ORT Prevention Grant Program

Local Evaluation Plan

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Submitted by City of Garden Grove

Prepared by:

Sgt. Willie Holloway, GGPD

(714) 741-5918 williamh@ggcity.org

And

Det. Gerald Jordan, GGPD

(714) 741-5838 geraldj@ggcity.org

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Project Background

The City of Garden Grove is located in Orange County, CA. The city has a population of roughly 175,000 people and is approximately 18 square miles. The Garden Grove Police Department has 172 sworn officers. It is located nearby to high tourist areas such as the Disneyland Resort area and Angel's Stadium and is surrounded by Los Angeles County, Riverside County, and San Diego County. The 22-freeway runs throughout the city and connects the Long Beach area to the city. The Garden Grove Police Department is dealing with staffing shortages throughout the agency. The department is carrying vacancies at the patrol level, as well as within specialty units. Crime throughout the city has steadily increased and the department lacks resources to effectively combat crime.

Since 2019 motor vehicle theft crime in Garden Grove has increased dramatically. In 2019, there were a total of 417 stolen vehicles stolen in the city. In 2022 that number rose to 683 with a peak in 2021 at 701, which is a 68% increase in motor vehicle theft. The Garden Grove Police Department has limited resources to combat this enormous increase in vehicle theft. During our research for ways to combat motor vehicle theft, it was discovered the use of license plate reader (LPR) cameras by other law enforcement agencies have played a crucial role in addressing vehicle theft crimes. We have attended conferences where other law enforcement agencies have discussed their success after implementing LPR cameras.

The Garden Grove Police Department has also been consumed with a tremendous increase in catalytic converter thefts occurring throughout the city. In 2019, the Garden Grove Police Department documented 32 catalytic converter theft in the city. In 2022 that number rose to 522 with a peak in 2021 of 578 thefts. This is a 1700% increase in catalytic converter thefts.

Based on the increasing numbers of stolen vehicles and catalytic converter thefts in the City of Garden Grove, the Garden Grove Police Department decided to address these issues with a two-pronged approach. The first part is implementing Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras on major thoroughfares and intersections throughout the city. Strategically placing the cameras in high traffic areas which cover the entrance and exits to the City of Garden Grove, will allow us to capture the most amount of vehicles. This will give us the best opportunity at solving crime, recovering stolen vehicles and recovering stolen property. The second part will be to conduct monthly directed enforcement operations targeting stolen vehicle and catalytic converter theft investigations.

ALPR cameras will assist the Garden Grove Police Department in many ways. They automatically notify officers when a stolen vehicle is scanned at a specific location and patrol officers will be able to locate and apprehend the occupants. The cameras can also be used as an investigative tool to follow up on investigations. For example, if a catalytic converter theft occurred, officers can search for the suspect vehicle description through the ALPR system to develop leads on the suspect vehicle. After speaking to other law enforcement agencies throughout Southern California, we determined that ALPR

cameras will have a drastic benefit in reducing auto thefts, catalytic converter thefts, and recovering stolen vehicles.

The second part of our plan is to conduct monthly directed enforcement operations. Six officers and one Sergeant will participate in the monthly directed enforcements. The enforcements will be focused on auto theft and catalytic converter theft. The enforcements will consist of actively monitoring the ALPR cameras and responding to stolen vehicles that are scanned at specific locations, probation compliance checks on known auto theft suspects, and arresting known suspects in Garden Grove PD auto theft investigations.

The goals for the project are:

Goal 1: Increase the total number of stolen vehicles recovered in the City of Garden Grove.

Objectives for Goal 1:

- After installing FLOCK LPR cameras, patrol officers will actively monitor and respond to stolen vehicle notification to recover the vehicle to return it to the rightful owner.
  - At the end of each year, the total number of stolen vehicles recovered in the city will increase based on the implementation of FLOCK LPR cameras and the response to stolen vehicle notification.
- The Garden Grove Police Department will implement monthly directed enforcement operations. These operations will include actively monitoring LPR cameras and increasing visibility in retail areas.
  - A monthly report will be completed with the areas where stolen vehicle and retail crimes have occurred.
  - Officers will direct their enforcement operations to areas where stolen vehicle and retail crime have risen based on each monthly report.
  - At the end of each year, the total number of stolen vehicles recovered will increase based on these directed enforcement operations.

Goal 2: Reduce the number of stolen vehicles taken from the City of Garden Grove.

