



City of Lakewood City Council

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September 8, 2026

Lakewood City Council
Lakewood, Ohio

RE: City of Lakewood Flock Contract

Dear Colleagues,

The City of Lakewood is in year four of a five-year contract with Flock Safety ("Flock") for Lakewood's *Citywide Surveillance Camera Program*. At the August 5, 2026 Board of Control meeting, the Administration approved an amount of \$125,000 for payment on the contract with Flock. Initially, in April 2021, the City entered into a contract with Flock for 40 cameras at an amount of \$110,000. Additional cameras were added in February of 2023 bringing the total number of cameras to 50. In July 2023, the contract was amended for the current 5-year agreement, in which we are in year 4.

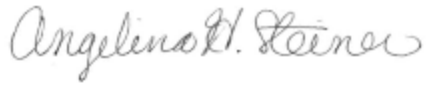
There is growing concern amongst our residents over the City's use of Flock (the company) and use of the ALPR (Automatic License Plate Reader) in general. Communities throughout Northeast Ohio and beyond are examining specific policies surrounding use of this technology and determining what guardrails, if any, are needed for its responsible and ethical use. There are members of the state legislature working on bi-partisan legislation to either ban the technology outright or at least put some guardrails on the system.

We all can appreciate technology and how it can make our lives easier and safer. Police Officers have benefitted from technological advances which have kept them and subsequently, our communities safer: bullet resistant vests, body cams, and enhanced on the job communication tools and devices. Technology used responsibly and how it is supposed to be, can be a good thing.

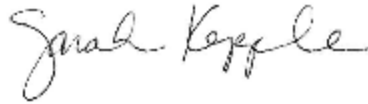
We are however, hearing from residents that they are concerned about the use of Flock. In particular, we have heard privacy concerns, questions about what data and information is being shared with other agencies, and with which outside agencies the City has shared information. Additional questions include how much crime has been solved and/or deterred as a result of this technology. Our residents trust that Councilmembers are working with the Administration on this issue to have their concerns addressed.

We have met with Mayor George, Chief Fisher, and the IT Department to better understand how Flock is used, to gather preliminary answers to these important questions, and discuss responsive policy and procedure updates. We found this dialogue informative and constructive, and we want the rest of Council to have the opportunity to ask questions and for residents to hear directly from the Administration about the City's use of Flock. We respectfully request that this communication and subsequent ALPR Policy be referred to Public Safety or Committee of the Whole for future discussion.

Sincerely,



Angelina Hamilton Steiner
Member of Council-At Large



Sarah Kepple
President of Council
Member at Large



Kyle Baker
Vice President of Council
Ward 1 Representative