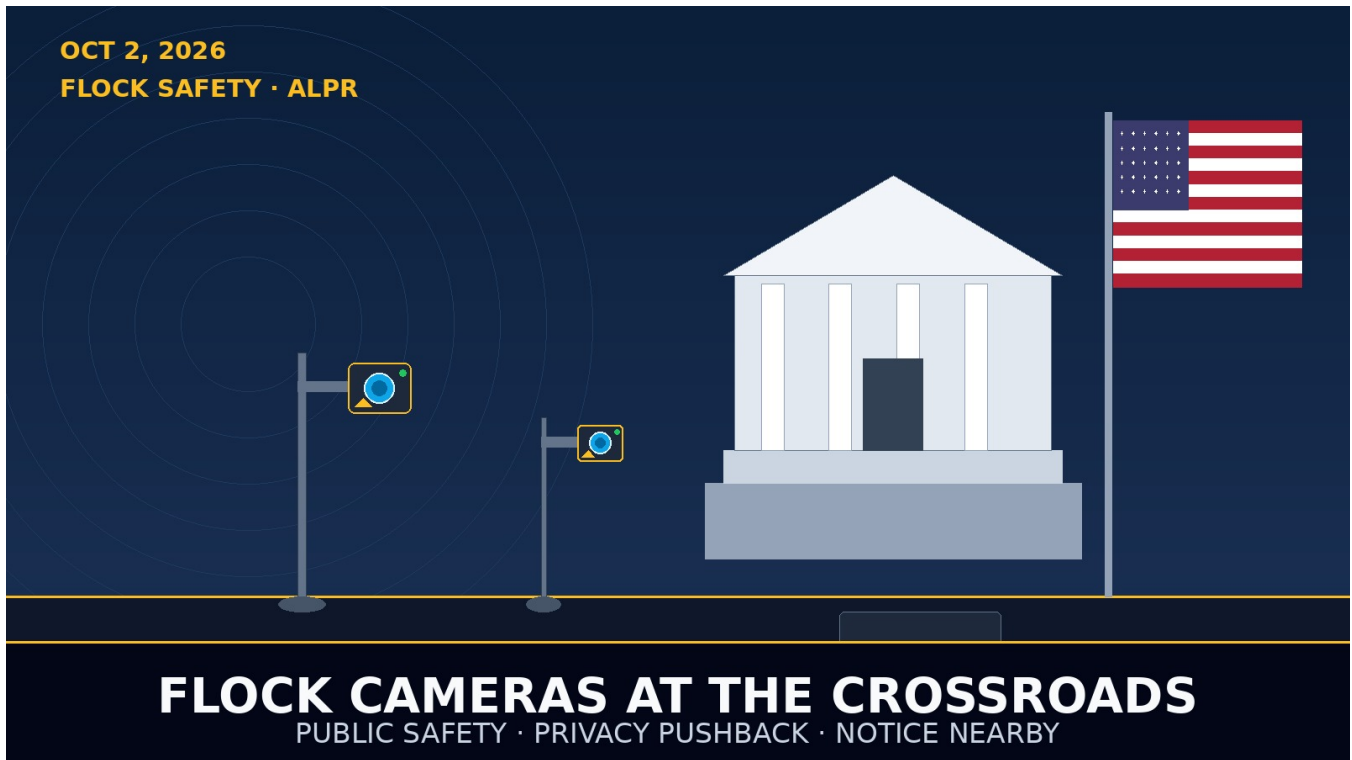


OCT 2, 2026
FLOCK SAFETY · ALPR



FLOCK CAMERAS AT THE CROSSROADS

PUBLIC SAFETY · PRIVACY PUSHBACK · NOTICE NEARBY

Flock Cameras at the Crossroads — Public Safety Tool Meets Privacy Pushback

Public paper · October 2, 2026 · long read · Ryan Standley / Record of Sale, LLC / Notice Nearby

Flock Safety ALPR cameras sit at a civic crossroads — missing-person recoveries and major investigations on one side, privacy pushback and local cancellations on the other. Ink Register's October poll is open through Nov 1.

Along American roadsides, a familiar new silhouette has appeared: a slim camera on a metal pole, pointed at the lane where plates and vehicle outlines pass all day.