Objectives for Goal 2:

- After installing FLOCK LPR cameras, patrol officers will actively monitor and respond to stolen vehicle notification to make arrests of the offenders who are in possession of the vehicle.
  - At the end of each year, the total number of vehicles stolen in the city will decrease based on the implementation of FLOCK LPR cameras, the response to stolen vehicle notification, and the arrests of offenders.
- The Garden Grove Police Department will implement monthly directed enforcement operations. These operations will include surveillance and probation compliance checks on offenders with a criminal history related to vehicle theft.
  - A monthly report will be given to officers showing offenders with a history of vehicle theft.

- o Officers will direct their enforcement operations on the offenders based on the report.
- o At the end of each operation, officers will report how many surveillances/compliance checks were completed along with their outcomes.
- o The total number of vehicles stolen will decrease based on these directed enforcement operations.

Goal 3: To restore the losses suffered by victims of retail theft and vehicle theft

Objectives for Goal 2:

- After installing FLOCK LPR cameras, officers will be able to further investigate retail theft and vehicle theft crimes. FLOCK LPR system allows officers to search for vehicles via vehicle description and/or license plates to identify the suspect vehicles in these crimes.
- Officers will be able to develop leads on suspect vehicles in order to further investigate the crimes and restore losses suffered by the victims.
- Provide training to officers on the operation of the FLOCK LPR system and how to use it for investigative purposes

The Garden Grove Police Department has a policy related to LPR cameras which includes the following topics:

- Purpose and Scope
- Administration
- Operations
- Data Collection and Retention
- Accountability
- Policy
- Releasing LPR Data
- Training

The LPR policy states:

"The policy of the Garden Grove Police Department is to utilize ALPR technology to capture and store digital license plate data and images while recognizing the established privacy rights of the public. All data and images gathered by the ALPR are for the official use of this department. Because such data may contain confidential information, it is not open to public review."

The Garden Grove Police Department has a bias-based policing policy which states:

"The Garden Grove Police Department is committed to providing law enforcement services to the community with due regard for the racial, cultural or other differences of those served. It is the policy of this department to provide law enforcement services and to enforce the law equally, fairly, objectively and without discrimination toward any individual or group."

The use of LPR cameras is directly related to vehicles. The cameras do not capture people and are not continuously-recording surveillance cameras. The use of these cameras will have no racial bias, as they simply capture all vehicles driving through the camera's view. Camera placement will occur throughout the city and in areas which align with the goals of the program. Camera placement decisions will not be made based on the population of nearby neighborhoods, nor will they target any specific racial or cultural population. The use of FLOCK LPR data will instead focus on the criminal population, regardless of who that might be.

Project Logic Model

Inputs and Resources

The project will leverage the BSCC ORT grant to acquire advanced FLOCK LPR cameras and fund monthly enforcement operations. Key personnel, including auto theft specialists, technical staff, and patrol officers, will collaborate to execute project activities.

Activities

The project involves the strategic installation of 65 FLOCK LPR cameras across the City of Garden Grove to ensure comprehensive surveillance coverage. Monthly directed enforcement operations will target high-risk areas for motor vehicle theft. Additionally, training sessions will be conducted to equip staff with advanced auto theft prevention techniques.

Outputs

The anticipated outputs include the installation of 65 LPR cameras and 12 targeted enforcement operations annually. The initiative aims to reach over 1,000 community members through these efforts and achieve a target of 50 auto and auto parts theft-related arrests per year.

Outcomes

In the short term, the project is expected to result in a 10% increase in vehicle recovery rates and enhanced public awareness of auto theft issues. Medium-term goals include a 20% reduction in motor vehicle theft incidents and improved coordination among law enforcement agencies.

Impacts

The broader impacts of the project will include a safer community with a significant reduction in auto and auto parts theft-related crimes, enhanced public trust in law enforcement, and economic benefits from decreased crime-related losses. This initiative will contribute to making the City of Garden Grove a safer place to live, work, and visit.

Evaluation and Data Collection

The evaluation will be heavily reliant on crime statistics, arrests made, and investigative leads generated by the FLOCK system. The Garden Grove Police Department employs a skilled crime analyst who will be part of the grant administration committee from the outset, ensuring that the program is shaped effectively. Sworn program administrators, chosen for their expertise in the FLOCK system, will also play a crucial role.

Crime statistics will help identify "hot spots" where crimes are more frequent, such as specific retail locations more susceptible to crime. The department uses Geographic Information System (GIS) crime mapping and historical crime statistics to guide camera placement, assess data collection effectiveness, and evaluate the program's impact on these hot spots.

