

City Council

Special Meeting Agenda

August 12, 2025
Council Chambers
749 Main Street

5:00 PM

Members of the public are welcome to attend remotely; however, the in-person meeting may continue even if technology issues prevent remote participation.

- You can call in to +1 719 359 4580 or 877 853 5247 (Toll Free), Webinar ID #876 9127 0986.
- You can log in via your computer. Please visit the City's website here to link to the meeting: www.louisvilleco.gov/council

The Council will accommodate public comments during the meeting. Anyone may also email comments to the Council prior to the meeting at Council@LouisvilleCO.gov.

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – PENDING LITIGATION (Louisville Charter, Section 5-2(d) and C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(b)) – The City Attorney is Requesting the City Council Convene an Executive Session for the Purpose of Consultation with Respect to Pending Litigation.

- **Request for Executive Session**
- **City Clerk Statement**
- **City Attorney Statement of Authority**
- **City Council Action on Motion for Executive Session**
- **Council Convenes Executive Session**
- **Council Reconvenes in Open Meeting**

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT – DISCUSSION / DIRECTION / ACTION

Persons planning to attend the meeting who need sign language interpretation, translation services, assisted listening systems, Braille, taped material, or special transportation, should contact the City Clerk's Office (303.335.4574) or ClerksOffice@LouisvilleCO.gov. A forty-eight-hour notice is requested.

Si requiere una copia en español de esta publicación o necesita un intérprete durante la reunión del Consejo, por favor llame a la Ciudad al o 303.335.4574 o email ClerksOffice@LouisvilleCO.gov.

***THE FOLLOWING MEETING ITEM WILL START
NO EARLIER THAN 6 PM***

4. FLOCK CAMERA UPDATE

- Staff Presentation
- Council Discussion
- Public Comments (Please limit to three minutes each)

5. ADJOURN

**SUBJECT: FLOCK SAFETY – LICENSE PLATE READING CAMERA SYSTEM
AND TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSION**

DATE: AUGUST 12, 2025

PREPARED BY: RAFAEL GUTIERREZ, CHIEF OF POLICE

**PRESENTED BY: RAFAEL GUTIERREZ, CHIEF OF POLICE
SCOTT MOORE, CRIME PREVENTION SPECIALIST, PIO
TREVOR CHANDLER, FLOCK SAFETY DIRECTOR, PUBLIC
AFFAIRS**

SUMMARY:

To consider and receive direction from City Council on the Louisville Police Department's (LPD) continued utilization of the Flock Safety system automatic license plate reading (ALPR) technology.

In the three years since the implementation of this technology, the City has experienced a 27% overall reduction in property crimes. In 2024, the areas where cameras are deployed experienced a 62% reduction in property crimes and construction theft. The overall decline may not be entirely attributed to the use of Flock, but the 62% decline within areas where the Flock cameras are located is believed to be the direct result of Flock supporting follow up investigation efforts.

In recent months, concerns have been raised that relate to data privacy, the potential for use in immigration enforcement, and concerns with out-of-state law enforcement using the system for investigations related to their state's laws on reproductive rights. When the project was first presented in 2022, Council raised similar concerns about community-wide surveillance and privacy. It was the LPD's understanding that Louisville data was not being shared in any out-of-state searches. Recently, LPD representatives worked with Flock Safety and learned Louisville data was searchable for out-of-state agencies. Allowing access to out-of-state or federal law enforcement is neither illegal nor against policy, however, the LPD recognized the local concerns with sharing access to Louisville data with these groups. As a result, LPD coordinated with Flock to intentionally exclude these agencies from sharing capabilities and restrict them from accessing the Louisville system.

Due to continued concerns with data sharing and potential access by out-of-state law enforcement and federal agents, on June 30, 2025, the LPD was directed to disable its use of the system. The system and the LPD's access were disabled at that time pending further discussion with City Council. This meeting is that opportunity for discussion and staff is seeking council direction on future use of Flock Safety and interest in other potential use of ALPR technology.

Prior to the deactivation of the system, Police staff utilized the system on a near daily basis to help develop investigative leads and to locate vehicles or people of public safety interest. The resource is utilized by all of Louisville's neighboring jurisdictions and by many law enforcement and private organizations around the state and country.

