County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169

LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

November 8, 2006

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

ACCEPT THE DONATION OF $70,000 FROM BELKIN CORPORATION (SECOND DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Accept from Belkin Corporation a donation of $70,000 toward the purchase of Advanced License Plate Recognition (ALPR) systems for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's (Department) Compton Station as a pilot project.

2. Send a letter of appreciation to Belkin Corporation, Chet Pitkin, CEO, 501 West Walnut Street, Compton, California 90220, expressing the Board's appreciation for the generous donation.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The donated money from the Belkin Corporation, a Compton-based company, will be utilized to purchase ALPR technology for the Department's Compton Station. ALPR equipped radio cars will be dedicated to both the unincorporated County areas patrolled by Compton Station and within the city of Compton.

The ALPR system is a mobile computer and camera system that scans the roadways and parking lots for wanted vehicles. The system automatically locates, reads, and checks license plates against multiple databases of wanted vehicles. If the system detects a match, the deputy is immediately notified with both an audible and visible alert. Images of the license plate and vehicle, as well as a brief explanation of what the vehicle is wanted for, are instantly displayed to the deputy. The entire process is automated and takes less than one second, allowing for hundreds of license plates to

be read and recorded hourly. The system is expected to positively impact the deputy's and the community's safety. ALPR technology is already in use by law enforcement agencies throughout the nation, and is deployed locally by the California Highway Patrol, and the Los Angeles Police and Long Beach Police Departments.

ALPR is one of many components of the Advanced Surveillance and Protection (ASAP) project, which utilizes emerging technology to assist law enforcement in enhancing community safety. The Department anticipates additional donations in the future to incrementally implement the entire ASAP system.

The ALPR system will be purchased through the Internal Services Department using the appropriate procurement process. Generally, these systems come with a one-year warranty. At the end of the first year, if the Department determines that the system is effective and worthwhile, then the Department may enter into a maintenance agreement for the system. Several contract cities are also considering purchasing ALPR systems for use by Department, and this donation will permit the Department to field test and compare several systems at the same time without having to make a large purchase or engage in a long-term maintenance agreement.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Acceptance of this donation promotes Strategic Goal 1, Service Excellence, as this donation will further demonstrate the value of a public/private partnership that improves County services to the citizens of Los Angeles County. This donation also promotes Strategic Goal 4, Fiscal Responsibility, by saving the County the cost of purchasing this front-line law enforcement technology for the Department.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Costs associated with the training for this equipment will be paid for out of the Department's operating budget. No financing is involved.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Acceptance of this donation will provide an additional $70,000 in funding for the Department in the form of front-line law enforcement technology. State law authorizes the acceptance of gifts for specific County purposes in Government Code Section 25355.

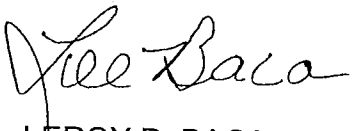
IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

There will be little to no impact to current services during the pilot project period.

CONCLUSION

Approval of the $70,000 donation from the Belkin Corporation further demonstrates the value of public/private partnerships that improves County services to the citizens of Los Angeles County.

Sincerely,



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