

ANDERSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READERS

Public Safety, Privacy, & Accountability

Presented by Chief Oliver Collins

October 20, 2026

City Council Questions and Presentation Topics

- Do ALPR cameras violate the Fourth Amendment's reasonable expectation of privacy, and what does current case law establish regarding their constitutionality?
- What policies, legal standards, and safeguards are in place to protect constitutional rights and prevent misuse of ALPR technology?
- Where are Anderson's ALPR cameras located, what areas are they directed toward, and are any positioned to capture private residential spaces?
- What Flock camera models does APD currently utilize, how do they differ from newer models, and what are their capabilities, including license plate reading distance?
- Can ALPR cameras utilize facial recognition, track cellular phones, collect Bluetooth information, or identify individuals based on race or other demographic characteristics?
- Who owns the ALPR data collected by APD, and what rights does Flock Safety have to access, retain, share, or use that information?
- Who can access APD's ALPR data, including outside law enforcement agencies, and what policies govern access, information sharing, auditing, and accountability?
- What cybersecurity safeguards protect ALPR data, and have any unauthorized access incidents, data breaches, or misuse occurred involving APD's system?

City Council Questions and Presentation Topics, cont.

- Does Flock Safety sell, commercially distribute, or otherwise use ALPR data for purposes outside its agreement with the City?
- Which version of Flock Safety's Terms and Conditions governs the City's agreement, and what is the significance of the revised language in Section 4.1?
- What oversight and accountability mechanisms ensure Flock Safety and participating law enforcement agencies comply with contractual requirements, privacy protections, and applicable laws?
- What are the primary law enforcement purposes and benefits of ALPR technology, and how has APD utilized the system to prevent, investigate, or solve crimes?
- What measurable results has Anderson experienced since implementing Flock cameras, including arrests, investigations, recovered vehicles, or reductions in crime?
- What are the most common public misconceptions regarding Flock cameras, and how does APD distinguish legitimate privacy concerns from misunderstandings about the technology?
- How does APD balance local public safety priorities, individual constitutional rights, and concerns regarding Flock Safety's broader corporate practices and national controversies?

The History of License Plates

In 1901, New York became the first state to require vehicle registration and license numbers, with vehicle owners initially providing their own plates.

In 1903, Massachusetts became the first state to issue standardized state license plates. As automobiles became more common, this identification system helped governments identify vehicles and their owners and regulate the growing use of automobiles.

Today, license plates continue to support vehicle registration, traffic enforcement, public safety, and criminal investigations. ALPR technology modernizes this longstanding function by allowing authorized users to identify and investigate vehicles more efficiently.



ALPR Flock Falcon What It Is – And What It Isn't

- Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR)
- Captures still images of vehicles and license plates in public view
- APD Flock Falcon cameras do not have capability of live video feeds nor recording video
- Provides investigative leads but does not replace core police investigative responsibilities
- Converts plate images into searchable data
- Does NOT provide driver or vehicle owner information. Officer must use separate database to acquire or locate registered owner information
- Does NOT identify a person by facial recognition
- Does NOT track cell phone data
- Does NOT provide continuous GPS tracking



Why Anderson Uses ALPR

In 2019, Anderson PD identified that many crimes committed in the city involved the use of vehicles. Research was conducted and a recommendation was made to implement an automated license plate reader system (ALPR). Following a public discussion at the City Council Meeting on May 21, 2019, the contract with Flock Safety, Inc. was approved to provide ALPR camera services.

As Chief, my philosophy and direction to my staff is proactive public safety. Proactive public safety philosophy means the department actively identifies and addresses crime and emerging threats before they escalate, rather than relying solely on responding after incidents occur. It emphasizes officer initiative, data-informed enforcement, prevention, and strong partnerships with the community to make the city safer.

Total Cameras

Number of LPR and other cameras in Anderson

12

Total Vehicles Detected

Number of vehicle reads over the last 30 days

1,139,210

Unique Vehicles Detected

Number of unique plate reads over the last 30 days

173,106

Number of Searches

Total user searches over the last 30 days.