BACKGROUND / PRIOR DISCUSSIONS:

Flock Safety, a company that specializes in automatic license plate recognition (ALPR) systems, allows officers to search for vehicles based on unique criteria, time, and location. Search fields include vehicle make, body type, color, and license plates. The system does not use facial recognition or collect biometric or sensitive information. Restrictions associated with the system include 30-day data retention, all system access requires a law enforcement reason, and hotlist hits require human verification.

The ALPR system works as follows:

1. Cameras - High-resolution cameras are installed in strategic locations.
2. Image Capture – As vehicles pass by, the cameras automatically take pictures of the license plates, and include the make, model, and color of the vehicle.
3. Data Processing – The captured images are processed using advanced algorithms, extracting license plate numbers and other relevant data.
4. Data Storage – The processed data is stored in the cloud, encrypted and accessible only to authorized users. Flock Safety maintains control of the data, though agencies can provide direction as to other agencies that are allowed to have access.
5. Real-Time Alerts – If a license plate matches a list of vehicles of interest, the system can send real-time alerts to law enforcement.
6. Search and Analytics – Authorized users can search the database for specific license plates or analyze traffic patterns and trends.
7. Integration – The system can integrate with other security and law enforcement tools to provide a comprehensive approach to public safety.

The City first entered into a service agreement with Flock Safety on April 18, 2022, to install 25 cameras at various locations within the City, giving special attention to neighborhoods significantly impacted by the Marshall Fire. Twenty cameras were installed, and the cameras remain in the same areas as originally installed. Prior to disabling the system on June 30, 2025, the LPD was sharing its network with about 85 law enforcement organizations in the State of Colorado.

Prior Flock Safety discussions with Council occurred as follows:

- [April 18, 2022](#): continued from 3/15/2022. Discussion to address Council questions and seek approval of a resolution and service agreement with Flock Safety for 25 cameras. Resolution and agreement were approved.

- [May 2, 2023](#): Discussion to deploy the remaining 5 cameras from the original agreement and mounting those new cameras near major arterial roadways and a request to purchase one additional portable camera for location specific needs. Request was not approved by Council.
- [October 1, 2024](#): Discussion to renew the service agreement with Flock Safety for 20 cameras currently installed in the city. The original proposal was for a two-year renewal, which Council did not approve and instead was modified to a one-year renewal that was approved for 2025. Discussion also involved re-locating the cameras to more strategic locations based on data, trends, and traffic flow. This was due to the high percentage of Marshall Fire impacted residents returning home. No decision was reached on re-locating the cameras and they remain in their original location.

Concerns with data privacy, the use of the system for immigration enforcement, and access by out of state law enforcement agencies remain points of contention. The LPD maintains a specific policy to address acceptable usage, and the system administrator monitors the system to ensure Louisville employees and those agencies with whom access is granted adhere to Louisville policy requirements. Police staff also have access to personal information at a much greater scale than the vehicle registration information and alerts that are within the Flock data set. Staff is obligated to preserve confidentiality and handle sensitive information with discretion. They are held accountable for missteps or violations of policy. The system uses still photographs and no live-feeds or videos are available, nor does active surveillance occur. The LPD has no capability to live monitor the camera footage and LPD officers only access the data for specific case investigation or to verify alert information.

ANALYSIS:

Considerations include the current and future use of ALPR technology for the LPD both as part of the Flock Safety system and its use in photographic traffic enforcement. With the continued return of community members to the Marshall Fire impacted neighborhoods (82% moved home and 92% of homes rebuilt or in the construction phase), the needs in those areas have changed. If approved to continue its use of Flock Safety ALPRs, the LPD would utilize a more strategic deployment approach in the placement and use of this resource. Data driven decisions based on crime data, traffic flow, and current trends would likely improve success rates and provide a greater return on investment. If the contract is renewed for 2026 and beyond, it is very likely the current cameras will be moved to more strategic locations.

Police staff have engaged in focused discussions about Flock Safety with community members at a variety of events this year. The vast majority of community members have indicated their support for the use of the system for public safety purposes and see it as a

valuable tool to assist in the LPD's effectiveness. Some members have relayed concerns about data privacy and the potential misuse of the information collected by Flock Safety.

