
From: Paradise Hills <paradisehillsboard@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 25, 2021 7:47 PM
To: Paradise Hills
Subject: Letter to Community - LPR System
Attachments: PHHOA Notification of Security Update Letter.pdf; LPR Presentation; Neighborhoods license plate readers becoming more common in Denver-area.pdf

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when clicking on links or attachments.

Residents of Paradise Hills,
Hope you are well and had a great weekend. Attached you will find a letter from the board regarding installation of LPR cameras, a LPR presentation and a LPR article. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you,
PHHOA Board

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Paradise Hills HOA - 2020
Shawn Meyer
President

April 25, 2021

Hello Residents of PHHOA,

We, the board, hope you all are staying safe and doing well.

The board has had great concerns over the safety of our community with increased vandalism, loitering, most recent random shootings, attempted break ins, suspicious activity, and many other crimes and activities occurring in our neighborhood. We have spent a great deal of time communicating with the law enforcement and are initiating a well-researched first step to help with the security and crime prevention of our neighborhood. The board formed a safety committee to assist them in arriving at viable solutions.

The safety committee's initial recommendation is committing to a two-year contract for a camera system called "Flock" or "LPRs" (License Plate Readers) (Attaching information of this system to this email) to be located in our common area triangle at 40/Paradise Rd. The cameras only capture the license plates and rear lower sections of the vehicle while being documented on 30-day intervals then deleted in the system. The data will be accessible to the head of the safety committee and one board member. In case of an incident, they will provide the data to the Sheriff's office. This first year LPR system will be financed via the budgeted "painting of the fences". We feel this safety issue is more important than painting which could be done by volunteers and paint is already purchased-in budget of 5,000. We will review future budgeting in later meetings.

This is NOT a recording of speeders. This is another issue we hope to pursue in another discussion. This is only recording vehicle plates in and out of our main street to help law enforcement if and when there is a possible criminal occurrence. We start with this and will continue in the research to better our community in the safety we care about.

If you want to "OPT-OUT" removing your license plate number, please send an email to:

paradisehillsboard@gmail.com

NOTICE: You do not have a time limit to "OPT-OUT". Also, if you have opted out and want to opt back in, you have that option as well.



Any other questions regarding this system please let us know as we are open to hearing from you. We want to get these cameras installed before summer and Covid measures are dialed back. Please read the attached information to help you understand what this camera is in use for and what it can do for us and the residents of our community. If you have other security questions, suggestions, etc. for our community please email them separately as we will be open to what our limits are to help our community following this initial start.

Regards,

Paradise Hills Board of Directors

Racing & Shooting

4-14-21

 **OutThere**
COLORADO 

Colorado highway blocked by hundreds, with some street racing, shooting fireworks, and brandishing weapons


Breanna Sneeringer Mar 8, 2021  1



Photo Credit: MattGush (iStock).



Rise in street racing costing commercial-property owners thousands in Denver area, business group decries

Building owners, managers say they're shelling out for security, lobbying municipalities for more enforcement

By **JUDITH KOHLER** | jkohler@denverpost.com | The Denver Post
PUBLISHED: March 9, 2021 at 6:00 a.m. | UPDATED: March 9, 2021 at 12:33 p.m.



