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Tuesday, March 10, 2026

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TIM HYNDS, SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

Sioux City Police Department Capt. Ryan Bertrand gestures toward a screen showing search results on a police department vehicle as he talks about the department's use of its Flock license plate reader cameras. The city currently has 12 cameras in service and is seeking a

'The more cameras you have, the more coverage you have'

Sioux City police seek state grant to expand AI-powered camera network

DOLLY A. BUTZ
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SIOUX CITY — As some cities across the country are terminating their contracts with Flock Safety, an automated license plate reader vendor, the Sioux City Police Department is seeking a state grant that could nearly triple its number of AI-powered cameras.

Twelve automated license plate readers (ALPRs) from Flock Safety have been operating in the city since at least the fall of 2024. The police department currently has seven ALPRs affixed to black poles along roadways throughout the city, as well as five movable ones. South Sioux City, Sergeant Bluff, Le Mars and Woodbury County also use ALPRs, which run on solar and battery power.

During its Feb. 2 meeting, the City Council authorized the police department to submit a \$77,250 grant application to the State

of Iowa Office of Drug Control Policy Byrne — Justice Assistance Grant Program to fund 21 additional ALPRs, which would bring the city's total number to 33.

"As an investigative tool, the strength of it lies on the network," Sioux City Police Capt. Ryan Bertrand told The Journal. "Obviously, the more cameras you have, the more coverage you have. And the more coverage you have, the more results you're able to get."

ALPRs capture high resolution images of the backs of vehicles and license plate data. Locally, police have used Flock's camera network to aid in the apprehension of homicide suspects, search for endangered children and investigate cases of theft.

A report by the University of Iowa's Technology Law Clinic and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Iowa, stated that ALPRs are a "surveillance tool" that poses

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Feenstra and Sand file petitions for gubernatorial runs

ROBIN OPSAHL
Iowa Capital Dispatch

Two of the best-known candidates in Iowa's gubernatorial race, U.S. Rep. Randy Feenstra and Iowa Auditor Rob Sand, submitted their petition signatures to qualify for the 2026 ballot Monday.

The deadline for this paperwork, a requirement for candidates running for state and federal office in Iowa to qualify for the June 2 primary, is on Friday, March 13. As this date nears, gubernatorial candidates are heading to the Iowa Secretary of State's office to submit signatures from at least 3,500 Iowans supporting their campaign — including 100 signatures from at least 19 different counties.

In the lead-up to the primary, Feenstra and Sand have emerged as the best-funded candidates for in the Republican and Democratic gubernatorial primaries respectively. Alongside Sand, two other candidates have announced their bids to become the Iowa Democratic gubernatorial nominee — Julie Stauch, a longtime Democratic political operative, and Paul Dahl, a Webster City man who has previously ran for governor



Feenstra

As



Sand

Please see GOVERNOR RACE, Page A8

City appeals reinstatement of fired police captain

Civil service commission ruled the firing was too severe a punishment

NICK HYTREK
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SIOUX CITY — A judge has granted the City of Sioux City's request to delay the reinstatement of a police captain whose firing was overturned by the city's civil service commission.

The city had requested the stay of reinstatement while it appeals the commission's Feb. 17 ruling that the city's decision to fire Capt. Judy Kellen for two policy violations was too severe. The commission amended her punishment to a five-day suspension without pay, in effect overturning her termination.

Assistant City Attorney Connie Anstey said in the city's request for the stay that returning Kellen to full duty before the appeal is heard and ruled upon would be detrimental to the city by returning an employee who has lost the trust of her employer and is potentially disgruntled and could negatively affect operations and morale within the

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IRAN WAR

Oil prices volatile; supply choked

Crude briefly jumped to nearly \$120 a barrel, then retreated

JON GAMBRELL, JAMEY KEATEN AND SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Oil prices soared, then

slumped, and stock markets slid Monday after hard-line Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei was chosen to succeed his late father as Iran's supreme leader. His appointment, and new strikes on regional oil infrastructure, signaled that Iran was digging in 10 days into the

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VAHID SALEMI, ASSOCIATED PRESS

The coffin of Mehdi Hosseini, a man killed in a U.S.-Israeli strike, is carried for burial at Behesht-e Zahra cemetery Monday in Tehran, Iran.

The Mini

I like books. My wife thinks I am a book hoarder. I also understand accountability. When our City Council is giving several million of our tax money to the library, the library leadership has a responsibility to respond and account to the City Council. If the library leadership does not respond, the Council not only has the right but the responsibility to withhold our tax dollars.

- DAVID ADKINS, SIOUX CITY D

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Sports	C1	Nation	B1
Comics	D3, D5	Stocks	A6