2025 COUNCIL WORK PLAN:

This resource fits within the Core Services framework related to Public Safety and supports the City's ability to be collaborative with regional public safety partners. The technology also incorporates sustainability elements through its use of solar power to operate the cameras.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Budgeted?: Yes

The current service agreement was renewed for one year in December 2024 and continues until December 2025. The costs for 2025 were included in the 2025 Budget and funds come from Capital Projects. The cost for 2025 was \$67,500 and the renewal cost to use the service in 2026 is \$62,500. The costs for 2026 have not been included in the 2026 budget. The Service Agreement renewal request is scheduled to be presented to Council on August 19, 2025.

ALTERNATIVE(S):

1. Continue with the current service agreement and enable the LPD to utilize this resource for case investigation and notifications. The LPD intends to re-assess the current camera placement and utilize crime trends, data, and traffic counts to potentially relocate the cameras to more advantageous locations for better return on investment. This option would also include a request to renew the agreement for services in 2026 and potentially future years. There would be a cost associated with re-locating the current cameras. Costs have not yet been determined.
2. Disable the system and remove the equipment. There will likely be an undetermined cost associated with removal of the equipment (still undetermined). Cameras and accessories are the property of Flock Safety and were not purchased by the City. This option will impact the efficiency of investigations.

RECOMMENDATION:

- Staff is seeking council direction on the continued use of the Flock Safety ALPR technology as a tool and resource for the LPD.
- This will inform staff work on the potential use of other ALPR technology, such as photo enforcement. The same ALPR technology is used in flock and photo enforcement such as for speeding. If council is not supportive for Flock, staff requests council confirm they are also not supportive of other potential uses, which will allow staff to determine how much effort to place in researching options.

SUBJECT: FLOCK CAMERA UPDATE

DATE: AUGUST 12, 2025

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ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Louisville Police Department ALPR Policy
2. Presentation
3. Public Comment

Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR)

426.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology, also known as License Plate Recognition, provides automated detection of license plates. The ALPR is used by the Louisville Police Department as an effective intelligence tool to convert data associated with vehicle license plates for official law enforcement purposes, including identifying stolen or wanted vehicles, stolen license plates and missing persons. The ALPR may also be used to gather information related to active warrants, electronic surveillance, suspect interdiction and stolen property recovery.

426.2 DEFINITIONS

- (a) Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR): A device that uses cameras and computer technology to compare digital images to lists of known information of interest.
- (b) ALPR Operator: Trained Department members who may utilize ALPR system/equipment. ALPR operators may be assigned to any position within the Department, and the ALPR Administrator may order the deployment of the ALPR systems for use in various efforts.
- (c) ALPR Administrator: The Crime Prevention Specialist or his/her designee, serves as the ALPR Administrator for the Department.
- (d) Vehicles of interest: Including, but not limited to vehicles which are reported as stolen; display stolen license plates or tags; vehicles linked to missing and/or wanted persons and vehicles flagged by the Department of Motor Vehicle Administration or law enforcement agencies.
- (e) Detection: Data obtained by an ALPR of an image (such as a license plate) within public view that was read by the device, including potential images (such as the plate and description of vehicle on which it was displayed), and information regarding the location of the ALPR system at the time of the ALPR's read.
- (f) Hit: Alert from the ALPR system that a scanned license plate number may be in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) or other law enforcement database for a specific reason including, but not limited to, being related to a stolen car, wanted person, missing person, domestic violation protective order or terrorist-related activity.

426.3 ADMINISTRATION OF ALPR DATA

All installation and maintenance of ALPR equipment, as well as ALPR data retention and access shall be managed by the Crime Prevention Specialist. The Crime Prevention Specialist will assign personnel to administer the day-to-day operation of the ALPR equipment and data.

426.4 ALPR OPERATION

Use of an ALPR is restricted to the purposes outlined below. Department personnel shall not use, or allow others to use, the equipment or database records for any unauthorized purpose.

- (a) An ALPR shall only be used for official and legitimate law enforcement business.

Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR)

- (b) An ALPR may be used in conjunction with any patrol operation or official department investigation. The ALPR alert can be used as one element in developing reasonable suspicion or probable cause.
- (c) Partial license plates reported during major crimes should be entered into the ALPR system in an attempt to identify suspect vehicles.
- (d) No member of this department shall operate ALPR equipment or access ALPR data without first completing department-approved training.
- (e) The officer should verify an ALPR response through the Colorado Bureau of Investigation before taking enforcement action that is based solely upon an ALPR alert. Once an alert is received, the operator should confirm that the observed license plate from the system matches the license plate of the observed vehicle, including but not limited to; the alphanumeric characters of the license plate, state of issue, type of plate, and vehicle descriptors before proceeding, as practical. Before any law enforcement action is taken because of an ALPR alert, the alert will be verified through a NCIC/CCIC inquiry via the MDT or through Dispatch. Members will not take any police action that restricts the freedom of any individual based solely on an ALPR alert unless it has been validated.
- (f) No ALPR operator may access the Colorado Bureau of Investigation data unless authorized to do so.

426.5 ALPR DATA COLLECTION AND RETENTION

All data and images gathered by the ALPR are for the official use of the Louisville Police Department and because such data may contain confidential information, it is not open to public review. ALPR information gathered and retained by this department may be used and shared as required by law.

- (a) Mobile ALPR Data: The Crime Prevention Specialist is responsible to ensure proper collection and retention of ALPR data and for transferring ALPR data stored in department vehicles to the department server on a regular basis, not to exceed 30 days between transfers. All ALPR data downloaded to the server should be stored for the minimum period established by department records retention guidelines and thereafter may be purged unless it has become, or it is reasonable to believe it will become, evidence in a criminal or civil action or is subject to a lawful action to produce records. In those circumstances, the applicable data should be downloaded from the server onto portable media and booked into evidence.
- (b) Flock ALPR Data: ALPR vendor, Flock Safety will store the data (data hosting) and ensure proper maintenance and security of data stored in their data towers. Flock Safety will purge their data at the end of the 30 days of storage. However, this will not preclude Louisville Police Department from maintaining any relevant vehicle data associated with an investigation and/or case obtained from the system after that period pursuant to the established Louisville Police Department retention schedule, as set forth by State law.

Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR)

Information gathered or collected, and records retained by Flock Safety cameras or any other ALPR system will not be sold, accessed, or used for any purpose other than legitimate law enforcement or public safety purposes.

426.6 ACCOUNTABILITY AND SAFEGUARDS

All saved data will be closely safeguarded and protected by both procedural and technological means. The Louisville Police Department will observe the following safeguards regarding access to and use of stored data:

- (a) All non-law enforcement requests for access to stored ALPR data shall be referred to the Administrative Services Manager and processed in accordance with applicable law.
- (b) All ALPR data downloaded to the mobile work station and server shall be accessible only through a login/password-protected system capable of documenting all access of information by name, date and time.
- (c) Persons approved to access ALPR data under these guidelines are permitted to access the data for legitimate law enforcement purposes only, such as when the data relate to a specific criminal investigation or department-related civil or administrative action.
- (d) Such ALPR data may be released to other authorized and verified law enforcement officials and agencies at any time for legitimate law enforcement purposes.
- (e) The LPD does not permit the sharing of ALPR data gathered by the City or its contractors/subcontractors for the purpose of federal immigration enforcement.
- (f) ALPR system audits should be conducted on a regular basis by the Crime Prevention Specialist or his/her designee.
- (g) The Crime Prevention Specialist or his/her designee shall ensure that a transparency portal is made available for public access to the Flock Safety System. The transparency portal will provide information on usage statistics as well as a link to the LPD ALPR policy.

426.7 TRAINING

The Crime Prevention Specialist should ensure that members receive department-approved training for those authorized to use or access the ALPR system.



Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) –Flock Safety Discussion

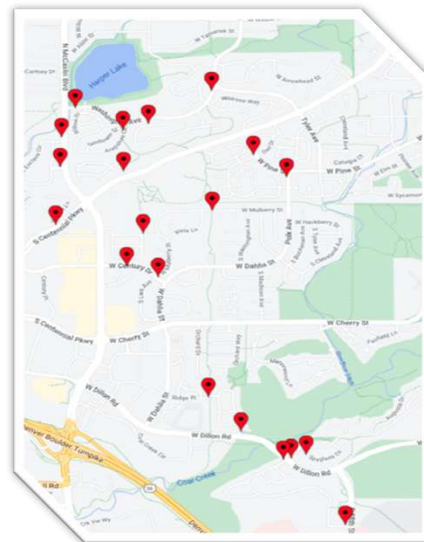
- Rafael Gutierrez, Chief of Police
- Scott Moore, Crime Prevention Specialist



8/12/2025

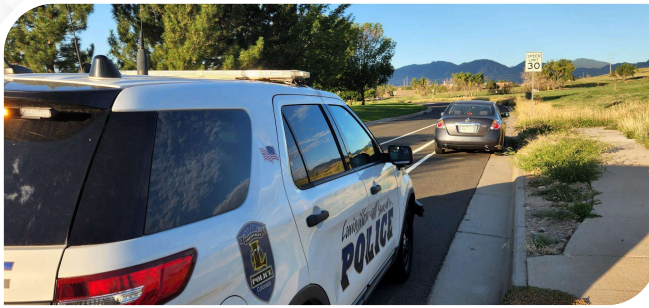
City of Louisville- Flock ALPR Program

- April 18, 2022: Louisville City Council approved resolution No. 15, series 2022 – a resolution approving a services agreement with Flock group inc. for license plate detection software and 25 cameras with hardware
- Summer 2022 – Twenty (not the original 25) Flock license plate readers were implemented throughout the Marshall Fire burn areas
- 1 year service agreement renewal December 2024-2025
- Lafayette, Erie, Broomfield, Boulder, Boulder County, University of Colorado, and two private Louisville Businesses utilize Flock camera programs
- Sharing access with about 85 Colorado law enforcement organizations*
 - System temporarily disabled June 30, 2025*



8/12/2025

How Do Flock ALPR's Work- Overview



- Read license plate information
 - Vehicle License Plate alerting system
- Compare plate information to hotlists:
 - National Crime Information Center (NCIC)
 - Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC)
 - Amber Alert (NCMEC)
 - Custom Hot List
- Notify law enforcement of license plate associated with hot list hits
- Provides law enforcement with indiscriminate evidence from fixed locations

Responding To Flock Alerts

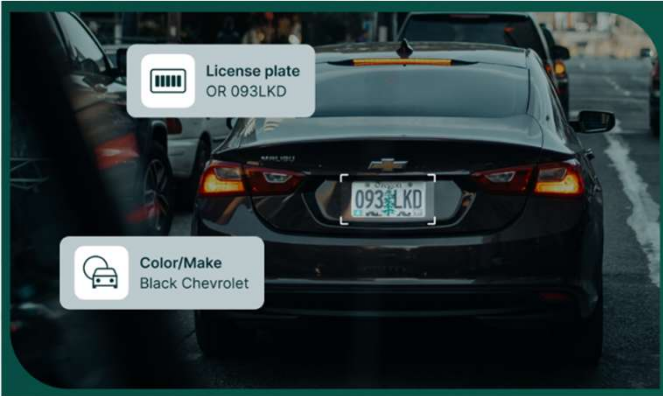


Law Enforcement receives text message, email, and in-app alerts within 20 seconds of when a hotlist hit vehicle passes by a Flock Safety camera.

Alerts are verified by police officers before a law enforcement response

Officers respond to the alert area

Investigating With Flock Technology



Flock's technology allows officers to search for vehicles based on unique vehicle criteria, time, and location – objective, investigative evidence.

