



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
September 19, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager  
Submitted by: Liam Garland, Director, Department of Public Works  
Subject: Contract No. 9977C Amendment: Portable Computer Systems dba PCS Mobile for Parking Permit and Citation Services

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to Contract No. 9977C with Portable Computer Systems dba PCS Mobile, increasing the contract amount by \$1,650,000 for a total amount not-to-exceed of \$3,700,000 and extending the contract term through June 30, 2029.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funding of \$1,650,000 is subject to appropriation in FY 2024-FY 2029 in the Parking Meter Fund.

Current Contract Amount .....	\$2,050,000
Amended Contract Amount .....	\$1,650,000
Total NTE	\$3,700,000

The average cost associated with the development, routing, and approvals of a consent calendar item such as this is approximately \$3,200. The average cost for an action or work session item is approximately \$6,200.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The City currently uses Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) systems for issuance of parking citations, with the license plate reading capabilities used to conduct time limit enforcement and verify permits in Residential Preferential Parking (RPP) areas.

The contract with PCS Mobile was last amended in April 2022 via Resolution 70,323-N.S., increasing the contract not to exceed amount to \$2,050,000 and extending the contract term. The contract is currently set to expire on June 30, 2024.

While the ALPR units are operated by Parking Enforcement staff, the contract is managed by the Transportation Division’s Parking Services Unit. The City has been using ALPR systems for parking enforcement since 2015, and with the introduction of digital license plate based residential permits, the City is now reliant on ALPR for important baseline programs. By November 2023, all 22 systems operated by the City will have reached this tool’s end of useful life. This increases the risk of system failure

and makes ongoing maintenance by PCS Mobile challenging as replacement parts are increasingly difficult to find.

Due to a vacancy rate above 20% in the Transportation Division and funding challenges, it remains infeasible to issue a new request for proposals (RFP) for ALPR equipment and support at this time. Additionally, City staff are satisfied with the quality of customer service and support provided by PCS Mobile, and are familiar with the equipment after years of use. The budget increase includes one-time costs for a full replacement of the obsolete equipment, funding for extended warranties, and funding for yearly costs associated with daily operations, including preventative maintenance, support services, and cellular network connectivity fees. Amending the contract with PCS Mobile for an extension of five (5) years would ensure that existing parking permit and enforcement processes continue to run without a gap in service.

### BACKGROUND

Effective management of Berkeley's public parking resources improves access to local businesses and reduces traffic congestion and safety hazards caused by drivers as they search for parking. In particular, ALPR technology enables Parking Enforcement Officers (PEOs) to cover more ground faster, allowing for more efficient patrols. In addition, ALPR is now the foundation of the City's digital parking permit management system: license plates now function as annual permits, allowing faster yearly renewals and eliminating the need for the City to purchase and distribute physical bumper decals.

On January 27, 2015, Council authorized Contract No. 9977 with PCS Mobile to install and maintain five Genetec ALPR systems as part of the goBerkeley parking management pilot program. The contract with PCS Mobile was first amended in December 2017 via Resolution 68,085-N.S, to fund the purchase of fifteen (15) additional ALPR systems, bringing the City's total to twenty (20) systems, as well as yearly costs associated with daily operations, including preventative maintenance, support services, and cellular network connectivity fees through June 30, 2022. On May 14, 2019 via Resolution No. 68,877-N.S., Council authorized the purchase of fifteen (15) new Westward Industries "GO-4" parking enforcement vehicles. These new vehicles replaced older GO-4s that were already outfitted with ALPR systems. Removing ALPR systems from the old vehicles and reinstalling them onto the new GO-4s incurred costs beyond what was originally budgeted. The May 2020 contract amendment provided funding to replenish the contract budget so operations could run smoothly through the duration of the contract. Finally, on April 26, 2022 Council authorized an amendment to the contract via Resolution No. 70,323-N.S. extending the term and adding budget to allow for operations to continue while staff could conduct a procurement process for ALPR equipment and services. Unfortunately, due to persistent funding and staff capacity constraints, such a procurement was infeasible.

The use of ALPR equipment is guided by the Berkeley Police Department's Policy #1302, Surveillance Use Policy for Automated License Plate Readers.

The contract with Portable Computer Systems dba PCS Mobile addresses a Strategic Plan Priority, advancing our goal to create a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared city.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

Effective parking enforcement increases compliance with parking rates and time limits, which are used to improve parking availability. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions produced by vehicular traffic is one of the City's 2009 Climate Action Plan goals.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

ALPR is integral to current parking enforcement operations and residential permit management. In addition, Parking Enforcement Officers (PEOs) find the technology easy to use and effective at increasing enforcement capacity. This in turn increases compliance with existing parking management regulations, and reinforces Council-supported programs.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSON

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Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT NO. 9977C AMENDMENT: PORTABLE COMPUTER SYSTEMS DBA  
PCS MOBILE TO AUGMENT BUDGET AND EXTEND CONTRACT TERM TO  
MAINTAIN PARKING PERMIT AND ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley currently uses Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) systems to conduct parking enforcement operations; and

WHEREAS, the City amended the contract on April 26, 2022 through Resolution No. 70,323-N.S., increasing the contract not to exceed amount to \$2,050,000 and extending its term through June 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City's parking permit and enforcement system is fully reliant on ALPR equipment, and all 22 existing systems will have reached equipment End of Life by November 2023, making them susceptible to failure and difficult to maintain; and

WHEREAS, the City does not have adequate staff or funding capacity to complete a new equipment solicitation process before the contract expiration; and

WHEREAS, PCS Mobile provides satisfactory customer service and support for the City's 22 ALPR systems, and the equipment is familiar to Parking Enforcement staff; and

WHEREAS, the contract amendment will provide funding for full equipment replacement, extended warranties, and yearly support costs for a contract term extension of five (5) years; and

WHEREAS, funding of \$1,650,000 for this contract amendment is available from Parking Meter Fund budgets in FY 2024 - FY 2029.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to execute an amendment to Contract No. 9977C with PCS Mobile, increasing the contract not to exceed amount to \$3,700,000 and extending the contract term through June 30, 2029.