



# City of Fort Bragg

416 N Franklin Street  
Fort Bragg, CA 95437  
Phone: (707) 961-2823  
Fax: (707) 961-2802

## Meeting Agenda Public Safety Committee

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Wednesday, January 21, 2026

3:00 PM

Town Hall, 363 N. Main Street

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### MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

### ROLL CALL

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

*Committee Members are reminded that pursuant to the Council policy regarding use of electronic devices during public meetings adopted on November 28, 2022, all cell phones are to be turned off and there shall be no electronic communications during the meeting. All e-communications such as texts or emails from members of the public received during a meeting are to be forwarded to the City Clerk after the meeting is adjourned.*

### ZOOM WEBINAR INVITATION

*This meeting is being presented in a hybrid format, both in person at Town Hall and via Zoom.*

*When: Jan 21, 2026 03:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)  
Topic: Public Safety Committee*

*Please click the link below to join the webinar:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8525483329>*

*Or join by telephone:  
+1 253 215 8782 US (\*6mute/unmute; \*9 raise hand)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (\*6mute/unmute; \*9 raise hand)*

*Webinar ID: 852 5483 3329*

*To speak during public comment portions of the agenda via zoom, please join the meeting and use the raise hand feature when the Chair or Acting Chair calls for public comment on the item you wish to address. Written public comments may be submitted to Administrative Assistant, Laura Godinez, at [lgodinez@fortbraggca.gov](mailto:lgodinez@fortbraggca.gov).*

### 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1A. [26-37](#) Approve Minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting of December 17, 2025.

*Attachments: [PSCM 2025-12-17](#)*

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

### 3. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

**3A. 26-38** Presentation from Flock Safety

Attachments: [Flock Safety](#)

[Public Comment](#)

**3B. 25-560** Review Municipal Code Chapter 15.06 Automatic Fire Sprinkler and Alarm Systems

Attachments: [Sprinkler Ordinance Staff Report](#)

[Att 1 - Fire Sprinkler Ordinance](#)

#### **4. MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE / STAFF**

**4A. 26-39** Receive Oral Update from Staff on Departmental Activities

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA        )  
                                  )ss.  
COUNTY OF MENDOCINO      )

I declare, under penalty of perjury, that I am employed by the City of Fort Bragg and that I caused this agenda to be posted in the City Hall notice case on Friday, January 16, 2026.

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Laura Godinez, Administrative Assistant

#### **NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**

#### **DISTRIBUTION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOLLOWING AGENDA PACKET DISTRIBUTION:**

- Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Council/District/Agency after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the lobby of City Hall at 416 N. Franklin Street during normal business hours.*
- Such documents are also available on the City of Fort Bragg's website at <http://city.fortbragg.com> subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting*

#### **ADA NOTICE AND HEARING IMPAIRED PROVISIONS:**

*It is the policy of the City of Fort Bragg to offer its public programs, services and meetings in a manner that is readily accessible to everyone, including those with disabilities. Upon request, this agenda will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities.*

*If you need assistance to ensure your full participation, please contact the City Clerk at (707) 961-2823. Notification 48 hours in advance of any need for assistance will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility.*

*This notice is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (28 CFR, 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II).*





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## Text File

File Number: 26-37

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**Agenda Date:** 1/21/2026

**Version:** 1

**Status:** Business

**In Control:** City Council

**File Type:** Committee Minutes

**Agenda Number:** 1A.

Approve Minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting of December 17, 2025.



# City of Fort Bragg

## Meeting Minutes

### Public Safety Committee

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---

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

3:00 PM

Town Hall, 363 N. Main Street

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#### MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Chair Peters opened the meeting at 3:00PM.

#### ROLL CALL

Present are Chair Lindy Peters and Councilmember Scott Hockett.

#### 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1A. [25-551](#) Approve Minutes of the Special Public Safety Committee Meeting of November 19, 2025.

Chair Peters motions, Councilmember Hockett seconds the motion. Minutes were approved as presented.

#### 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

#### 3. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

3A. [25-552](#) Review Fire Sprinkler Ordinance

Chair Peters began by stating that this agenda item would be heard at a future meeting and continued on to the following agenda item.

3B. [25-553](#) Continue Discussion Regarding Dispatch Services for the Fort Bragg Police Department

Communications and Records Manager, Marla Swan, began by introducing the Dispatch Center layout and overview of dispatch operations for both the Fort Bragg Police Department and Ukiah Police Department.

She continued by presenting the statistical performance for 911 calls under the State's policy. She stated that their dispatch center is well above the State's policy average with a 99.07 % answering rate where as the State's policy expects 90% of 911 calls being answered within 15 seconds and 95% of 911 calls being answered within 20 seconds. Considering that they average about 164 calls per day, which can be up to 280 calls per day around the holidays, their answering rate is phenomenal and the numbers represent their dedication.

Swan went into a minimal explanation regarding the background in becoming a Dispatcher. She

emphasized that only 1% of society is capable of becoming a Dispatcher due to all the training factors and demanding protocols.

In conclusion Swan introduced the new version of the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System that has been more beneficial to both Dispatch and officers due to faster and more efficient responses.

Public comments made by:

Jenny Shattuck

Morgan Peterson

Chair Peters commended the Dispatch Center for its outstanding contributions to public safety and reiterated the many ways its staff works to keep the community safe.

#### **4. MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE / STAFF**

None mentioned at this meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Chair Peters adjourned the meeting at 3:48 PM.**



# City of Fort Bragg

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## Text File

File Number: 26-38

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**Agenda Date:** 1/21/2026

**Version:** 1

**Status:** Business

**In Control:** City Council

**File Type:** Staff Report

**Agenda Number:** 3A.

Presentation from Flock Safety

An aerial photograph of a city street at night or in low light. The scene shows a grid of streets with several cars parked along the curbs. Buildings of various heights and colors, including red, blue, and white, are visible. The lighting is dim, with streetlights and building lights providing some illumination.