Search fields include:

- Vehicle make
- Body Type
- Color
- License Plates
 - Temporary
 - Regular
 - State Recognition



Flock Safety ALPR Technology

- Not Facial recognition
- Not Collection of Biometric or Sensitive Information
 - Vehicle registration information and alert details only
- Not used for speed enforcement or red-light enforcement*
 - *Except when incorporated into those systems
- Not used for Immigration Enforcement
- Not live-monitored by staff
 - Automated system
 - Still Photos/No video capabilities in our system

Use Restrictions:

- 30-day data retention
- Data is used for law enforcement purposes only
 - Our system requires a reason for search or case number to access Flock data, creating an audit trail
- All system access requires a law enforcement reason
- Hotlist hits require a human verification

Transparency Portal



External organizations with access

Arapahoe County CO SO, Arvada CO PD, Aspen CO PD, Aurora CO PD, Avon CO PD, Basalt CO PD, Boulder CO PD, Boulder County CO SO, Brighton CO PD, Canon City CO PD, Castle Rock CO PD, Chaffee County CO SO, Cherry Hills Village CO PD, City of Castle Pines CO, Clear Creek County CO SO, CO - Colorado Bureau of Investigation, CO - Keenesburg PD, CO - Rangely PD, Colorado Springs CO PD, Colorado State Parks, Colorado State Patrol, Commerce City CO PD, Custer County CO SO, Dacono CO PD, Denver CO PD, Douglas County CO SO, Durango CO PD, Edgewater CO PD, El Paso CO SO, Elizabeth CO PD, Englewood CO PD, Erie CO PD, Firestone CO PD, Fort Collins CO PD, Fountain CO PD, Frederick CO PD, Garfield County CO SO, Georgetown CO PD, Glenwood Springs CO PD, Golden CO PD, Grand County CO SO, Grand Junction CO PD, Greeley CO PD, Gunnison County CO SO, Hayden CO PD, Hotchkiss CO PD, Hudson CO PD, Idaho Springs CO PD, Jackson County CO SO, Jefferson County CO SO, Johnstown CO PD, Lafayette CO PD, Lakewood CO PD, Lamar CO PD, Larimer County CO SO, Lincoln County CO SO, Lochbuie CO PD, Lone Tree CO PD, Longmont CO PD, Loveland CO PD, Mead CO PD, Mesa County CO SO, Moffat County CO SO, Morrison CO PD, Mountain Village PD (CO), Navajo State Park CO PD, Northern Colorado Intelligence Unit CO, Northglenn CO PD, Parker CO PD, Prowers County CO (CO), Pueblo CO PD, Routt County CO SO, Salida CO PD, Silt CO PD, Summit County CO SO, Telluride CO PD, Thornton CO PD, Timnath CO PD, Town of Lyons CO, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus CO PD, Vail CO PD, Weld County CO SO, Westminster CO PD, Windsor CO PD



8/12/2025

How Flock is Used

Investigations

- Search using witness description
- Search by time and location
- Provide valuable leads for ongoing investigations
 - Often may be the only investigative lead police have
- Collaboration with other agencies on regional crime events and cases

Hotlist Notifications

- Proactive Response
- Situational Awareness
- Well-being checks/Suicidal person
- Missing or Endangered Persons Notification

Deter Crime

- Flock cameras can be installed at entry and exit points to create a virtual perimeter
- Flock cameras can identify vehicles associated with individuals or groups known to engage in criminal activity



8/12/2025

Louisville Flock Success

- 27% decrease in property crime across the City from 2022 to 2024
- 62% reduction in construction related theft in the rebuild area in 2023-2024
- Assisted with serial commercial burglary investigation and arrest of an individual committing burglaries in Louisville and other Denver Metro communities (2022)
- Aided in the capture of a construction theft ring that was operating in Louisville and across the Front Range (2023-2024)
- Arrest of attempted homicide suspect from Lakewood (2024)
- Continues to assist in location of missing/suicidal/at risk people, multiple stolen vehicles, and license plates



Louisville Rebuild Progress July 29, 2025

- Debris Removal Completed: 550
- Returned Home: 454
- Under Construction: 55
- Rebuild Permits Under Review: 13

Houses completed and under construction account for 92% of residential rebuilds.