174

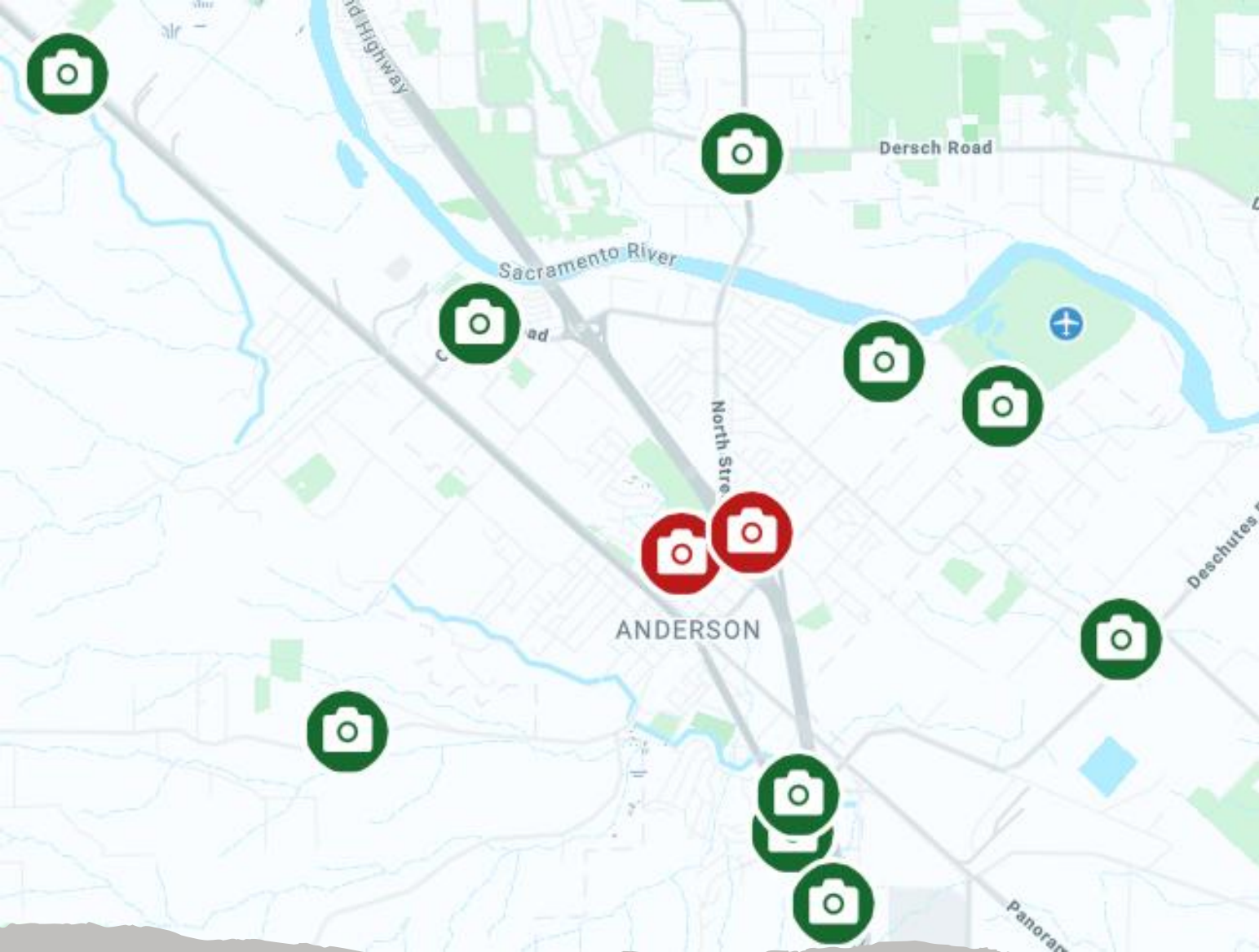


Before and After ALPR Implementation

- The Flock Safety ALPR system enhances APD’s ability to deter and investigate crime. With real-time alerts and up to 30-days of historical vehicle data, officers can respond quickly, identify suspect vehicles, and solve crimes. The system strengthens our investigative capabilities, and help keeps our community safe.
- Anderson has 49.29 miles of paved roadway in the city limits. ALPR enhances patrol effectiveness by alerting officers to wanted vehicles entering our community, allowing for quicker, more informed responses.
- Anderson is relatively small with major transportation corridors and a significant amount of through traffic. Officers simply cannot be everywhere, all the time. The ALPR provides additional awareness to officers of vehicles associated with criminal activity. In some ways, the system can reduce the need for more intrusive investigative techniques.