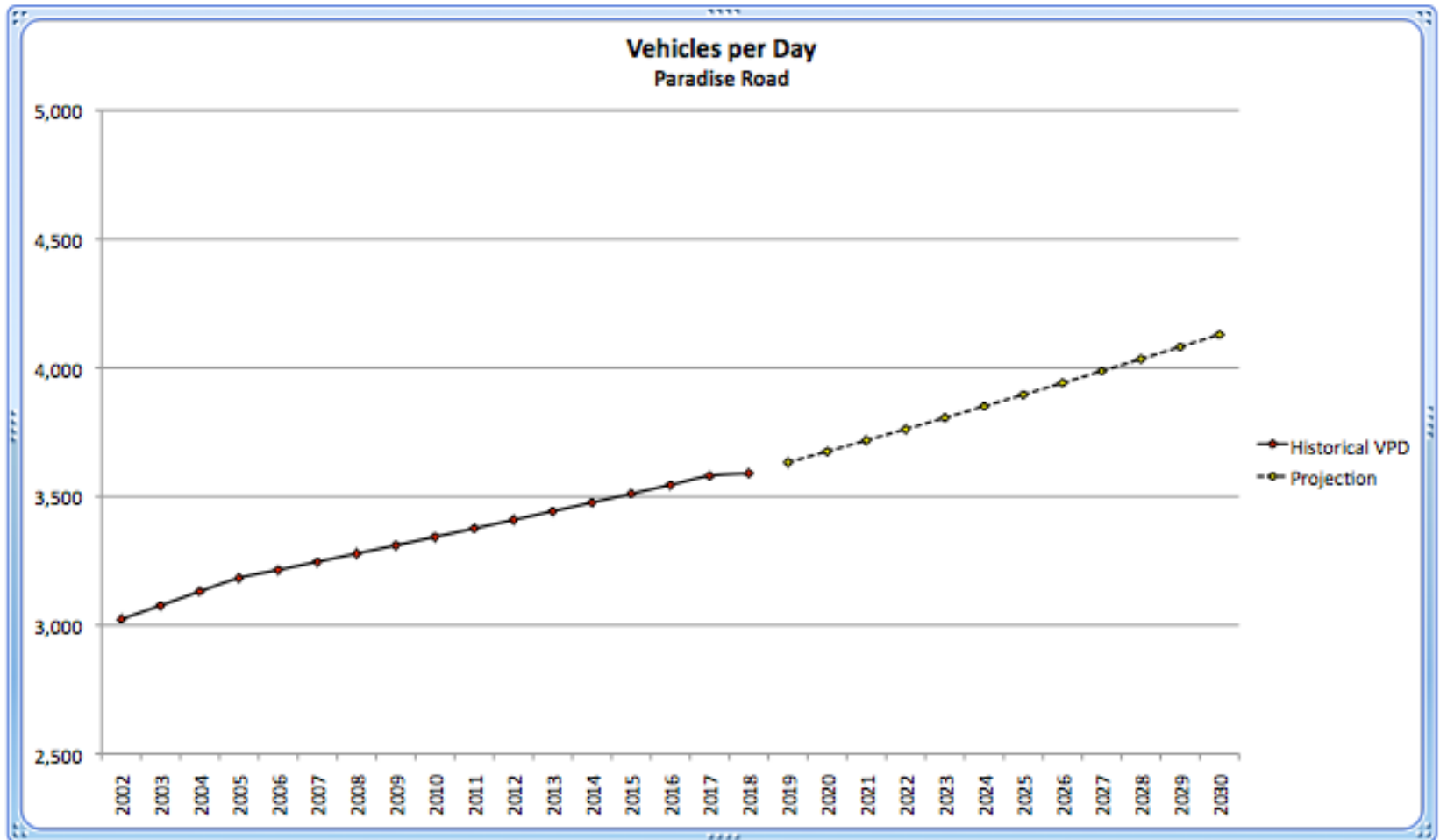
"These groups are highly mobile, moving from one jurisdiction to the next, and put a strain on law enforcement resources across all communities. Law enforcement needs the public's assistance in reporting these instances of illegal street racing to help focus future resources and use targeted patrols to help prevent these illegal activities."

Working Group Members include district attorney's offices and police departments across the front range.