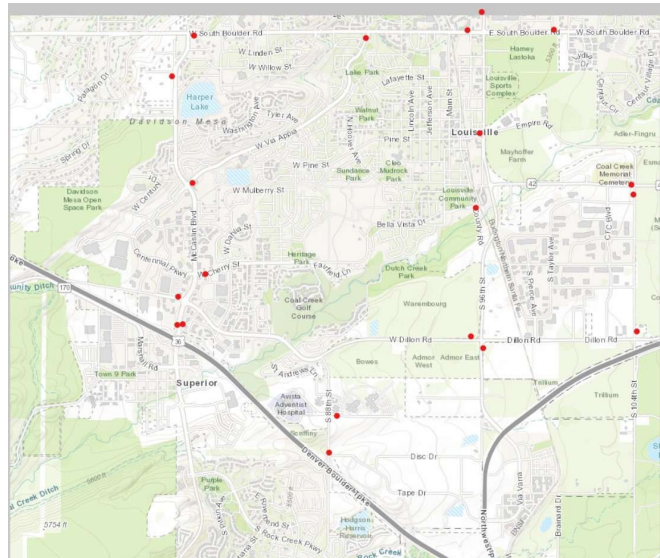


Future Strategy

- Seek to Enhance Effectiveness and Awareness
- Maximize PD capacity through technology
- Use a more strategic deployment based on data/trends
- Continue to maintain high operational standards
 - Protect privacy interests
 - Assess program and fit
 - Maintain strong policies-Manage
- Evaluate current program/placement
 - Crime data/Trends
 - Operational effectiveness
 - Ability to relocate when appropriate

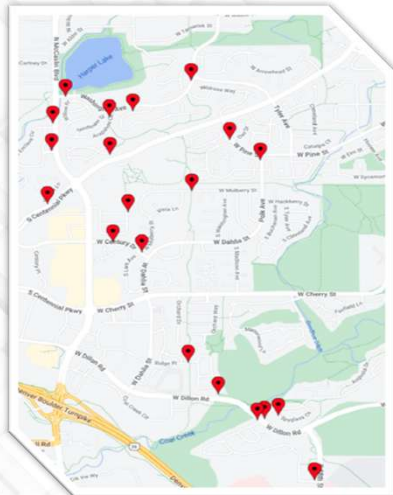
Strategic Camera Placement

- Ingress points surrounding Louisville
- Areas typical of higher rates of crime

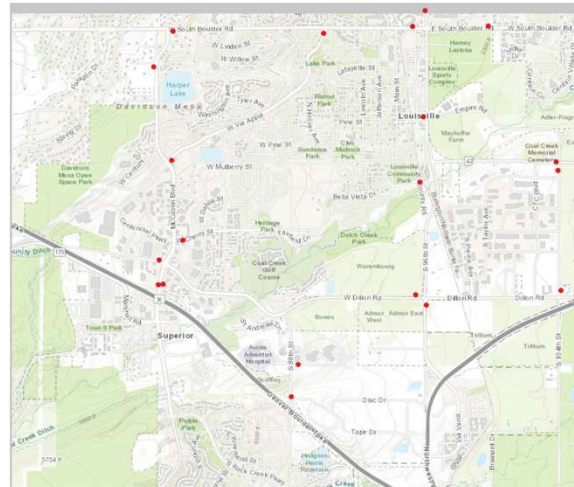


LPR Deployment Comparison

Current Deployment 2022-2024



Potential Future Deployment



Community Engagement



- PD staff engaged with community members this year at various events about the Flock system
 - Majority of community members expressed support for its use and saw the value it provided as a resource for the PD
 - Small percentage of community members relayed concerns about data privacy potential misuse of the system and information

Concerns and Safeguards

- Concerns:
 - Data Privacy
 - Network audit showed our network was included in national searches by agencies with whom we had not granted access
 - System temporarily disabled on June 30, 2025
 - Use of the system for Immigration Enforcement
 - Out of State or Federal agencies access to the system
- Safeguards:
 - Department Policy
 - Transparency Portal
 - Audit capabilities
 - In-house system administrator
 - Grant/Revoke sharing permission
 - Properly train our staff
 - Staff familiarity in managing privileged information

Options

- Cancel the service with Flock Safety
 - Costs associated with removal of the hardware and equipment
 - Owned by Flock Safety
- Continue with the service
 - Re-enable the system for police department use for remainder of 2025
 - Renew contract for service in 2026
 - scheduled to be presented to council at the next regular meeting 8/19/2025
 - Likely relocation of camera resources
 - Cost associated with relocation