	2018	2025	% CHANGE
Burglary	125	4	-97%
Larceny	270	133	-51%
Vehicle Theft	101	21	-79%
TOTAL PROPERTY CRIMES	496	158	-68%



APD Camera Locations

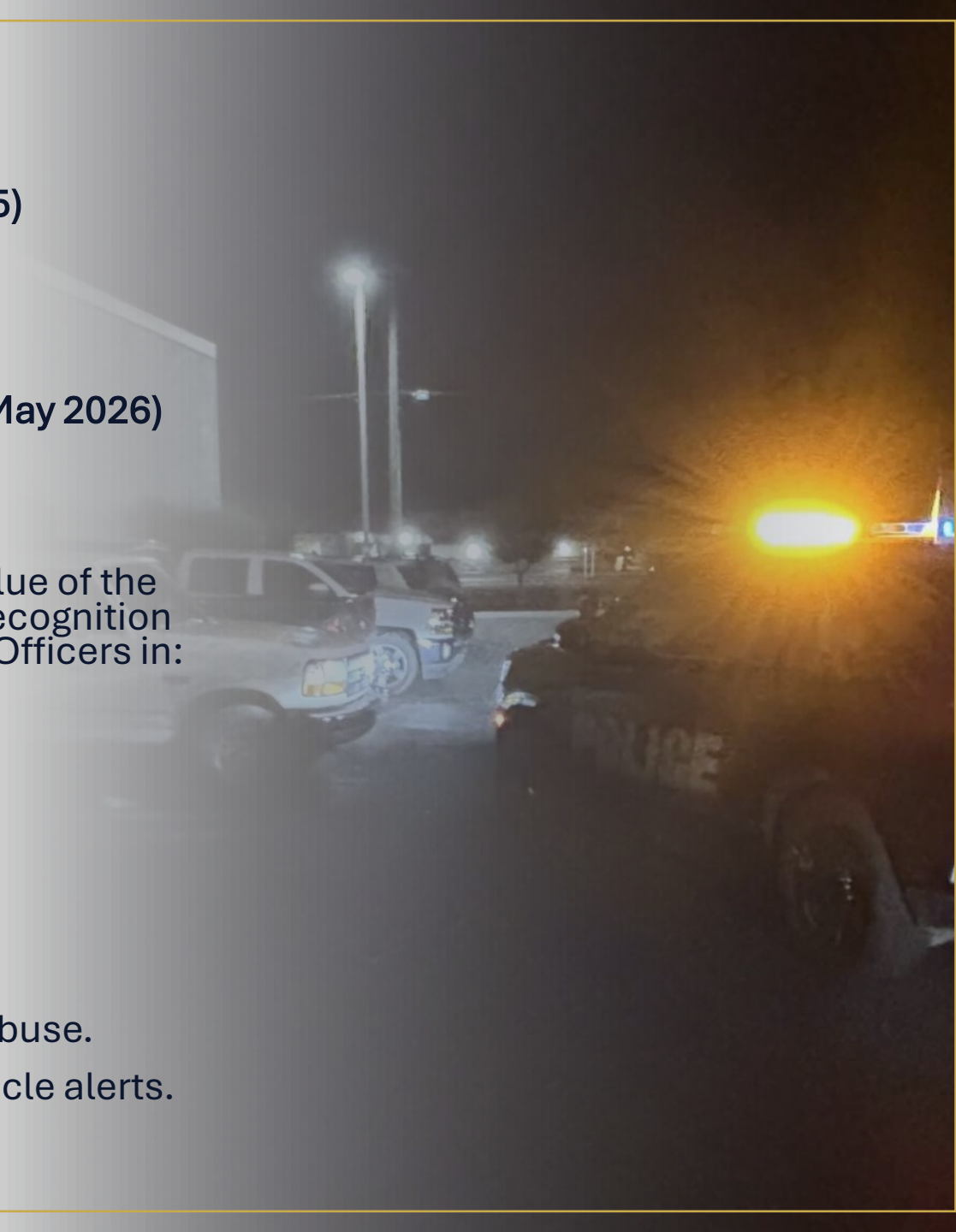


The Operational Value

- ✓ APD25-000040 – Child Exploitation Investigation (January 2025)
- ✓ APD25-000946 – Robbery Arrest (April 2025)
- ✓ APD25-002312 – Felony Domestic Violence and Strangulation (November 2025)
- ✓ APD26-000933 – Possession of Stolen Property and Stalking (May 2026)
- ✓ APD26-001401 – Felony Child Abuse Arrest (July 2026)

These investigations demonstrate the significant public safety value of the Anderson Police Department's Flock Automated License Plate Recognition system. In these cases alone, ALPR technology directly assisted Officers in:

- Identifying unknown suspects involved in child exploitation investigations.
- Locating violent offenders who fled crime scenes.
- Recovering stolen property
- Aided in a stalking investigation.
- Arresting robbery suspects shortly after the offense.
- Identifying and locating suspects responsible for felony child abuse.
- Preventing additional victimization through rapid real-time vehicle alerts.