To establish a baseline, the crime analyst will provide and evaluate existing crime statistics and GIS data for the past year. The committee will review the department's crime data over the past three years, solvability rates, and compare this information with nearby cities that have and do not have the FLOCK system.

Camera locations will be selected with input from city entities beyond the police department, including the city traffic engineer, who will provide insights on high-traffic areas and key entry and exit points. This approach will maximize data collection and identify likely paths taken by criminals.
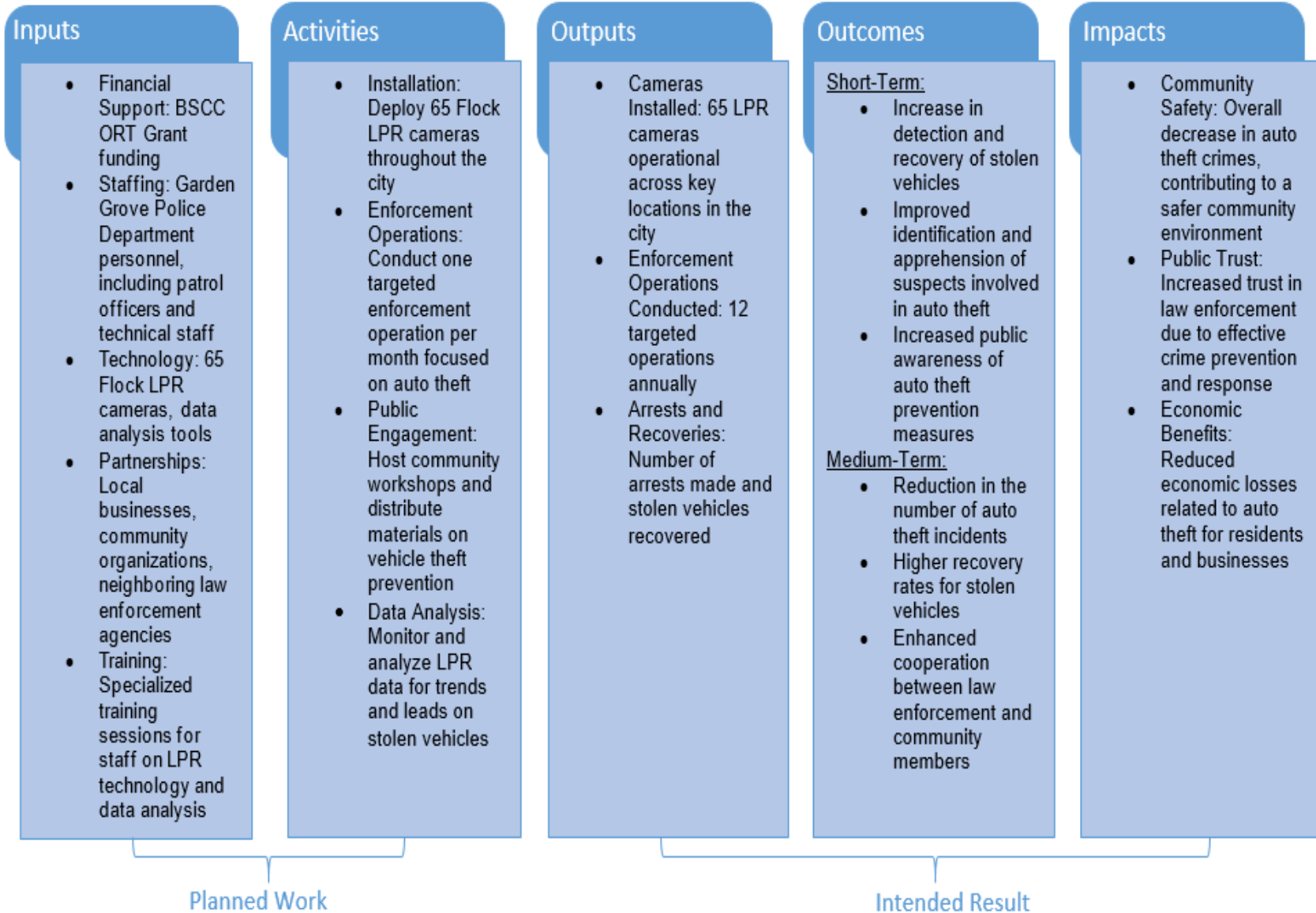
Officers and detectives will document FLOCK system usage in investigations, from locating stolen vehicles to generating suspect leads. Monthly reports will be generated by program administrators and the crime analyst, tracking FLOCK usage, vehicle observations, and crime-related observations. This data will be reviewed by staff and command officers to evaluate camera placement and adjust as needed.