ReportStreetRacing.com

Paradise Hills Traffic

4-14-21

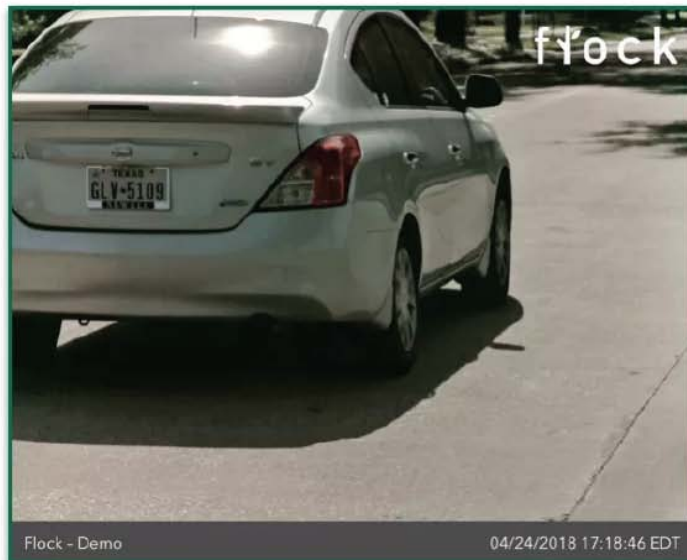


* Source: Jeffco Transportation and Engineering, Matt Farmen, Traffic Operations Engineer

LPRs – Flock Safety

License Plate Readers 4-14-21

- LPRs in triangle at 40 & Paradise
(capture rear license plates)
- Opt-out option for community
- Limited access w/ 30 day hold
- \$5,000/yr installed & hosted
 - 2 yr w/ option to continue
 - \$400 initial setup + electrician
(connected to existing power)



Denver-area neighborhoods are installing license plate readers to record every vehicle that passes by

At least 10 neighborhoods in the metro area have installed the technology

By **ELISE SCHMELZER** | eschmelzer@denverpost.com | The Denver Post

PUBLISHED: July 9, 2019 at 2:50 p.m. | UPDATED: July 15, 2019 at 7:10 p.m.

License plate readers posted at both entrances to an upscale Aurora neighborhood snapped pictures of passing cars Wednesday, recording the type, color and license plate number of each vehicle and inputting that information into a database.

Such technology used to be relegated to law enforcement. But these cameras were purchased by the local homeowner association in January after a few burglaries of cars and a home in the neighborhood. Red signs near the cameras warn passersby of "24/7 Video Recording."

"It's going to keep us safer," said Richard Warshaw, president of the Bel-Aire Estates Owners Association.





Andy Cross, The Denver Post

Bel-Aire Estates resident and HOA member Richard Warshaw stands underneath a Flock Safety security camera system installed at one entrance to the Bel-Aire Estates in Aurora on July 10, 2019. The cameras are designed to capture license plates coming in and out of the neighborhood. Resulting data can be shared with the police department if the need arises.

Forget doorbell cams — some Denver-area neighborhoods are now equipping their streets with cameras that will photograph your car and scan your license plate. Such license plate readers stand ever vigilant in 10 neighborhoods in Denver, Lone Tree, Sheridan and Aurora, according to Flock Safety, [the company that sells them](#).

The readers are the most recent iteration of home security technology that have proliferated over the past few years as such equipment becomes more affordable, even as concerns about privacy and data breaches mount. Even in the hands of police, the technology [has been controversial](#) for its ability to quickly collect and store vast amounts of information.

“We can’t begin to fathom how fast we’re moving to a ‘Star Trek’ world,” said Albert Gidari, consulting director of privacy at the Stanford Center for Internet and Society.

RELATED: [What is crime really like on your block? Denver public safety officials launch map where you can explore that data — and more](#)

Warshaw said the five-person board of the homeowner association decided to add the three cameras and use money from the neighborhood’s dues to pay for it. The entire 75-home neighborhood did not vote on the decision, but Warshaw said he hadn’t heard any negative feedback.

Warshaw, who has lived in the neighborhood since 2005, admitted that one home burglary in 15 years is not exactly a rash of crime. But the license plate readers make the residents feel safer.

“Is it going to stop crime?” Warshaw said. “No. But it’s a layer of protection.”