The Investigative Impact of Removing ALPR

- Loss of critical vehicle intelligence when other leads are unavailable.
- Greater reliance on private cameras, witnesses, and time-consuming video canvasses.
- More dependence on third-party video before it is overwritten.
- Fewer opportunities to connect crimes involving the same vehicle.
- Loss of proactive alerts for stolen or wanted vehicles.
- Investigative leads not being made or taking more staff time to develop.
- Fewer opportunities to corroborate alibis and exonerate wrongly suspected individuals.
- Reduced crime deterrence could create greater opportunities for criminal activity.



Example of Flock Falcon ALPR Capture

- ✓ License Plate
- ✓ Photo of Car
- ✗ Occupants
- ✗ Driver Info
- ✓ Location
- ✓ Date / Time
- ✗ Registered Owner Info

ALPR Falcon cameras capture rear and front plates of vehicles driving away or toward the stationary camera, up to 200 feet.

As seen, camera resolution, occupant identification and the number of occupants is limited.





ALPR Safeguards



State Law prohibits conducting ALPR searches related to community member travel based on:

- ☒ Religion
- ☒ Medical Activity
- ☒ Immigration Enforcement
- ☒ Political Activity
- ☒ Personal Inquiries

Officers who conduct prohibited searches are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination and potential criminal prosecution

APD Policy 432 requires:

- Official law-enforcement use
- Authorized/trained users
- Documented access
- Legitimate law-enforcement purpose
- Monthly system audits
- Maximum 30-day retention
- Verification of all ALPR alerts
- Authorized sharing with other California law-enforcement agencies



ALPR is Legal in California

ALPR is expressly regulated by California law.

- California Civil Code §§ 1798.90.5–1798.90.55
- SB 34 established California's ALPR privacy framework restricts sharing
- Requires written usage/privacy policies (APD Policy 432)
- Requires security safeguards (Cal DOJ, CLETS, CJIS)
- Requires access records/audit trails (policy dictates audits every 30-days)
- Immigration privacy protections (SB54 CA Values Act.)
- Requires system user training and minimum standards for users and MFA logins.
- SB 1013 (Sen. Cervantes CA), seeking balance between protecting individual privacy and ensuring public safety, blocked from advancing on August 31, 2026

California Law Enforcement Proactively Sets Comprehensive ALPR Use & Policy Framework

- The California Police Chiefs Association (CPCA), joined by the Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) and California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA), released a comprehensive Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Policy Framework and called on state lawmakers to enact new statewide standards governing the use of ALPR technology in California
- **Statewide training and certification**
- **Independent oversight and accountability**
- **Greater public transparency**
- **Stronger privacy and data protections**
- **Strict vendor accountability**

FOURTH AMENDMENT & ALPR

Understanding the Relevant Case Law

These three cases illustrate important differences between physical tracking, cell phone and unique user data, and automated license plate readers.



01 UNITED STATES v. JONES

2012 | U.S. SUPREME COURT

GPS TRACKING

Police physically attached a GPS device to a vehicle and monitored it for 28 days.

KEY DISTINCTION – **NOT ALPR**

Physical device + prolonged monitoring

02 CARPENTER v. UNITED STATES

2018 | U.S. SUPREME COURT

CELL TOWER AND CELL PHONE DATA

The government obtained 127 days of cell-site location information containing 12,898 geo-location points.

KEY DISTINCTION – **NOT ALPR**

Comprehensive historical tracking

03 UNITED STATES v. PORTER

2026 | FIFTH CIRCUIT

ALPR

The court addressed that periodic license-plate observations from cameras located on public roads are lawful versus continuously tracking a person's location.

KEY DISTINCTION

Discrete vehicle observations

KEY TAKEAWAY

ALPR provides general observations of vehicles in public . The courts have NOT held that ALPR use is unconstitutional. The law is still developing.