Shape a safer future,  
together



Driven by a shared mission:  
**Eliminate crime and shape a  
safer future, together.**

**1,500+**

## Businesses protected by Flock

2,800+

## Crimes solved per day using Flock

**15%**

## Of reported crime in the US solved using Flock\*

**6,000+**

## Communities protected by Flock

\*The calculation of this figure follows the methodology outlined in the TCU study, applied to continuously updated data from our customers. The statistics presented in this document are based on proprietary data and may not be fully representative of the market as a whole. Due to the confidential nature of this information, certain details have been aggregated and cannot be disclosed.



40%

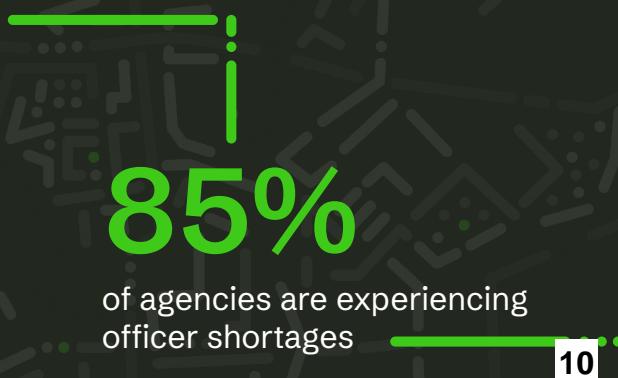
of Americans are afraid to walk home at night — most in 3 decades



With persistent staffing shortages, agencies are seeking new strategies to maximize efficiency

85%

of agencies are experiencing officer shortages



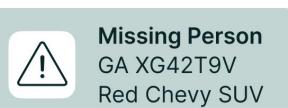
# ALPR by Flock Safety

A force multiplier enabling agencies of all sizes to solve significantly more crime and improve quality of life without increasing staffing.



*“This is the single greatest change since DNA — what this system does is a game changer.”*

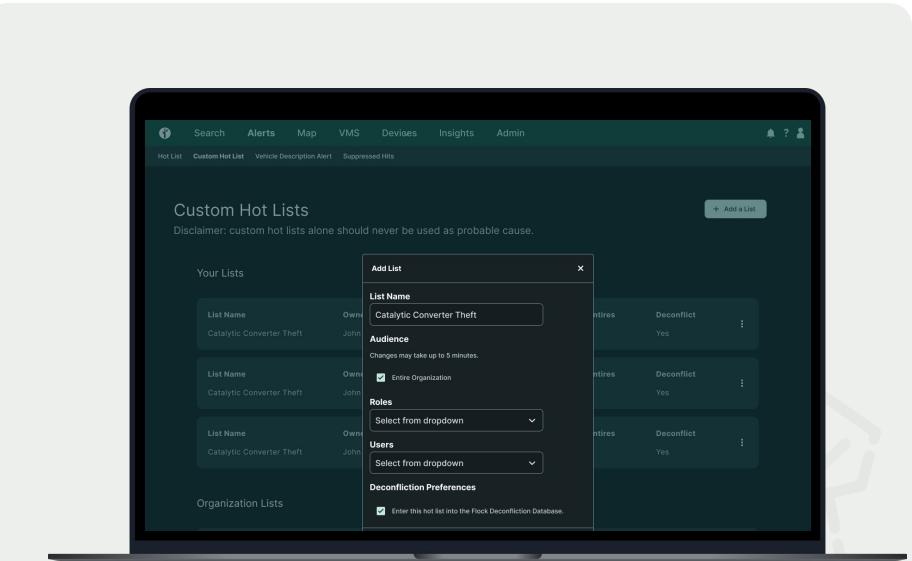
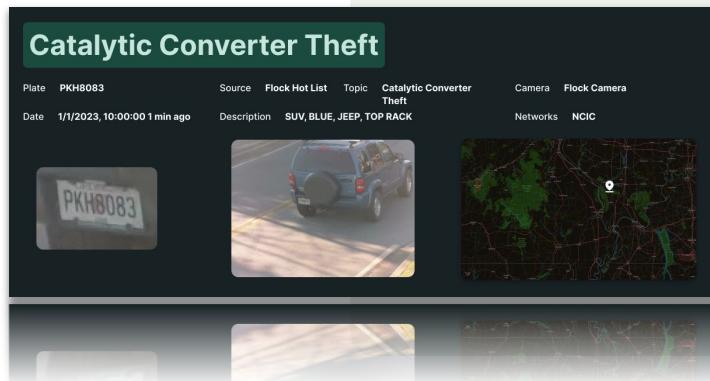
CHIEF MURRAY | Yakima PD





# Precision policing with real-time alerts

Your police officers can receive SMS, email, and in-app alerts when vehicles entered into NCIC, NCMEC (Amber Alerts), or custom Hot Lists pass by a Flock camera in your community.



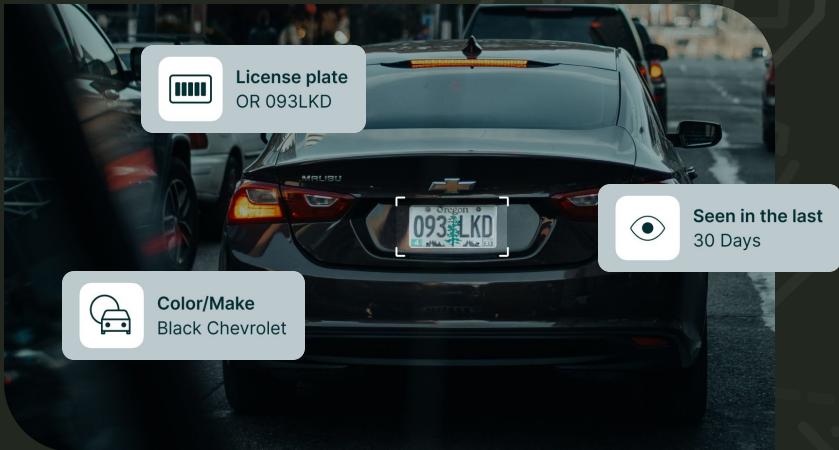


# Vehicle Fingerprint

No plate? No problem. Pinpoint suspect vehicles using unique vehicle traits to save time.

