



REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Approved by:

Gino Chiaramonte

Dino Lawson, Chief of Police

Arnoldo Rodriguez

Arnoldo Rodriguez, City Manager

Council Meeting of: March 18, 2020

Agenda Number: D-5

SUBJECT:

Consideration of a Minute Order Adopting an Access Agreement with Ring LLC for access to the Neighbors Portal and Authorizing the Chief of Police to Execute the Agreement and any Related Documents on behalf of the City.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Council (Council) adopt a Minute Order approving the Access Agreement with Ring LLC for access to the Neighbors Portal and authorize the Chief of Police to execute the Agreement and any related documents.

SUMMARY:

One of the responsibilities of the Madera Police Department (MPD) is the investigation of crimes not committed in their presence. Oftentimes there is digital evidence that captures the crime through video surveillance that members of the public purchase on their own and have on their private property through security systems. Ring allows police officers engaged in legitimate law enforcement investigations to notify Ring customers of criminal activity in their area. Those law enforcement officers can request videos from those customers that may have captured evidence of the criminal activity. Signing this access agreement will allow our officers to use that service.

DISCUSSION:

MPD investigators currently walk neighborhoods where the crime occurred to try and identify private persons surveillance cameras that may have caught the crime with their technology, including video doorbells. If a camera is identified in the specific area, investigators will attempt to make contact to gain consent to view the camera footage. One of the most common types of residential camera systems is Ring. Ring is a company that provides home security solutions through surveillance cameras. Ring created a phone application called "Neighbors." The Neighbors App connects neighbors and allows them to share videos and other updates on

criminal activity. Ring also allows law enforcement to utilize the Neighbors App by notifying Ring customers of criminal activity in their neighborhoods, and requesting video evidence of that criminal activity. The customers would then have the option to deny that request or release the video to the police department, through the Neighbors Portal.

There are often questions about the legality of using this application in relation to the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution that provides the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures. Participation in the Ring Neighbors Portal does not violate any Fourth Amendment rights because no search is being conducted; citizens have the option to voluntarily consent to sharing with law enforcement. Participation by citizens in the program is completely voluntary, and on a case-by-case basis.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no monetary cost for accessing the Neighbors Portal. There is significant time savings for first responders and investigators by reducing time spent on tracking down surveillance cameras in the area of a crime scene.

CONSISTENCY WITH THE VISION MADERA 2025 PLAN:

Strategy 427- Police-Community Relations: Improve communications between community and police through regular meetings and a visible community-policing program.

ALTERNATIVES:

Potential Council options include:

1. Adopt the request as outlined above.
2. Council may direct the MPD to continue to go door to door looking for Ring customers after a crime, and if contact is made with those customers, ask in person for permission to view their video.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Neighbors by Ring Access Agreement

Attachment 1

Neighbors by Ring Access Agreement



Neighbors by Ring
Access Agreement

This agreement between the City of Madera ("Agency") and Ring LLC provides the Madera Police Department access to the Neighbors Portal for the purpose of engaging Madera Neighbors app users subject to the following terms and conditions:

Ring

- Will make the Neighbors app available to community residents free of charge.
- Will make the Neighbors Portal available to Agency free of charge.

Agency

- Will maintain appropriate user access control to Neighbors Portal for Agency personnel, including ensuring credentials are not shared beyond the Agency’s law enforcement personnel and ensuring that terminated personnel will not have access to the Neighbors Portal.
- Will use Neighbors Portal only for legitimate law enforcement purposes.

Public Announcement

Neither party may use the other party’s name, logo, or likeness in any advertising or press release without prior written approval of the other party. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Ring shall be permitted to provide in-app announcements to Ring Neighbors announcing Agency’s participation in the Neighbors app.

Cost and Compensation

There is no cost associated with this agreement nor any endorsement or promotional requirements. At no point shall either party receive compensation from each other as a result of this program.

Disclosure

Unless otherwise required by law or otherwise approved by Ring in writing, you will not disclose any information that Ring designates as confidential or that, given the nature of the information or the circumstances surrounding its disclosure, reasonably should be considered as confidential.

Ring Standard Terms

Ring’s Terms of Service, Privacy Notice, and the Ring Neighbors’ Community Guidelines as posted on Ring.com, shall apply to all uses of the Neighbors App and, as applicable, the Neighbors Portal.

Notification

You will promptly notify Ring if you become aware that you or your Agency’s personnel have violated any of the foregoing terms.

RING LLC

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

[AGENCY]

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____