IDEOLOGY vs. LAW

Perceptions & Concerns

- Individual liberty and privacy applies to government issued license plates displayed in public
- Didn't "opt in" to ALPR surveillance
- Government can use ALPR data to track the movements of its citizens anytime it wants, with or without cause
- Data security is subpar and government software systems can be hacked; ALPR data is not secure and ALPR data can be used for nefarious activities
- Civil rights and freedom of association are infringed upon when government records a license plate
- Data can be accessed by bad actor police officers

Federal and State Law

- ALPR has not been ruled a Fourth Amendment violation in California.
- License plates owned by the State and are affixed to privately owned vehicles, intentionally displayed in public
- Police are permitted by law to observe and record license plate data within the public view
- Any person or private entity can legally video record vehicles and license plate information on a public roadway and retain the data indefinitely or share that information online.
- Ninth Circuit: a license-plate check is not a Fourth Amendment search
- California courts have upheld public-view vehicle surveillance principles
- SB1013, the most recent law proposal at limiting the scope of law enforcement ALPR recording was blocked from advancing in the State legislature on August 31, 2026.
- What's important to local community members, business owners, and visitors is how ALPR data is in use by APD

Understanding Community Concerns About Flock ALPR

Not Representative of APD's Deployment

- APD Flock identifies people by their faces
- Flock can identify who is inside a vehicle
- Flock continuously tracks people and vehicles
- Flock replaces human judgment
- Flock cameras connect to citizen's cell phones via Bluetooth
- Flock misidentifies license plates
- Flock's data has been breached, and cloud storage is easily hackable

APD's Priorities

- **Surveillance:** Anderson Flock cameras capture license plates and vehicle characteristics for criminal investigations
- **Privacy:** Protecting privacy and the movements of community members
- **Civil Liberties:** Preserving constitutional rights and freedom of association for all
- **Government Oversight:** Ensuring appropriate limits on access, use, data sharing, and data retention
- **Accountability:** Maintaining transparency, audits, and clear policies governing and swift correction intervention on misuse. ALPR use
- **Safeguards:** User accountability
- Flock ALPR hits must be verified by the officer before enforcement action occurs.
- Anderson controls how Anderson uses the system



DECLARATION REGARDING PROHIBITION ON SELLING CUSTOMER DATA

I, Dan Haley, under penalty of perjury and pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, declare that the foregoing is true and correct:

1. I am over 18 years of age, of sound mind, and competent to make this certification.
2. I am the Chief Legal Officer at Flock Group Inc ("Flock"), located at 3284 Northside Parkway, Suite 150, Atlanta, GA 30327.
3. I am familiar with Flock's internal workings, processes, and systems, and have personal knowledge of the information stated herein.
4. Flock designs, manufactures, and deploys a suite of public safety technology devices, including automated license plate recognition cameras, video cameras, and audio recording devices.
5. Flock provides services, including access to and use of these technologies, pursuant to contractual agreements with its customers. As part of these services, Flock generates "Customer Data," meaning all (a) data and information captured by Flock's hardware on behalf of its customers through the services (e.g., images, audio, and/or video) and associated metadata, (b) content input into the web interface by Flock's customers or their authorized end users, and (c) data and information provided to Flock through Flock's services by third parties at customers' direction.
6. Based on my review and knowledge of Flock's internal workings, processes and systems, as well as Flock's terms, conditions, and contracts, I certify that:
 - a. Flock does not and has not sold Customer Data.
 - b. Flock's standard Terms and Conditions do not grant Flock any right, title, license, or authority to sell or monetize Customer Data, and expressly provide that Flock shall not sell Customer Data.
 - c. Customer Data is collected, processed, and retained solely to provide, maintain, and improve Flock's products and services.

Signed by: 
 10724F AE1E8BA0F
 Signature
 Dan Haley
 Print Name
 Chief Legal Officer
 Title
 9/16/2026
 Executed On

Data Security

Flock Contract: The terms and conditions state that Flock does not / will not sell customer data.

Data Ownership: All data belongs to APD. Flock cannot use, share or sell the data.

Flock reports data is stored is AWS GovCloud which is also used by NASA, U.S. Department of Treasury, and many others

Data Deletion: Data is permanently deleted after 30 days, unless exported as evidence by an agency user.