**Search and set up alerts using characteristics:**

- Vehicle make
- License plates
  - Temporary tags
  - State recognition
- Body type
- Color
- Back racks
- Top racks
- Toolbox



# Built with Privacy in Mind

## Protecting privacy by design

-  Data is 100% owned by customers and will **never** be sold.
-  Private customers **never** have access to government data or hotlists.
-  Flock **automatically deletes** data after 30 days by default.
-  Flock has **no access** to personally identifiable information.
-  **Only your agency** decides who to share with, not Flock.

**All data is stored with end-to-end encryption** including:

- FBI (CJIS)
- NDAA
- SOC2 (Type II)
- SOC3
- ISO 27001
- Higher Education Community Vendor Assessment Tool (HECVAT)
- FERPA

We are also aligned with the security protocols established by NIST Cybersecurity as well as the Cloud Security Alliance CAIQ framework.



# Enabling accountability + transparency

## LPR Transparency Portal

- Customizable for each agency
- Display technology policies
- Publish usage metrics



**Every search** requires a registered ID with a search reason or case number.



Search reason and user ID are saved in a **permanent audit trail**.



Flock encourages all agencies to have **regular audits to ensure proper usage**.



Coming Soon: **Proactive Auditing to alert to potential misuse**.

## San Joaquin County CA SO

Transparency Portal  
Last Updated: Tue May 27 2025

**Overview**

San Joaquin County CA SO uses Flock Safety technology to capture objective evidence without compromising on individual privacy. San Joaquin County CA SO utilizes retroactive search to solve crimes after they've occurred. Additionally, San Joaquin County CA SO utilizes real time alerting of hotlist vehicles to capture wanted criminals. In an effort to ensure proper usage and guardrails are in place, they have made the below policies and usage statistics available to the public.

Policies	Usage
<b>What's Detected</b> License Plates, Vehicles	<b>Data retention (in days)</b> 30 days
<b>What's Not Detected</b> Facial recognition, People, Gender, Race	<b>Number of owned cameras</b> 34
<b>Acceptable Use Policy</b> Data is used for law enforcement purposes only. Data is owned by San Joaquin County CA SO and is never sold to 3rd parties.	<b>External organizations with access</b> ACRATT -CA, Alameda CA PD, Alameda County CA SO, Albany CA PD, Alhambra CA PD, Altona IA PD, Amador County CA Sheriff's Office, Anaheim CA PD, Anderson CA PD, Angels Camp CA PD, Antioch CA PD, Arcadia CA PD, Atwater CA PD, Auburn CA PD, Avenal CA PD, Azusa CA PD, Bakersfield CA PD, Baldwin Park CA PD, Beaumont CA PD, Bell Gardens CA PD, Belmont CA PD, Belvedere CA PD, Benicia CA PD, Beverly Hills CA PD, Bishop CA PD, Blue Lake Rancheria Tribal PD, Brawley CA PD, Brentwood CA PD, Brisbane CA PD, Buena Park CA PD, Burbank CA PD, Burlingame CA PD, Butte County CA SO, CA - Chino PD, CA Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel, Cal Fire , Cal State Fullerton (CA), Calexico CA PD, California Department of Corrections, California Highway Patrol, California State Parks, California State University Long Beach Campus PD, Calistoga CA PD, Campbell CA PD, Capitola CA PD, Carlsbad CA PD, Carmel CA PD, Central Marin CA PD, Cerritos College CA PD, Chula Vista CA PD, Citrus Heights CA PD, City of Lemoore CA, City of Newman CA PD, City of Riverside CA PD, Clayton CA PD, Cloverdale CA PD, Coalinga CA PD, Colma CA PD, Colton CA PD, Concord CA PD, Contra Costa County CA SO, Corcoran CA PD, Corona CA PD, Coronado CA PD, Costa Mesa CA PD, Culver City CA PD, Cypress CA PD, Danville CA PD, Delano CA PD, Desert Hot Springs CA PD, Dinuba CA PD, Dixon CA PD, Downey CA PD, Dublin CA PD (ACSO), East Bay Parks CA PD, East Palo Alto CA PD, El Cajon CA PD, El Centro CA PD, El Cerrito CA PD, El Monte CA PD, El Segundo CA PD, Elk Grove CA PD, Emeryville CA PD, Escalon CA PD, Escondido CA PD, Fairfield CA PD, Folsom CA PD, Fontana CA PD, Foothill-DeAnza CA PD, Fort Bragg CA PD, Foster City CA PD, Fountain Valley CA PD, Fowler CA PD, Fremont CA PD, Frisco CA PD, Fullerton CA PD, Galt CA PD, Garden
<b>Prohibited Uses</b> Immigration enforcement, traffic enforcement, harassment or intimidation, usage based solely on a protected class (i.e. race, sex, religion), Personal use.	
<b>Access Policy</b> All system access requires a valid reason and is stored indefinitely.	
<b>Hotlist Policy</b> Hotlist hits are required to be human verified prior to action.	

# Compliance Specific to California Laws

## Industry Leading Compliance Features

### Search Requirements

Offense type dropdowns for transparency. Immigration or reproductive health search reasons prohibited.

### Permanent Audit Logs

Communities can require both search reason and case number be included in any search.

### Federal Limitations

No federal access to nationwide or statewide lookup. Only agencies can share their data, not Flock.

### Legal Response

Our contract mandates we alert you to any legal request for your data so your counsel can decide how to respond.