Those devices are best known by the brand that supplies many of them — Flock Safety — and by the category name automatic license plate recognition, or ALPR. As of late summer 2026 reporting, the cameras have become a national argument as much as a local tool: departments credit them with finding missing people and supporting major cases, while cities, governors, and privacy advocates cite misuse audits and ask whether the network has grown faster than the rules around it.

Notice Nearby's beat is the public record — hearings, notices, and plain-language civic briefs — not a campaign for or against any vendor. This paper lays out what public coverage says the cameras record, what company and police sources claim they help with, what misuse cases and cancellations have driven the backlash, and where neighbors can cast a vote on Ink Register's October poll (which labels the same subject "Flok Cameras"). Not legal advice. Not a newspaper. Not Legal Publication.

What Flock Safety ALPR cameras record

According to Flock Safety's public description, as summarized in September 2026 national coverage, the cameras capture a vehicle's license plate number and characteristics as it passes. The company says the

devices do not identify individuals inside a given car and do not record continuously. In practice, that means a searchable trail of plates, vehicle looks, and timestamps across a networked map of poles — useful after a crime or a missing-person tip, and concerning to critics who see a location history of drivers who were never suspected of anything.

ALPR is not unique to one firm. Crowdsourced mapping at DeFlock.org has become a common public reference point for how dense the category has grown. The civic question is less “does a camera exist?” than “who may search the network, for how long, and under what audit?”

How wide the network has grown

As of late summer 2026 reporting, more than 135,000 ALPR cameras have been identified nationwide, and about four of every five of those are Flock Safety units, according to crowdsourced data from DeFlock.org cited by ABC News. The company says its cameras operate in 49 states. Those figures are attributed snapshots from public reporting — not Notice Nearby counts, and not a claim that every pole is active or identical in policy.

Density matters because ALPR value scales with sharing. A single town camera can help with a stolen car that stays local; a multi-jurisdiction network can assemble a route after a serious crime. The same scale is what privacy advocates call mass surveillance by another name: everyday driving logged whether or not anyone asked a court for a warrant.

Public-safety uses the company and police cite

Flock Safety’s public impact messaging, as reported in 2026 coverage of its 2025 Impact Census claims, says the technology helped authorities locate more than 10,000 missing people last year and supported roughly 1 million criminal investigations in 2025. Those are company-attributed figures; readers should treat them as the firm’s published estimates, not independent audits.

Law-enforcement case examples also surface in public reporting. Providence Police Chief Oscar Perez said in December coverage that Flock Safety cameras helped identify a vehicle tied to the murder of a Brown University professor; the suspect died before he was located. Criminal-justice lecturers quoted in national coverage have described ALPR networks as useful for reconstructing where a particular car traveled along a route — while also noting that the same systems collect data on many people with no allegation of crime.

Misuse cases that fueled the backlash

Public reporting in 2026 highlighted abuse that turned a public-safety tool into a personal-surveillance story. A Kentucky officer was arrested after authorities alleged he used Flock cameras to track an ex-girlfriend more than 2,000 times — a case that, in coverage, was tied to Flock’s own audit tooling flagging abnormal use. In Savannah, Georgia, six police department employees were fired in August over alleged abuse of Flock cameras, according to local ABC affiliate reporting summarized nationally.

The nonprofit Institute for Justice has said it has identified more than 100 incidents of ALPR abuse, among them stalking and wrongful stops. Separate local cases — including Massachusetts and Louisiana departments cutting ties or firing officers over alleged personal use — reinforced the same theme in late-summer coverage: once a searchable vehicle history exists, misuse risk is not theoretical.

October’s Poll — cast your vote

Ink Register’s October poll asks a plain civic question: “How concerned are you about Flock Cameras tracking people nearby?” Options are Not concerned, Slightly concerned, Very concerned, and Concerned enough to attend a hearing. The poll is open until November 1, 2026, about 12:54 PM PT. Ryan’s poll title uses “Flok”; the

company brand discussed in this paper is Flock Safety — same ALPR subject.

Votes stay on Ink Register. Notice Nearby does not collect or post those ballots. Open the poll here:

<https://inkregister.com/p/how-concerned-are-you-about-flok-cameras-trackin>

(The homepage already carries an outbound October's Poll card to that same URL. This paper's later template can also load the lazy embed at

<https://inkregister.com/embed/how-concerned-are-you-about-flok-cameras-trackin> when the site decides to iframe it.)