The program administration committee will meet quarterly to review the program's progress, evaluate monthly FLOCK data, and analyze quarterly crime statistics and trends. Directed enforcement activities will be logged, and a quarterly report will be generated and assessed.

An annual report will compile all data for a broader evaluation of the program's effectiveness, examining year-over-year crime statistics and long-term impacts. Camera placement will be reviewed periodically, with adjustments made based on statistical guidelines.

Data-sharing with other agencies will be facilitated through a Memorandum of Understanding and known successes involving outside agencies will be noted and discussed at quarterly meetings.

Logic Model

Inputs

- Financial Support: BSCC ORT Grant funding
- Staffing: Garden Grove Police Department personnel, including patrol officers and technical staff
- Technology: 65 Flock LPR cameras, data analysis tools
- Partnerships: Local businesses, community organizations, neighboring law enforcement agencies
- Training: Specialized training sessions for staff on LPR technology and data analysis

Activities

- Installation: Deploy 65 Flock LPR cameras throughout the city
- Enforcement Operations: Conduct one targeted enforcement operation per month focused on auto theft
- Public Engagement: Host community workshops and distribute materials on vehicle theft prevention
- Data Analysis: Monitor and analyze LPR data for trends and leads on stolen vehicles

Outputs

- Cameras Installed: 65 LPR cameras operational across key locations in the city
- Enforcement Operations Conducted: 12 targeted operations annually
- Arrests and Recoveries: Number of arrests made and stolen vehicles recovered

Outcomes

Short-Term:
- Increase in detection and recovery of stolen vehicles
- Improved identification and apprehension of suspects involved in auto theft
- Increased public awareness of auto theft prevention measures

Medium-Term:
- Reduction in the number of auto theft incidents
- Higher recovery rates for stolen vehicles
- Enhanced cooperation between law enforcement and community members

Impacts

- Community Safety: Overall decrease in auto theft crimes, contributing to a safer community environment
- Public Trust: Increased trust in law enforcement due to effective crime prevention and response
- Economic Benefits: Reduced economic losses related to auto theft for residents and businesses

Planned Work   **Intended Result**

Process Evaluation Method and Design

The research design for the outcome will be to follow the plan which is described in the Project Description. We will pre-plan by evaluating stats from previous months and focusing on addressing crime in those specific areas. We will plan directed enforcements accordingly. We will also train patrol officers on the FLOCK LPR system to address motor vehicle theft with efforts from the entire police department. We will then collect stats in the following months to determine is our goals are being met and adjust accordingly. At the end of the grant period, we will compare the statistics from prior years to the most current stats. The goal is to decrease auto theft and increase the amount of stolen vehicles recovered.

At the end of this grant, we will have addressed our goals in a satisfactory manner. The questions we will look to have answered:

- Have we seen an increase in the total number of stolen vehicles recovered by the Garden Grove Police Department?

- Have we seen a decrease in the total number of stolen vehicles taken in the City of Garden Grove?

- What is the total value of recovered stolen property related to motor vehicle theft?

The criteria for determining the success of this project will be to address each of the goals/questions listed above. On a broad scale, our overall goal is to decrease motor vehicle theft, therefore at the conclusion of this grant, we will compare the motor vehicle theft stats from the beginning and end and hope to see a substantial decrease in crime.

Monthly reports will be generated and will be used to generate quarterly reports to turn into the BSCC ORT grant. Monthly reports will show the total number of stolen vehicles, the total number of recovered stolen vehicles, and total number of motor vehicle accessory theft reports, as well as total number of arrests. At the end of each year, the overall stats will be compared to the year prior. The data will be analyzed each quarter, and we will constantly evaluate our efforts based on the data.

Based on the fact that FLOCK LPR cameras are the major factor in our efforts to reduce auto theft in our city, we have implemented a data collection tool in our Record Management / Report Writing system. This tool will be specifically for data collection related to whether or not the FLOCK LPR cameras were utilized in an investigation. This will assist with determining whether outcomes were due to the project or because of other factors. We will be able to determine how many stolen vehicles were located because of FLOCK cameras compared to how many stolen vehicles were located without the assistance of FLOCK cameras.

