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Subject: Consultation with Marin Sheriff Deputy Andre Smirnoff  
Date: April 3, 2019 at 1:41:26 PM PDT  
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Long conversation today with Deputy Sheriff Andre Smirnoff at Marin Sheriff. He's not one of the deputies assigned to Los Ranchitos patrol, but he has worked the area and been on the force for several years. Our deputies were on long calls and not readily available. They now are:

Braden Ross [b\\_ross@marinsheriff.org](mailto:b_ross@marinsheriff.org)  
Jason Swift [j\\_swift@marinsheriff.org](mailto:j_swift@marinsheriff.org) (don't confuse him with his brother Justin, who is also on the force, but not Los Ranchitos)

Per Andre: they are not allowed by law to recommend any particular security or camera system. Nevertheless, he was very impressed by what I told him about the Flock system, especially the SafeList for neighborhood privacy. So anything below pertains to the idea of installing cameras like Flock's in a system like Flock's, but he is not recommending a particular system.

He outlined a list of issues that, he warned, would take a lot of work to solve and do:

- who overlooks and maintains the system
- how is information disseminated after an event
- what qualifies as an event for info from the system
- how difficult and how long does it take to retrieve information/photos from the system

I explained that Flock handles all this, maintains the hardware and software, and makes it easy for the residents to decide what they want about process and policies. For example, Flock enables every resident to have a login to look at footage and search, but our neighborhood wants limited access only for privacy reasons. So we will have 3 people here who screen requests and pass them on to Flock's "crime team," which works directly with local police and sheriffs, gives them the access to search.

He detailed the pros and cons as he sees them:

**PRO:** Yes, the photos and license give them a lead and they're very happy to have this.

What about signage (only) as a deterrence, or along with working cameras? He believes signage in the neighborhood is about as effective as having an alarm company sign at your house. Some burglars may consider them dummy signs and ignore them, others may be deterred. The signs do bring more awareness that cameras and alarms are a factor. (BTW: he concurs that a loud siren, even a really deafening one, is good to have as it chases burglars out of the house so they don't have time to go through and find everything.)

**CONS:** One problem is that vehicles are sometimes "cold plated," meaning that the license plates are stolen and registered to a different vehicle (a brown chevy pickup bearing plates registered to a green Honda Civic). Or the vehicle has been bought and sold several times, the records aren't up to date, and any owner reached says, for example, "A friend borrowed my car" (NB: this could depend on the quality of the photo of the driver).

His main aim is that we not believe that a system of cameras will solve all these problems completely, and then we'll be disappointed and unhappy to have spent the money on it. It's helpful, it has its limits, but it's another tool to use.

He's glad we've done our research, because it sounds to him like we have. There's a cost/benefit calculation, anything that's an aid can help.

**Bottomline: I asked, If you lived here and had \$100 to \$200 to spend on this per year, would you opt in?**

**"If I lived there and had the money, I'm all about that, all for it."**

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