologies we've ever had, period."

"Flat out solving unsolvable crimes because of it."

"Systemic type of positivity about Flock."

-Lt. Casey Slaughter

18

Case Study: *Auto Theft*

Yakima, PD   **Yakima, WA**

- Avg # of Recovered Vehicles is 58.5 per year (past 4 years)

- Since Flock went live (69 days ago) it has gone up to **89 recovered stolen vehicles**

- Average rate of recovered stolen vehicles over past 4 years is 55.6% since Flock went live it has gone up to 78.76%

- Flock led to 8 arrests in 69 days

Section III, ItemA.

Yakima Police Department — Flock Monthly Report: May 2022

22 Cameras went live **69** days ago

Analysis based on data from the past 30 days (May 16th, 2022- June 14nd, 2022)

Flock has assisted in **8** Arrests!

Flock Hits:
- **68** Stolen Vehicles
- **28** Stolen Plates
- **06** Violent Persons
- **03** Missing Persons
- **07** Gang Hits
- **02** Wanted Suspects

*Note: This data relates to the license plates reported as belonging to/associated with the above categories

Flock Assists:

May 6th, 2022- Weapons Offense- Brandishing Firearm/Death Threats- located suspects vehicle.
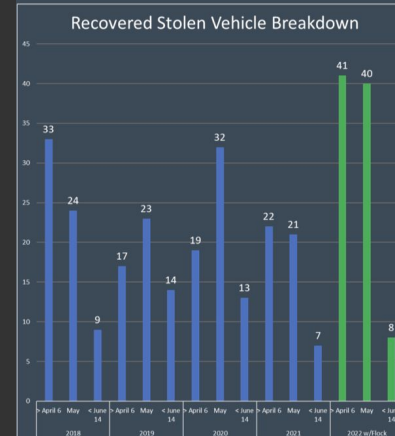
May 29th, 2022- Kidnapping/Auto theft- located stolen vehicle

May 30th, 2022- Weapons Offense- located stolen car, suspect fled when approached by officers, suspect fired at officers

- Average number of recovered stolen vehicles over the past 4 years is 58.5

- Number of recovered stolen vehicles since Flock went live is 89

(52.14% increase in the number of recovered stolen vehicles since Flock went live)

The average rate of recovery of stolen vehicles over the previous 4 years, looking at recovery rates, is 55.6%

Since YPD started using Flock Cameras, the 2022 vehicle recovery rate went up to 78.76%

(23.18% increase in the number of recovered reported stolen vehicles since Flock went live)

Recovered Stolen Vehicle Breakdown

Stolen vs Recovered Comparison by Year

19

North Topsail Beach Public Works Department
3315 Gray Street
North Topsail Beach, NC 28460

STAFF REPORT

Background

At the February 27th Budget Workshop, direction was given to Town Staff, to specifically show the specific Traffic Control Devices being recommended for Enhanced Pedestrian Crossings for the existing pedestrian crosswalks. A report was given by Public Works Staff as a follow-up on the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) District 3 Traffic Division's assessment. As part of this effort, NCDOT also recommended for budgeting purposes. a figure of $25,000.00 per location be used for these devices.

The current crosswalk locations (from North to South) are:

- 790 New River Inlet Road - St. REGIS/VILLA CAPRIANI
- 465 New River Inlet Road – Richard Peters Park/BEACH ACCESS #4
- 272 New River Inlet Road - Jefferies Bay/BEACH ACCESS #33
- 4021 Island Drive – Rogers Bay/BEACH ACCESS #31
- 3632 Island Drive – Onslow County BEACH ACCESS #22.

NCDOT has requested the Town list the location(s) of any/all new Crosswalk locations be stated officially in writing and sent to NCDOT requesting that location(s) be studied.

Additionally, the Jacksonville Urban Metropolitan Planning Organization (JUMPO) was contacted on the feasibility of conducting a Corridor Study focusing on Pedestrian Safety of Topsail Island by JUMPO. Their JUMPO Staff have confirmed their willingness to support this request and to bring this before JUMPO's Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) for approval and funding.

Analysis

The proposed FY2024-2025 Budget has placed $75,000.00 for three-(3) installations for Enhanced Pedestrian Crossing Devices. These locations (listed by priority) are:

- 790 New River Inlet Road - St. REGIS/VILLA CAPRIANI
- 465 New River Inlet Road – Richard Peters Park/BEACH ACCESS #4
- 4021 Island Drive – Rogers Bay/BEACH ACCESS #31

The following options are proposed for Board approval:

Option A **($15,000.00 – Labor and Materials)**

- Two-(2) Solar-Powered Flashing LED Pedestrian Signs placed at the Crosswalk location.
  ~ One-(1) for each direction.
- Two- (2) Pedestrian Manually Actuated Push Button Pedestals
  ~ One-(1) on each side of the Crosswalk.
- Two-(2) Reflectorized thermo-plastic "PED XING" stencils
  ~ One-(1) for each direction.

Option B **($20,000.00 – Labor and Materials)**

- One-(1) Solar-Powered overhead Street Light
  ~ Placed on either side of Crosswalk.
- Two-(2) Advanced Pedestrian Crossing Signs
  ~ One-(1) for each direction placed 150 feet ahead of LED Signs.
- Two-(2) Solar-Powered Flashing LED Pedestrian Signs placed at the Crosswalk location.
  ~ One-(1) for each direction.
- Two- (2) Pedestrian Manually Actuated Push Button Pedestals
  ~ One-(1) on each side of the Crosswalk.
- Two-(2) Reflectorized thermo-plastic "PED XING" stencils
  ~ One-(1) for each direction.

Thus far Town Staff have confirmed one –(1) request for a new crosswalk location. That location is:

- **2950 Island Drive - Beach Access #2 (Onslow County-originated request)**.

RECOMMENDATION (s)

I.   Approve and fund Option 'A' in FY 2024-2025.
II. Send a letter to NCDOT requesting to study the new Pedestrian location at 2950 Island Drive. Include NCDOT's findings with JUMPO's Corridor Study for possible implementation with the Corridor Study's recommendations.