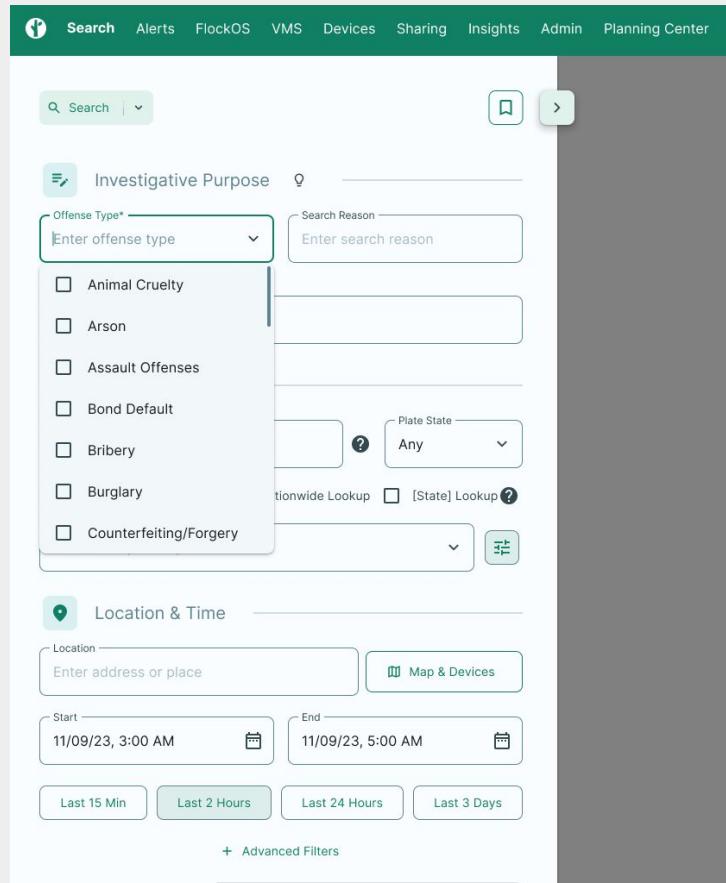
# Offense Type Dropdown

Offense Type and Search Reason are now prefilled dropdown options.

This list was pulled from NIBRS and supplemented and adjusted with customer feedback and further data analysis.

## Problems we're solving:

- Unacceptable Search Reasons
- Lack of ability to confidently enforce filters on all searches (those with vague Search Reasons)
- Data analytics for agencies
- Improved likelihood for case closures





# How Flock Works

## Surveillance

### Claim

ALPRs can track people and show police everywhere they go.

### fact

They do not track vehicles in the whole of their movements. ALPRs take a point-in-time image of the rear of vehicles on public roadways. Any images not used for an investigation are deleted.

## Personal Information

### Claim

ALPR cameras collect Personally Identifiable Information (PII).

### fact

Flock's ALPR system does not collect PII.

Flock collects images of vehicles, vehicle characteristics, and license plates, which are government documents required to be displayed on vehicles as a condition of using public roadways. Flock does not have access to any PII (such as names, addresses, SSNs, or DMV records).



# Privacy & Ownership

## Data Sharing

### Claim

All Flock customer data is shared across the country.

### fact

Customers control all data sharing.

Agencies can share camera access with other police 1:1 (PD to PD), by geographic radius (e.g., 10 miles), or statewide.

Agencies can also choose to share data nationwide.

## Data Sales

### Claim

Flock sells customer data and compiles it into a national database.

### fact

No such database exists. Customers own 100% of their data. Flock does not sell it. Only customers (police, neighborhoods, or businesses) decide who to share data with. Data is deleted after the retention period.



# Privacy & Ownership

## Federal Access

### Claim

Federal agencies have back-door access to Flock.

### fact

“Back-door access” does not exist.

Customers have complete control over sharing and Flock never shares data without their permission. Collaboration with federal agencies is the customer's choice.

## Data Access

### Claim

Flock's private customers can access law enforcement data.

### fact

Flock's private customers can never access law enforcement data. Flock's private customers can, if they choose, share footage with police, but in no case is law enforcement data accessible to private customers.



# Law

## Privacy

### Claim

License plates are private information.

### fact

As government-issued identifiers,  
license plates are legally required to  
be publicly visible.

## Constitutional Rights

### Claim

ALPRs violate the Fourth Amendment.

### fact

ALPRs do not violate the 4th Amendment  
or any other Constitutional provision. 30+  
appellate and federal courts have upheld  
the use of LPR evidence.

# Proven Impact, Trusted Partner



*“By utilizing technology like Flock’s License Plate Recognition (LPR) camera system, we have seen remarkable results. Over 100 missing children cases have been resolved thanks to the swift action enabled by this technology.” -NCMEC*

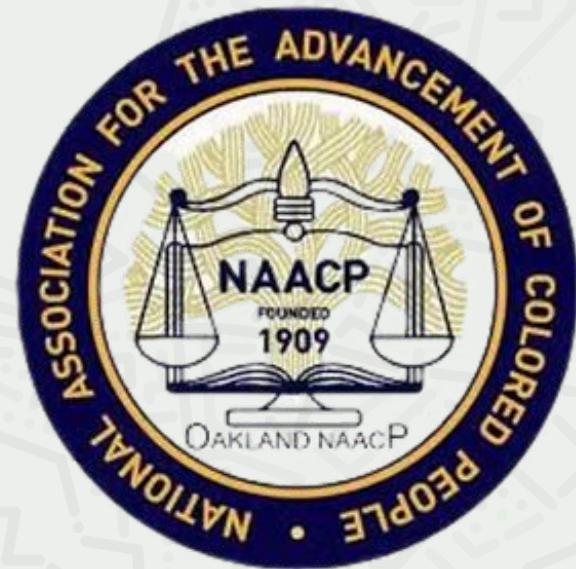
**“We believe that any technology that **increases post-crash responsiveness and accountability** will help to raise awareness and change behaviors to avoid impaired driving.”**

**Flock Safety** × **MADD** IMPAIRED DRIVING ENDS HERE.

# Protecting Vulnerable Communities

“In a moment when our communities are demanding both public safety and equitable justice, Flock Safety’s LPR technology offers a powerful tool to reduce bias in policing.

These cameras are designed to detect only vehicles associated with a crime, removing the subjective judgment that too often leads to disproportionate stops and harmful interactions with Black and Brown residents. It is a clear example of how technology can support safer, fairer policing.”