Input/Resource/Activity/Output	Data Element(s)	Data Source(s)	Frequency of Data Collection
10 arrests relating to FLOCK hits per month of the grant	# of arrests	Case management system, database	Each time an arrest is made related to a FLOCK hit.
Installation of surveillance equipment (FLOCK cameras)	65 FLOCK cameras installed or deployed	Internal database, investigative software, invoicing, records	Monthly/quarterly
40 Auto theft cases filed per year of the grant	# of auto theft cases filed	Case management system	Each time a case is filed
Improved monetary recovery rates for auto theft cases	# of auto theft prosecutions and # of auto theft cases filed	Case management system	Each time a case is closed

Outcome Evaluation Method and Design

The outcome evaluation will examine both short-term and medium-term outcomes as outlined in our project's logic model. The primary goal of this evaluation is to assess whether the project has achieved its intended effects, specifically targeting reductions in auto theft and improvements in recovery and conviction rates related to auto theft within the City of Garden Grove.

Outcomes Assessed and Definitions

The evaluation will focus on several key outcomes:

1. **Reduction in the Number of Stolen Vehicles**: This outcome is defined as a measurable decrease in the number of stolen vehicle reports within the City of Garden Grove. Data will be sourced from internal databases, investigative software, and case management systems, with data collection occurring each time an incident is reported.
2. **Increase in Number of Vehicles Recovered**: This refers to an increase in the recovery rate of stolen vehicles, particularly those detected by FLOCK LPR cameras. The data for this outcome will also be drawn from internal databases, investigative software, and case management systems, with data collected each time an incident is reported.
3. **Improved Conviction Rates for Auto Theft and Auto Parts Theft Cases**: This outcome involves an increase in the number of convictions relative to the number of cases filed for auto theft and auto parts theft. Data for this outcome will be gathered from the case management system, with data collection occurring each time a case is closed.

Data Collection and Analysis

Data collection will rely on primary sources including internal databases, investigative software, and the case management system. Data will be collected continuously, with regular updates and reviews to maintain accuracy and timeliness. For data analysis, quantitative data will be evaluated using descriptive statistics to identify trends, including calculating percentages and means, and comparing pre- and post-implementation data to assess changes. Qualitative data from community feedback and officer reports will undergo content analysis to identify recurring themes and insights regarding the project's impact.

Outcome Evaluation Research Design

A mixed-methods design will be employed, combining both quantitative and qualitative data to provide a comprehensive view of the project's outcomes. Quantitative data will focus on measurable changes in crime statistics, while qualitative data will explore perceptions of safety and effectiveness from community members and law enforcement personnel.

Evaluation Questions and Criteria for Success

The evaluation will address the following questions:

- Did the implementation of FLOCK LPR cameras and targeted enforcement operations result in a reduction in auto theft incidents?
- Has the recovery rate of stolen vehicles increased as a result of the project?
- Did the project lead to improved conviction rates for auto theft and auto parts theft cases?

Criteria for success will be determined by:

- A statistically significant decrease in reported auto theft incidents.
- An increase in the percentage of stolen vehicles recovered, particularly those identified through LPR technology.
- An improved ratio of convictions to cases filed for auto theft and auto parts theft.

Strategy for Determining Attribution of Outcomes

To ensure that observed outcomes are attributable to the project rather than external factors, the evaluation will use the following strategies:

- **Comparison Group**: Where feasible, comparisons will be made with neighboring areas not employing the same interventions to isolate the project's impact.
- **Control for External Factors**: The evaluation will account for external factors such as changes in state or local policies, economic conditions, or seasonal

variations in crime rates. This will involve reviewing relevant policy changes and other systemic factors that may influence the results.

By addressing these elements, the evaluation aims to deliver a thorough assessment of the project's effectiveness in reducing auto theft and enhancing public safety in the City of Garden Grove.

Outcome	Definition	Data Source(s)	Frequency of Data Collection
Reduction in the number of stolen vehicles.	Decrease in the amount of stolen vehicle reports in the City of Garden Grove	Internal database, investigative software, Case management system	Each time an incident is reported
Increase in number of vehicles recovered.	Increase in the number of recovered stolen vehicles driving though the City of Garden Grove	Internal database, investigative software, Case management system	Each time an incident is reported
Improved conviction rates for auto theft and auto parts theft cases.	Increase in the number of auto theft and auto parts theft convictions in relation to the number of auto theft or auto parts theft cases filed.	Case management system	Each time a case is closed