Cities, states, and Congress push back

As of late summer 2026 reporting, Politico found that more than 50 cities and counties had canceled or deactivated ALPR systems of the Flock type (and similar) during the year. Pushback has not sorted neatly by party. Florida's Department of Transportation revoked highway ALPR use permits, citing misuse and privacy concerns. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott paused state funding for Flock cameras. Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro said he would welcome a bipartisan bill to ban them in the state. Sen. Josh Hawley announced an investigation into Flock Safety and requested internal documents, writing that Americans do not surrender privacy rights when they drive to work, drop kids at school, or go to church.

Local cancelations and pauses have appeared in both liberal college towns and broader metro debates earlier in the cycle, often mixing cost, immigration-data-sharing fears, and audit findings. The common civic thread is process: town boards, mayors, and state agencies treating ALPR as a policy choice neighbors get to revisit — not a permanent fixture once the poles go up.

Safeguards Flock announced in August

Facing the backlash, Flock Safety publicly described August changes that national outlets summarized: a default data-retention period shortened from 30 days to seven; abnormal-use detection that agencies must use, with lockout when activity meets abuse criteria; and an "Evidence Mode" for preserving data tied to an active investigation. The company's site frames those steps as safeguards for how information is stored, accessed, shared, and reviewed.

Whether those defaults satisfy local councils is now a hearing-room question as much as a product question. Some advocates want warrants before database searches; some departments want to keep networked ALPR with tighter audit trails. Public reporting records both demands without resolving them here.

What this paper is — and is not

This is a Notice Nearby public paper by Ryan Standley / Record of Sale, LLC / Notice Nearby. It summarizes late-summer 2026 public coverage of Flock Safety ALPR cameras — capabilities the company describes, company-attributed outcome claims, reported misuse cases, bipartisan local and state pushback, and August safeguard announcements — and points neighbors to Ink Register's October poll on the same subject (labeled "Flok Cameras" there).

It is not legal advice, not a newspaper, and not Legal Publication. It does not invent camera counts, clearance rates, or poll results. It does not tell any town how to vote on a contract. Numbers above are attributed to named public sources as of late summer 2026 reporting; verify primary coverage before relying on any figure for a hearing packet.

Where to verify

- ABC News (Sep 1, 2026) overview of backlash, DeFlock counts, company claims, misuse cases, and official pushback: <https://abcnews.com/US/flock-cameras-trigger-nationwide-backlash-privacy-concerns-police/story?id=136084771>

- Christian Science Monitor (Sep 4, 2026) on privacy revolt, Florida DOT, and August safeguards: <https://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Society/2026/0904/flock-cameras-privacy-surveillance>

- Crowdsourced ALPR map reference often cited in coverage: <https://deflock.org/>

- Ink Register October poll (votes stay there):
<https://inkregister.com/p/how-concerned-are-you-about-flok-cameras-trackin>

- Lazy poll embed (frame-ancestors *):
<https://inkregister.com/embed/how-concerned-are-you-about-flok-cameras-trackin>

Read the primary articles and your local agenda packets for current contract status. This brief is a civic plain-English companion, not a substitute for the record your council or sheriff publishes.

Notes

- Public facts attributed to late-summer 2026 coverage (ABC Sep 1 2026; CSMonitor Sep 4 2026; company Impact Census claims as reported). No invented stats.
- Ink Register October poll (votes stay on inkregister.com): <https://inkregister.com/p/how-concerned-are-you-about-flok-cameras-trackin> — poll title uses “Flok”; company brand is Flock Safety.
- Author: Ryan Standley / Record of Sale, LLC / Notice Nearby.
- Discussed on @NoticeNearYou: (pending — fill xPostUrl after live post).
- Not legal advice. Not a newspaper. Not Legal Publication. Record of Sale, LLC (Oregon).

Public papers shelf · Flock Safety ALPR privacy/public-safety brief + Ink Register October poll. Unique roadside-camera/flag mural.
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Ink Register embed metadata: October's Poll — <https://inkregister.com/p/how-concerned-are-you-about-flok-cameras-trackin>

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noticenearby.com/papers/flock-cameras-privacy-pushback-2026