# Flock Safety in California

**400+ law enforcement agencies, including:**

→ Mendocino County SO

→ Oakland PD

→ Butte County SO

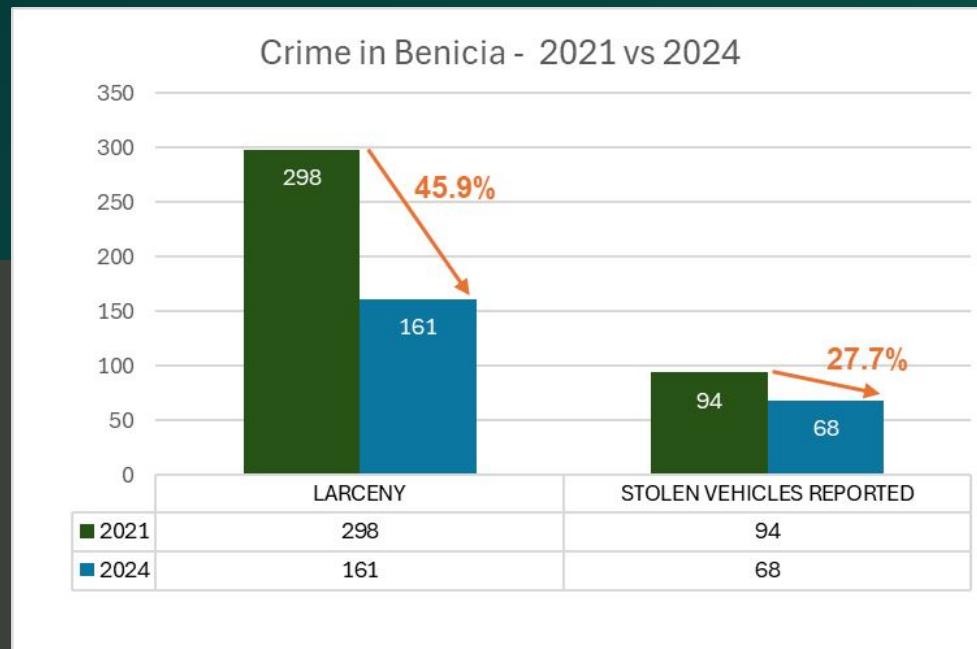
→ San Francisco PD

**Suspect arrested in 4 Los Angeles area homicides that took place in 4 days: Police**

The victims included three homeless men, police said.

# Crime before and after Flock: 2021 vs 2024

Benicia, CA



**79**

Stolen Vehicles  
Recovered

**\$801,266**

Value of  
Recovered  
Property

**27**

Firearms  
Recovered

**190**

People Arrested  
with the use of  
Flock



# Suspect Accused of Attempted Kidnapping ID'd With LPRs



Fairfield PD - Fairfield, CA

- On January 18th, 2024, officers responded to an attempted kidnapping.
- The teenage victim was walking to school when a stranger approached her and attempted to lure her into his vehicle.
- A passerby intervened, and officers interviewed the victim and witness, and queried nearby surveillance cameras for a suspect vehicle description.
- They obtained a description, entered it into their LPRs, and identified a vehicle that had been in the area around the time of the crime.
- They located the vehicle and the suspect a few hours later.
- Officers arrested the suspect, who is facing multiple charges including attempted kidnapping.





# Silver Alert Closed Safely



Murrieta PD - Murrieta, CA

- Murrieta officers were dispatched to a missing 91-year-old male diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. He was last seen at his church and couldn't be located by friends or family.
- Using Flock LPR cameras, along with Apple AirTag Technology, officers determined that the man crossed into Mexico during the morning hours.
- Both the Flock cameras and the AirTag alerted officers of his return to Riverside County. Later, the man's vehicle was located with the assistance of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department's helicopter.
- The missing senior was returned safely to his family with no injuries.





Georgia

# When Every Second Matters: Child Abduction



Chamblee PD - Chamblee, GA



**12:33 PM**  
Amber Alert Issued



**2:30 PM**  
Suspect Vehicle Located



**6:00 PM**  
Baby Reunited with Mother



**1:01 PM**  
Search Conducted  
with Flock Safety



**5:03 PM**  
Felony Stop + Arrest



**Stranger on Stranger Abduction**  
**August 28, 2020**



# Thank You!

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### My comments for 3 pm Safety Committee meeting

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**From** Liz Hellenchild [REDACTED]

**Date** Tue 1/20/2026 8:56 PM

**To** lgodinez@fortbraggca.gov <lgodinez@fortbraggca.gov>

Dear Ms Godinez,

Unfortunately, I cannot attend the 3pm Safety Committee meeting today. Please route my comments to the members involved.

I believe a town of the size & character of Ft Bragg can safely rely on personal responsibility & awareness without using electronic surveillance. I strongly object to Flock's practice of sharing data, specifically with ICE, resulting in misery & mayhem.

Cities across the country are either getting rid of their Flock systems or modifying them to be less invasive.

For example, Austin, Oak Park, Eugene, Springfield, Evanston, Scarsdale, Gig Harbor, Sedona etc have canceled or paused Flock Safety contracts.

I urge the deciders of this issue to give more weight to the preferences of locals who object to Flock surveillance than to product promotion by the Flock representative. I urge that Flock cameras be removed from Ft Bragg.

Thank you for your attention,

Liz Hellenchild, Mendocino resident since 1971



# City of Fort Bragg

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## Text File

File Number: 25-560

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**Agenda Date:** 1/21/2026

**Version:** 1

**Status:** Business

**In Control:** Community Development Committee

**File Type:** Staff Report

**Agenda Number:** 3B.

Review Municipal Code Chapter 15.06 Automatic Fire Sprinkler and Alarm Systems



## CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

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**TO:** Community Development Committee **DATE:** January 5, 2026

**DEPARTMENT:** Administration/Community Development

**PREPARED BY:** Marie Jones Consulting

**PRESENTER:** Marie Jones, Consultant

**AGENDA TITLE:** Receive Report, Discuss and Provide Direction Regarding an Ordinance Modifying "CHAPTER 15.06 Automatic Fire Sprinkler and Alarm Systems" of the Municipal Code to Change the Threshold Requirements for the Installation of Automatic Fire Sprinkler and Alarm Systems.

