



What are Flock Cameras?

TI&S Committee Research & Findings



What is happening in Mar Vista?

- New CD11 program: \$450,000 in discretionary funds that covers:
 - License plate reader cameras
 - Access to the nationally searchable database
 - Cloud data storage for 3 years
- 39 cameras are being installed or have been installed across CD11 in high traffic areas.
- This program appears to have been implemented unilaterally without community input.



Flock



- **Hardware company that designs two types of cameras:**
 - **LPR (License Plate Reader) Cameras** - Designed to capture license plates and general car information
 - **Condor Cameras** - Designed for facial recognition, people detection, foot traffic patterns, etc.
- **Software Company that designs and implements:**
 - Machine learning algorithms for:
 - Facial recognition
 - Car recognition
 - Crowd monitoring
 - License plate readers
 - AI-powered data analytics:
 - Vehicle fingerprint analysis - no license plate needed!
 - Guardian Mode - Automatically follows and tracks people and vehicles in real-time
 - Demographic & Attribute Tagging - clothing, gait, and even race/gender
 - Cross-jurisdiction, nationally searchable database hosted “in the cloud”



Traditional ALPR vs Flock

Traditional ALPR:

- Closed network
- Point-in-time photos
- Infrared technology
- Requires full license plate number for searches
- Owned by the customer

Flock:

- On the cloud
- More “Continuous” video surveillance
- AI-assisted frame selection
- Supports free-form searches: car descriptions, people descriptions, etc.
- Requires a subscription (usually \$2.5k - 3k per camera)

Misconception: “LA owns the data, so we’re all good!”

- Federal agencies (Border Patrol, ICE, DHS) illegally accessed or were given illegal access to Flock data from the following:
 - [San Francisco Police Department](#) - 1.6M times
 - [Los Altos Police Department](#) - More than 1M times
 - [Mountain View Police Department](#) - Nationwide search enabled without consent
 - [El Cajon Police Department](#) - Sued by the California Attorney General for sharing data with federal and out-of-state agencies.
 - [Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department](#) - As of February, continues to share data with federal partners.
 - [Orange County Sheriff’s Department](#): Cited for conducting searches on behalf of Customs and Border Patrol.
 - [San Diego County Sheriff’s Department](#) - Cited for conducting searches on behalf of federal agencies.
 - [Riverside County Sheriff’s Department](#) - Implicated in illegal sharing with federal agents.
 - [Berkeley](#), [El Cerrito](#), [Oakland](#)... the list goes on... and on... and on...



Washington State Report on ICE Leaks



- In some cases, local law enforcement agencies conducted searches of Flock data on behalf of ICE or Border Patrol.
- **Sidedoor Access:** In addition, law enforcement agencies outside the state conducted numerous searches of Washington Flock data.
- **Backdoor Access:** Border Patrol had apparent “back door” access to license plate data captured by ALPRs operated by local law enforcement agencies across the state which had not explicitly authorized sharing with Border Patrol.

[Leaving the Door Wide Open: Flock Surveillance Systems Expose Washington Data to Immigration Enforcement \(10/2025\)](#)



Misconception: “It’s only stored if someone committed a crime”

- It’s stored, by default for at least 30 Days.
- If it is tagged for an investigation then it is stored, seemingly, permanently.
 - What counts as an investigation? Unclear.
- Every Flock customer must [agree to allow Flock to use their data for training](#) their Machine Learning and AI algorithms.
 - They claim to “only use 1% of the data”. If you have 100 frames of every car, then 1% of that is every car.
 - This allows their machine learning, and AI algorithm, to encode the data to track you even if you are not searchable in the database.



Increased Flock Deployment Dangers



- **Flock Misread a License Plate and a Man was Mauled by a Police Dog** - Flock's cameras misread a "7" for a "2" on Brandon Upchurch's license plate, so his vehicle was flagged as stolen. He was tracked down, attacked by a police dog, and falsely arrested.
- **Morristown, Tennessee** - A camera misread the letter "O" as the number "0," resulting in a family being pulled over at gunpoint while traveling with their 3-year-old granddaughter.
- **Flock Claimed License Plate Search was for a Missing Person. It was an abortion investigation** - A woman in Johnson County, Texas, received an abortion. Her partner was domestically abusive and reported her for getting one. Flock allowed for a nationwide search for her to be tracked down despite the fact that she had left the state.



Localities That Have Banned or Canceled Flock

- California
 - [Mountain View \(02/2026\)](#) - audit found national lookup setting without consent
 - [Santa Cruz \(01/2026\)](#) - city data was accessed out of state and shared with ICE
 - [Santa Clara County \(02/2026\)](#) - voted to end use due to civil liberty concerns (Flock has been formally [opposed by the ACLU](#))
 - [Los Altos Hills \(01/2026\)](#) - concerns over data privacy
- Broader US
 - [Flagstaff, AZ \(12/2025\)](#) - community outrage over data privacy and mass surveillance
 - [Eugene, OR \(12/2025\)](#) - Police chief paused camera but found it had rebooted itself to collect more data
 - [Ithaca, NY \(03/2026\)](#) - privacy and data collection concerns
 - [Olympia, WA \(12/2025\)](#) - privacy concerns and data collection
 - [Evanston, IL \(08/2025\)](#) - cease and desist issued after Flock reinstalled cameras post termination

● And plenty more...



Thank you

[\(Our Motion\)](#)

