December 1, 2023
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA

Re: 231162 Accept and Expend Grant and Amend the Annual Salary Ordinance - Retroactive - Board of State and Community Corrections - Organized Retail Theft Prevention Grant Program - $15,326,301

Honorable Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I am writing on behalf of myself to express my support of the proposed legislation that would allow the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) to use Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) to address public safety issues in San Francisco.

San Francisco faces significant crime and safety challenges, including unusually high rates of property crime compared to other major U.S. cities, as well as understaffing of our police force, and more. These public safety concerns not only impact the daily lives of San Franciscans and the greater Bay Area but also unduly damage the public profile of our beloved city. It's critical that we implement solutions that address crime and support the acquisition of resources that foster safety. ALPR technology has proven to be a critical tool in helping law enforcement agencies across the state of California, and beyond, obtain the objective evidence they need to solve crimes in the community. Already utilized in approximately 1,000 agencies in California and dozens in the Bay Area, including but not limited to Oakland, Berkeley, San Mateo, Alameda County, Concord, Richmond, Palo Alto, San Jose, ALPR systems allow for comprehensive collaboration between regional agencies. Crime cannot be solved in silos and as the use of this technology expands, San Francisco must proactively participate in the broader safety network and utilize effective public safety technologies available to help address crime.

While recognizing we must immediately address crime issues within our communities, it cannot come at the expense of our collective values of justice and equity. Notably, the platform emphasizes collecting objective evidence while preserving privacy. ALPR systems do not include facial recognition technology or alerts containing personally identifiable information, data will never be sold to third parties, and all data is stored securely in the AWS cloud and encrypted end to end. In accordance with 19B policy, LPR uses are strictly limited to public safety purposes like recovering stolen vehicles, apprehending individuals with outstanding warrants, investigating crimes, responding to Amber Alerts, etc., and alerts are focused specifically on vehicle-based data.

Lastly, funding for this technology is provided through the state and will not be an added cost to the City. We must leverage all the tools available to address crime through an approach that is ethical and objective. I urge members of the Board to approve this item and help our city thrive again.

Thank you for your consideration and willingness to engage on this important policy matter.

Sincerely
Nick Belloni

From:	Balboa Village Merchants Association
To:	Jalipa, Brent (BOS)
Subject:	Public Comment for Wednesday, December 13th — Budget and Finance Committee Meeting, Agenda Item #2 — 231162 Accept and Expend Grant and Amend the Annual Salary Ordinance - Retroactive - Board of State and Community Corrections - Organized Retail Theft ...
Date:	Tuesday, December 12, 2023 12:45:40 PM

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12/11/23
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA

Re: Item 2 — 231162 Accept and Expend Grant and Amend the Annual Salary Ordinance - Retroactive - Board of State and Community Corrections - Organized Retail Theft Prevention Grant Program - $15,326,301

Honorable Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I am writing on behalf of the Balboa Village Merchants Association (BVMA) to express our support of the proposed legislation that would allow the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) to receive funds from the state for the implementation of Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) technology to address public safety issues in San Francisco.

As small business owners and residents of San Francisco, we need SFPD to have all the tools available at their disposal to help both solve and deter crime that adversely affects our businesses, our City, and public safety in our neighborhoods.

San Francisco faces significant crime and safety challenges, including unusually high rates of property crime compared to other major U.S. cities, as well as understaffing of our police force, and more. These public safety concerns not only impact the daily lives of San Franciscans, it's small business owners, and the greater Bay Area but also unduly damage the public profile of our beloved city. It's critical that we implement solutions that address crime and support the acquisition of resources that foster safety. ALPR technology has proven to be a critical tool in helping law enforcement agencies across the state of California, and beyond, obtain the objective evidence they need to solve crimes in the community. Already utilized in approximately 1,000 agencies in California and dozens in the Bay Area, including but not limited to Oakland, Berkeley, San Mateo, Alameda County, Concord, Richmond, Palo Alto, San Jose, ALPR systems allow for comprehensive collaboration between regional agencies. Crime cannot be solved in silos and as the use of this technology expands, San Francisco must proactively participate in the broader safety network and utilize effective public safety technologies available to help address crime.

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Lastly, funding for this technology is provided through the state and will not be an added cost to the City. We must leverage all the tools available to address crime through an approach that is ethical and objective. I urge members of the Board to approve this item and help our city thrive again.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely
Suzie Ferras
President of BVMA

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