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### BACKGROUND

One of the City Council's key goals in the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan is to: ***Invigorate Economic Opportunity and Community Vibrancy***. To support these goals, the City established a dedicated Economic Development Department in July 2024. Under the direction of the City Manager, the department's efforts are guided by the BEAR framework—Business Expansion, Attraction, and Retention—which serves as a foundational pillar of the City's economic development and downtown revitalization strategy. To further explore strategies that support this goal, the City Manager engaged Marie Jones Consulting to evaluate potential policy options, which were brought forward to the City Council in August of 2025. The City Council directed staff to come back to the Council with a revised fire sprinkler ordinance that would implement the following policy goal: "Aligning Fire Safety Regulations with Downtown Revitalization Goals." Staff brought this item forward to the City Council for a hearing in November 2025, and the City Council voted 4 to 1 to support revising the ordinance as attached. However, since approval of the ordinance the Mayor directed staff to bring this item back to the Community Development Committee, prior to the second reading, for a more detailed discussion because the new ordinance would require all remodels above 5,000 SF to install sprinklers regardless of the building permit valuation, and this has resulted in a concern that more buildings undergoing a remodel would be required to be sprinklered under the new ordinance.

The prior fire sprinkler ordinance required all businesses to install fire sprinklers if they undertook more than \$120,000 worth of improvements in any given 3-year period, regardless of building size.

The fire sprinkler ordinance has been revised at least four times since it was adopted. Each revision process has been contentious because the ordinance protects building

and firefighter safety while increasing the cost of remodels and changes of use that require sprinkler installation.

The attached ordinance has been crafted to consider both sides of this important issue. It supports minimum fire safety by requiring state-of-the-art hardwired fire alarm systems while reducing the costs associated with significant remodels by eliminating the requirement to install fire sprinkler systems based on remodel valuation. However, the Community Development Committee might want to revisit the elimination of the building remodel valuation criteria.

As part of the City's efforts to foster a more business-friendly environment and address long-term commercial vacancies downtown, the City Manager, Consultant, and Fire Marshal met to discuss fire sprinkler requirements and developed preliminary recommendations, which were revised at the City Council meeting to require all remodels of more than 5,000 SF, regardless of building permit valuation, to obtain sprinklers. The rationale for each change is noted in *blue italics*:

1. Retain the sprinkler requirement for all new commercial and industrial buildings.  
*Sprinkler installation for new construction projects is relatively inexpensive and is required for many projects by the California Building Code.*
2. Continue to require automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems in remodels under the following conditions:
  - a. In any building with a substantial remodel, which includes:
    - i. All remodels of a building of more than 5,000 SF, regardless of building permit valuation. *This would allow most medium and small buildings in the downtown to be remodeled without triggering fire sprinklers, while larger downtown buildings, and hotels and retail stores outside of the downtown would be required to install sprinklers.* The Community Development Committee could re-establish a building permit valuation criterion if desired.
    - ii. For buildings of less than 5,000 SF: 1) the removal or demolition of more than 50% of the exterior or interior weight-bearing walls; 2) or the removal of the roof structure or ceiling, thereby permitting installation of overhead piping; or 3) the removal of interior tenant improvements, reducing the building to a “shell” condition. *Sprinklers are relatively easy to add when this level of deconstruction and remodel is completed.*
  - b. An automatic fire sprinkler system shall be installed in any addition when the existing building is already provided with an automatic sprinkler system. *It is relatively inexpensive to add sprinklers in a new addition when the building already has fire sprinklers.*
3. A substantial new addition to any building shall require the installation of a fire sprinkler system. A substantial new addition is defined as an increase of floor area by 2,500 square feet or more. *This is a large enough addition to make installation of a sprinkler system cost-effective, and it improves firefighter safety for larger additions.*

4. Require a state-of-the-art fire monitoring alarm system for all remodels, regardless of cost;
5. Require sprinklers for existing buildings where the occupancy changes from a low risk to a more fire-risky occupancy, regardless of the cost of renovations; and
6. Eliminate any City fees associated with a building permit for the installation of fire sprinkler systems in existing buildings (e.g. permit review fees, business license fee, General Plan Maintenance Fee).

City Council could provide direction if staff should proceed with the development/negotiation of a revised fire sprinkler ordinance and if so, what triggers/requirements you would like to see included in the ordinance.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE**

The estimated \$2,500 in costs associated with these regulatory changes would be borne by the ARPA funding to support Economic Development. These funds would be used to publish hearing notices and for staff and consultant time.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**

This ordinance is exempt from CEQA.

#### **STRATEGIC PLAN/COUNCIL PRIORITIES/GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY**

This effort would align with the economic development priorities of the City's Strategic Plan.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

City Council can choose to undertake the following alternative actions:

1. Retain existing fire sprinkler ordinance.
2. Provide Direction to further revise the ordinance.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. An Ordinance to Amend "Chapter 15.06 Automatic Fire Sprinkler and Alarm Systems" of the Fort Bragg Municipal Code to Amend the Requirements for the Installation of Automatic Fire Sprinkler and Automatic Fire Alarm Systems In New Buildings and Remodels.

#### **NOTIFICATION:**

The following "Notify Me" lists:

- Economic Development
- Fort Bragg Downtown Businesses

## BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT BRAGG

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER  
15.06 OF THE FORT BRAGG MUNICIPAL  
CODE TO AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR THE INSTALLATION OF AUTOMATIC FIRE  
SPRINKLER ISYSTEMS AND AUTOMATIC  
FIRE ALARMING SYSTEM IN NEW  
BUILDINGS AND REMODELS.**

**ORDINANCE NO. XXX-2025**

**WHEREAS**, the 2022 California Building Standards Code has been amended and adopted by the California Building Standards Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, the City adopted the California Fire Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 9, 2022 Edition, by reference into Chapter 15.05 of the Fort Bragg Municipal Code (California Fire Code) on May 13, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, because of the City's unique climatic, geologic, and topographic conditions, the City made amendments and additions to the California Fire Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 9, 2022 Edition; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Fort Bragg ("City") has determined that Chapter 15.06 (Automatic Fire Sprinkler and Alarm Systems) of the Fort Bragg Municipal Code ("Code"), as proposed, reflects the modifications most beneficial to the health, safety and welfare of the City and the City Council desires the same modifications to the California Fire Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 9, 2022 Edition; and

**WHEREAS**, because of the City's unique climatic, geologic, and topographic conditions, the City desires to make amendments and additions to the building and fire code regulations, as set forth in this Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to California Health and Safety Code § 17958,13143.5, and 18941.5 the City Council of the City of Fort Bragg determined that a departure from the California Fire Code, Part 9 of the California Building Standards Code, 2022 Edition, is reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geologic and/or topographic conditions.