Perception vs. reality

The expansion of such devices nationwide does not match crime rates, which have dropped precipitously since the 1990s. Across the country and in Colorado, people were twice as likely to be victims of property crimes like burglary and theft in 1993 as they were in 2017, FBI crime statistics show.

But peoples' perceptions of crime often don't align with reality, said Andrea Borrego, an assistant professor of criminal justice and criminology at Metropolitan State University of Denver. Public opinion about crime is often based more on media representations and anecdotal evidence than statistics, she said.

"The people who are most fearful of crime are those least likely to be affected by it," Borrego said.

The growth of private security technology like license plate readers is inevitable, said Garrett Langley, Flock Safety founder and CEO. The demand for his product shows that people want to feel safer, he said.

"Crime, whether or not it's up, it sure feels like it," he said.

The company charges about \$2,000 a year for the installation, maintenance and data storage for each solar-powered camera. Most of the company's customers are homeowner associations or neighborhood groups that pay for the cameras collectively, Langley said. The motion-activated cameras record 24/7 and can capture the license plate number, vehicle type and color of any vehicle traveling up to 75 mph and up to 75 feet away, according to the company. The cameras also capture pictures of pedestrians and cyclists.

Images of the vehicle are then uploaded to the company's Amazon Web Services cloud server and the data collected from the image becomes part of a searchable database. The HOA members with access can then search the database by time or vehicle description. They can also give police access to the footage if a crime is reported.





Andy Cross, The Denver Post

A security camera located at one of the entrances to the Bel-Aire Estates in Aurora is designed to capture license plates coming in and out of the the community.

Flock Safety promises its customers it will not access the images without permission and will not sell the data collected to a third party. Those who live in the neighborhood can register their license plate with the system and the computer will automatically erase any images of those vehicles. All the data stored on the cloud are encrypted, and all data are deleted after 30 days, according to the company.

Each neighborhood is responsible for creating its own policies about who can access the images, which are owned by the customers, not the company.

In Warsaw's neighborhood, only the five members of the homeowner association board can access the photos and database, and will only do so if a crime has been reported to police. They will then give police access to the footage for the time period during which the crime is suspected to have occurred. So far, the neighborhood hasn't had to access the images.

Police departments have used license plate readers for years. The Denver Police Department has used mobile readers mounted in police vehicles since 2015 and [last year installed a license plate reader at the intersection of Federal Boulevard and Sixth Avenue.](#)

Denver police Division Chief Ron Thomas said he had not heard of citizen-owned license plate readers. But the more common doorbell cameras have proven very valuable in police investigations, he said.

"Cases are solved like that every day," he said.

Not if, but when



Only recently has license plate reader technology been accessible to private citizens, said [Steve Beaty](#), a professor at MSU Denver who studies data security. Although homeowners have used security cameras for years, the number of such devices skyrocketed starting in 2015, he said.

Beaty laughed when asked what he thought of Flock Safety's safeguards meant to protect privacy. Beaty said all people should assume that any personal data collected from them will eventually be accessed without their knowledge. It's not a question of if, but a question of when, he said.

"I assume these things are going to start showing up in divorce proceedings," he said.

While an individual piece of data — like a license plate number — may not be useful to a marketer or hacker, that information becomes a piece of a larger profile created from data accessed from other places. In aggregate, entities can start to know your neighborhood, your habits and your friends, he said.

The cameras themselves aren't necessarily a violation of privacy, said Gidari, the Stanford privacy expert. They are collecting images of people traveling in public, where people implicitly give consent to being seen and photographed, he said.

"We have to move beyond fear of the collection and focus more on the conduct: Who has access to it? And what can they do it with?" he said.

Beaty believes that, eventually, people will decide that giving up privacy for security is no longer a beneficial transaction. At some point, the breach of privacy becomes its own security risk, he said.

"It's essentially become a slippery slope," he said.

Warshaw, the HOA president, said he received a call Tuesday from someone interested in buying the house across the street from him. The prospective buyer asked about the license plate readers.

"He was happy they were there," Warshaw said.



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