Council Direction

- Staff is seeking direction from Council on the future use of Flock Safety LPR services within the City of Louisville and the use of License Plate Reading technology in other applications
 - Photo Traffic Enforcement
 - Service Agreement renewal is scheduled to be presented to Council on August 19, 2025
- Representatives from Flock Safety and staff from the Police Department are available to answer questions

From: [Mark Cathcart](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Special session - Flock Cameras
Date: Wednesday, August 6, 2025 5:00:09 PM
Attachments: [Requirement for Policy Clarity on City-Installed Surveillance Cameras.pdf](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] From outside of City of Louisville DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

Since this is a study session, I'd like to offer input in advance of the packet's release. I ask that you consider the attached requirement as part of your deliberations, and include it in the meeting materials if possible.

Please confirm receipt.

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++Mark.

Requirement for Policy Clarity on City-Installed Surveillance Cameras

To ensure transparency, accountability, and public trust in the use of city-installed surveillance cameras, the Louisville City Council must adopt a clear and enforceable policy governing access to video footage. Unless otherwise legally constrained, the Council faces two distinct options:

- 1. Restrict Access Exclusively to the Louisville Police Department, with a binding provision that prohibits the sharing, distribution, or external access to captured footage. Under this model, video data would be used solely for internal law enforcement purposes and would not be made available to other agencies, private entities, or individuals—regardless of request—unless compelled by court order or statutory mandate.**
- 2. Affirmatively Declare That Video Footage May Be Shared with any party possessing legal authority to request it, including other governmental bodies, litigants, or third parties operating under subpoena, FOIA, or other statutory mechanisms. This approach requires public acknowledgment that surveillance data may be accessed beyond the police department and used in contexts not originally intended.**

The Council must choose one of these paths and codify it in policy. Ambiguity invites misuse. Clarity ensures that residents understand the scope and limits of surveillance—and the protections, or exposures, it entails.

Justification for Surveillance Policy Requirement

Suffice to say, I was disappointed—but not surprised—by the outcome of the bicycle and e-bike speed legislation passed by Council on August 5th. For Mayor Pro Tem Dickinson to advocate for a change in law while insisting it won't be enforced is simply bad governance.

Council need look no further than the current U.S. Administration to see how existing laws can be weaponized against the public. I don't expect that outcome from the bicycle ordinance, but it remains a poor example—performative at best. Council could have made the speed limit advisory and still posted the same signage.

In an era of public pressure and political theater, governments increasingly lean on performative regulation: laws passed more for optics than for efficacy. While they may appear protective, such regulations often carry latent power. Nowhere is this clearer than in the widespread adoption of video surveillance under the guise of public safety.

According to the City Manager's report at the August 5th meeting, Council will hold a special session on August 12th to discuss "Flock Security cameras." Before the packet is released, I urge Council not to repeat the mistake of enacting vague or symbolic legislation—especially when it concerns surveillance.

Cameras are easy to defend in theory. They promise deterrence, accountability, and rapid response. But beneath that sheen lie unresolved questions: Who has access to the footage? How long is it stored? What legal standards govern its use? Without strict rules, these systems are ripe for abuse—used not just to prevent crime, but to monitor protestors, profile communities, or retroactively justify selective enforcement. Especially now, in the age of artificial intelligence.

Once installed, cameras legitimize further expansion. Surveillance morphs into normalization. Vague laws turn visual records into prosecutorial fuel in contexts far removed from their original intent.

This is the danger of legislative showmanship: laws that look good on paper but quietly undermine civil liberties in practice. If we care about freedom, we must question not just what's being watched—but why, by whom, and for how long.

In your deliberations and questions to staff regarding the current and future use of any brand of video camera, I urge you to include clear, enforceable answers to the concerns raised here—and to codify them in any legislation you pass.

Thank You.

Mark Cathcart

Louisville CO Resident

ATTACHMENTS

1. (Probable) Location of cameras in Louisville - deflock.me

deflock.me

Source: Crowd
sourced

Valid: 8/6/2025

Louisville: 10

Front Range: 466

State: 748