**WHEREAS**, amending Chapter 15.06 will assist in administering the City's fire sprinkler and alarm systems ordinance and improve compliance with the ordinance by property owners; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has determined that the following changes should be made to the Chapter for consistency, accuracy and ease of use by the City's staff and citizens.

**WHEREAS**, on November 10, 2025, the City Council held a City Council meeting and discussed this item, received public testimony; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to the effective date of this Ordinance, the City Clerk shall file a copy of the Ordinance, with the California Building Standards Commission.

**NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council ordains as follows:**

**Section 1. Legislative Findings.** The City Council hereby finds as follows:

1. The City of Fort Bragg's Municipal Code Chapters 15.05 and 15.06 have undergone a review to identify inconsistencies and inaccuracies as well as consistency with the 2022 California Building Standards Code.
2. The Code should represent the current state of all legislative actions taken by the City Council.
3. Chapter 15.06 is used by City staff to determine when fire sprinklers and alarm systems are required as part of any project that requires a building permit.
4. Modifications and changes to the California Fire Code, as set forth in Chapter 15.05 of the Fort Bragg Municipal Code, are required in order to provide specific and greater protections to the public health, safety and welfare than are afforded by the California Building Standards Code due to local climatic, geological, and topographical conditions. The legislative findings for such modifications and changes are made pursuant to California Health and Safety Code § 17958.7 as set forth in Exhibit A of the Staff report and by this reference incorporated herein.
5. Chapter 15.06 is used by City staff to determine when fire sprinklers and alarm systems are required as part of any project that requires a building permit.
6. The Code should reflect current legislative actions of the City Council and the means by which the City is being operated and must be accurate and consistent to aid staff, residents and various other persons in making determinations on Code-related issues.
7. Amending Chapter 15.06 in the manner described in this ordinance is in the public interest.
8. Pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 17958.7, the City Council makes the factual findings set forth herein, and finds that the amendments made in this ordinance to the California Building Standards Code Title 24, Part 9 are reasonably necessary because of the local climatic, geological or topographical conditions.
9. Climatic Findings: Fort Bragg has climatic conditions, which are unique in character. The City is subject to year- round coastal winds including storm conditions. Winter storms with gale-force winds often cause trees to fall onto roadways used for access by emergency fire equipment and personnel. Average yearly rainfall for the district is 37 inches, which occurs from October to April and results in lush vegetation growth.

During summer months, the climate also spurs vegetation growth. Natural vegetation creates hazardous fuel conditions that cause grassland and brush land fires each year. Afternoon winds can move a fire quickly in any part of the City, particularly during times of high temperatures and low humidity. The City has suffered from drought conditions, which reduces available water for firefighting.

10. Geological Findings: Fort Bragg, located on the northern California coast, is located in a rural setting with rugged coastline forming its western boundary and rugged mountainous areas forming its eastern boundaries. The City has potentially active seismic hazards in close proximity.
11. Topographical Findings: The Fort Bragg Fire Protection Authority District is an all-volunteer district that covers seventy- five square miles with elevations from zero to one thousand feet above sea level. The City of Fort Bragg includes many narrow and some dead-end roads causing maneuverability restrictions for fire equipment. Surrounding fire districts are all volunteer and the request for mutual aid requires as long as 30 minutes for the first engine to respond to the scene of a fire. The permanent population in the District is dramatically increased by tourism in the summer months causing an increased burden on fire department personnel and equipment. Heavily traveled State Highway One runs the length of the City and is the only continuous North/South route along the coast.
12. CEQA Findings: There is no possibility that the adoption of this ordinance will have a significant impact on the environment, and therefore, the adoption of this ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, Chapter 3 of the California Code of Regulations). Enacting minor changes to the City's Code pertaining to automatic fire sprinkler and alarm systems cannot have a significant effect on the environment. The changes to the City's Municipal Code are minor in nature and do not create substantive changes to land use or the California Fire Code. Subsequent planning and building permit applications will be subject to environmental review at that time. Thus, there is no further environmental review necessary at this time.

## **Section 2.**

Chapter 15.06 entitled **AUTOMATIC FIRE SPRINKLER AND ALARM SYSTEMS** is hereby repealed in its entirety and replaced with the following:

### **CHAPTER 15.06**

#### **Automatic Fire Sprinkler and Alarm Systems**

##### **Section**

15.06.010	Purpose
15.06.020	Definitions in general
15.06.030	Automatic fire sprinkler systems – Required
15.06.050	Exemptions and waivers
15.06.060	Annual inspection and maintenance
15.06.070	<b>Fire Monitoring Alarm System- Required</b>

15.06.080 Fire alarm systems defined and required  
15.06.090 Violations

**15.06.010 PURPOSE.**

- A. The California Fire Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 9, 2022 Edition, as modified and amended from time to time, establishes certain standards for automatic fire extinguishing systems. A copy of the code, in its latest form, is on file in the office of the Fire Chief.
- B. The purpose of this chapter is to provide regulations establishing minimum standards for automatic fire sprinkler systems where the standards are not specifically covered by the California Fire Code. Where specific standards are provided by the California Fire Code and provide a greater degree of fire protection than the provisions of this chapter, those standards shall apply. In those cases where the California Fire Code does not provide specific standards, the terms of this chapter shall apply.
- C. The intent of this chapter is to apply those fire protection standards which will provide the residents and property owners of the City the greatest degree of fire protection which is reasonable under the circumstances. All buildings are subject to the provisions of this chapter.

**15.06.020 DEFINITIONS IN GENERAL.**

Definitions contained in the California Fire Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 9, 2022 Edition, shall apply to this chapter unless specifically amended. Whenever any of the following names or terms are used in any of the compilations adopted by reference by this chapter such names or terms shall have the following meanings:

**APPEAL AUTHORITY.** As defined in Chapter 1.06.

**BUILDING.** Any building or group of buildings that requires a sprinkler under this chapter or the California Fire Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 9, 2022 Edition.