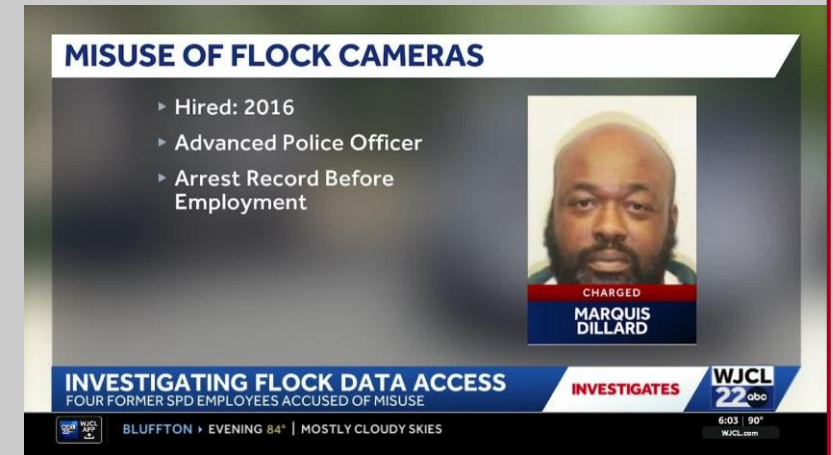
Flock Terms & Conditions

- Section 4.1 – Flock Does Not Sell Customer Data
- Changed from February 16, 2026 version and August 20, 2026 version
- Flock does not sell Anderson PD's data, and has not sold it at any point, including before the Section 4.1 language was added. Flock's Chief Legal Officer, Dan Haley, has certified this under penalty of perjury (declaration executed September 16, 2026): Flock does not and has not sold customer data, and its contracts prohibit selling or monetizing it.

Law Enforcement Misuse Transparency Matters

ALPR access in law enforcement has had access & search violations:

- Law-enforcement misuse has occurred
- Approximately 250 reported cases of ALPR misuse by law enforcement officers, of the 735,000+ full-time sworn law enforcement in America (Institute For Justice, The IJ Database of ALPR Abuse)
- Approximately 50-75 Officers have been charged, accused or convicted for unauthorized data access (26 were specifically for romantic stalking incidents)
- APD continuously monitors law and policy updates to adopt necessary changes
- Restricted system user access has been limited to APD personnel only. Prior to 2025, some allied agencies had user access. When discovered, it was immediately corrected.



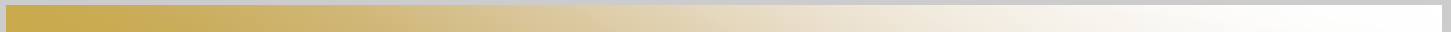
Flock ALPR Accountability

The Flock system has an “Audit Assistance” tool to automatically flag abnormal search behavior.

The Flock system can automatically suspend user access if there are signs of unauthorized searches, pending department administrative review.

Anderson Police Department has a link to the Flock Transparency Portal on our website to provide citizens with real-time data.

Our police supervisors are proactively auditing department user searches to ensure full compliance.



Public Safety, Constitutional Protections, Local Oversight

APD commitment to responsible ALPR use

- Maintain California-compliant ALPR policy
- Restrict searches to legitimate law-enforcement purposes
- Require documented search reasons/case numbers
- Conduct regular training & supervisory audits
- Review sharing permissions
- Maintain appropriate retention limits
- Verify ALPR alerts before enforcement
- Publish meaningful transparency information
- Investigate and discipline misuse
- Proactively review vendor security and contract terms



Balance of Harms

This discussion is about finding the right balance between public safety and individual privacy.

Law enforcement has a responsibility to use effective, modern tools to investigate crime, protect victims, and keep our community safe. At the same time, government has a responsibility to ensure those tools are used lawfully, responsibly, and with appropriate safeguards.

ALPR technology does not replace good police work, and it should not be viewed as unlimited government surveillance. It is one investigative tool that can provide officers with information that may help identify vehicles associated with criminal activity and develop leads in active investigations.

Our objective is straightforward: use technology to make our community safer while protecting the freedoms and privacy that make our community worth protecting.

Summary of City Council Questions Answered

- Current State case law regarding ALPR
- Fourth Amendment protections and current case law
- ALPR camera locations near private property
- Flock camera models (Falcon motion activated, no video, no audio)
- Data security vulnerability, data breaches
- Who owns the data, what does Flock do with it, is it being sold, sharing agencies?
- Is Flock the problem or is ALPR the problem?
- Benefits in crime reduction, deterrence and solvability
- Safety priorities & local accountability
- ALPR capabilities, facial recognition, cell tracking, Bluetooth/GPS tracking
- Flock contract, section 4.1 terms & Conditions – No change in practice for prior versions vs. new version
- Proactive public safety priority

SCAN QR CODE TO VIEW PRESENTATION ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE

- Follow the link to our ALPR Policy webpage, then scroll down and click on

ALPR COUNCIL PRESENTATION –
October 20, 2026

