



OCEANSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community Services Division

Training Bulletin 25-007

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Flock Search Procedure Update

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Introduction:

In recent years, License Plate Reader (LPR) technology has become more prevalent and accessible amongst law enforcement agencies. This increase in usage, sharing of data, and recent political events have led to greater scrutiny and oversight from the community and news media regarding the use of LPR technology by law enforcement.

In an effort to provide transparency and ensure consistency in how OPD Flock systems are utilized, OPD has implemented updated procedures when conducting Flock LPR searches.

Procedure:

Prior to conducting a search, the “Reason” and “Case Number” boxes shall be completed by the user. For the “Reason” box the user shall select from the following pre-determined options via a drop-down menu:

- Criminal Investigation
- Stolen Vehicle/Plate
- Missing/At Risk Person
- Officer/Public Safety BOL
- Training

For the “Case Number” box, the user SHALL enter either a case number or incident number. Typing generic entries such as “Investigation” into the Reason or Case Number box is not acceptable. The exception is if the reason for the search is Training, the case number may also be “Training”.

Every Flock search needs to be related back to an active call for service or investigation in compliance with California law. Flock (and other LPR systems) is a great tool for criminal investigations. Any erosion of public trust may lead to the elimination of Flock as a resource. Audits will be conducted periodically, and users who are discovered failing to input a case/incident number may have their Flock privileges suspended.

Distribution:

All Members

Reference/Sources:

Traffic Investigator Kevin Lissner
Traffic Services Unit