**BUILDING PERMIT VALUATION.** ~~The value of repairs, maintenance and remodel work as determined by the Mendocino County Planning and Building Department through their plan review process. The building permit valuation will include the total of all active building permits for the building at the same location, excluding separate permits to install automatic fire sprinkler systems.~~

**15.06.030 AUTOMATIC FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS – REQUIRED.**

- A. All new buildings shall have an automatic fire sprinkler system installed, unless specifically exempted in accordance with § 15.06.050.
- B. Buildings in existence prior to the adoption of this code shall be subject to the requirements for automatic fire sprinkler systems upon the change of occupancy to a higher hazard level as defined by the Fire Marshal.
  - 1. Existing commercial and multifamily buildings which are remodeled, added to, or altered, ~~including maintenance and repair activities, when the valuation of the cost of such work within any 36 month period exceeds \$120,000,~~ shall have an automatic fire sprinkler system installed when any of the following thresholds are met:
    - A. A substantial remodel of any building shall include the installation of a fire sprinkler system. A substantial remodel includes:

- a) For buildings of more than 5,000 SF, any remodel, regardless of the size of the remodel or building permit valuation, excluding reroofs and painting.
- b) For buildings of less than 5,000 SF: 1) the removal or demolition of more than 50% of the exterior or interior weight-bearing walls; 2) or the removal of the roof structure or ceiling thereby permitting installation of overhead piping; or 3) the removal of interior tenant improvements reducing the building to a “shell” condition.

- B. An automatic fire sprinkler system shall be installed in any addition when the existing building is already provided with an automatic sprinkler system.
- C. A substantial new addition to any building shall require installation of a fire sprinkler system. A substantial new addition is defined as an increase of floor area by more than 2,500 square feet.

The sprinkler system shall be connected with the City's water service as determined by the Director of Public Works. ~~Roof replacement costs will not be calculated in the \$120,000 limit. The \$120,000 valuation will be determined by the Mendocino County Planning and Building Department through their plan review process and completed on the application for any building permit. The \$120,000 valuation is in 2024 dollars; the actual valuation amount shall be calculated based on the California Construction Cost Index adjustment for the year the permit is issued.~~

- 2. The Fire Marshal shall: (a) review the building permit, plans and building permit valuation at the time of the building permit application submittal; and (b) review the building permit, any applicable building permit application and plans upon any change in scope of work or modification to the building permit application to determine if the building permit ~~meets any of the above valuation of the proposed work and all work completed on the building for all active building permits exceeds the adjusted \$120,000 thresholds.~~
- 3. If the ~~building permit valuation~~ proposed project exceeds ~~the one or more thresholds~~, the Fire Marshal shall require installation of a fire sprinklers per this chapter prior to approval of the building permit or final inspection.

#### **15.06.050 EXEMPTIONS AND WAIVERS.**

- A. All 1- and 2-family dwellings and detached utility (“U” occupancy) buildings are exempted from the requirements of this chapter ~~to install automatic fire sprinkler systems and~~. All residential projects that are exempted by Stat law are also exempted from the requirement to install automatic sprinkler systems.
- B. The Fire Chief may grant exemptions for the automatic fire sprinkler systems requirements for new construction by placing such conditions upon construction and/or use of the building so as to reduce the fire risk to a diminished level and by making a finding that the use of structure would present low or no fire risk. Examples:
  - 1. Portable fire extinguisher or Class 2 standpipe installation;
  - 2. Providing 1-hour resistive occupancy separation for equipment rooms;
  - 3. Sprinklers undesirable because of nature of the contents in the room/area, the items being noncombustible or not exposed to other rooms/areas.

**15.06.060 ANNUAL INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE.**

- A. The owner of any building in which automatic fire alarm systems or fire sprinkler systems have been installed shall have the systems inspected and maintained per NFPA 25 and shall provide a report of the inspection to the Fire Chief.

**15.06.070 FIRE MONITORING ALARM SYSTEM- REQUIRED.**

- A. A state-of-the-art fire monitoring alarm system is required for all building remodels and additions, regardless of size. The new fire monitoring alarming system shall be installed throughout the entire building, regardless of the size of the remodel or addition(s).

**15.06.080 FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS DEFINED AND REQUIRED.**

- A. **FIRE ALARM SYSTEM** means all devices, controls, and circuits, together with the energy necessary to sound the alarm, electrically supervise the system, and activate the alarm bells, trouble bells or trouble signals.
- B. Every new building shall have installed an approved, automatically operated fire alarm system designed to warn all occupants simultaneously. In addition, the Fire Chief may require that this system be monitored in the manager's quarters and/or by a supervising station as defined in NFPA 72. The Fire Chief may also require the installation of a manually operated fire alarm system.
- C. All required fire alarm systems shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 72.
- D. Exceptions to this section are all "U" occupancies. These exceptions do not apply to 1- and 2-family dwellings within a building that otherwise requires an alarm system (i.e., commercial occupancy below a dwelling).

**15.06.090 VIOLATIONS.**

Failure to comply with the requirements of this chapter is hereby declared to be unlawful and a public nuisance, and shall be subject to the remedies and penalties established by Chapter 6.12.

**Section 4. Severability.** If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the Ordinance. The City Council of the City of Fort Bragg hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof irrespective of the fact that one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases may be held invalid or unconstitutional.

**Section 5. Effective Date and Publication.** This ordinance shall be and the same is hereby declared to be in full force and effect from and after thirty (30) days after the date of its passage. Within fifteen (15) days after the passage of this Ordinance, the City Clerk shall cause a summary of said Ordinance to be published as provided in Government Code §36933, in a newspaper of general circulation published and circulated in the City of Fort Bragg, along with the names of the City Council voting for and against its passage.

The foregoing Ordinance was introduced by Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_ at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fort Bragg held on November 10, 2025 and adopted at a regular meeting of the City of Fort Bragg held on December XX , 2025, by the following vote:

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**RECUSE:**

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**Jason Godek, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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**Diana Paoli**  
**City Clerk**

**PUBLISH:** **Dates (by summary).**

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** **Date.**



# City of Fort Bragg

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## Text File

File Number: 26-39

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**Agenda Date:**

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**Status:** Business

**In Control:** City Council

**File Type:** Staff Report

**Agenda Number:** 4A.

Receive Oral Update from Staff on Departmental Activities