

Public Comment — Crossville City Council

Flock Safety ALPR cameras

Good evening, Mayor Crawford, members of Council. Thank you for your time.

I am here about Crossville's Flock Safety automated license plate readers — the cameras that log our vehicles' movements. Mass plate capture usually needs no warrant or suspicion unless the city writes stricter rules.

Public records show Crossville Police subscribed to Flock Falcon cameras in 2022. Vendor Quote Q-00234 proposed 10 cameras and about \$25,000 a year in recurring fees (a non-binding proposal, not an invoice). By September 2025, the Atlas of Surveillance lists 11 Crossville cameras. That is growth without a clear public explanation of locations, costs, or results. As of July 21, 2026, this speaker has not found a city-published search policy or official public camera map.

I support public safety. I also support oversight. These systems are marketed as crime tools. The downside risk falls on Crossville taxpayers if something goes wrong.

Tennessee already has documented problems with this technology:

- In Oak Ridge, a former officer pleaded guilty and was sentenced after using Flock 18 times for personal searches — not law enforcement.
- In Morristown, reporting describes a personalized plate misread as stolen: guns drawn, adults handcuffed, a three-year-old left alone in the vehicle. Morristown separately approved Flock LPRs; this comment does not treat that misread stop as a confirmed Flock-product incident unless a primary local source names Flock.
- Nationally, researchers have catalogued dozens of officer-misuse cases and wrongful ALPR stops — including settlements into the hundreds of thousands and, in one case, \$1.9 million (Aurora Gilliam — an ALPR case, not Flock-branded).

Tennessee's ALPR retention statute limits how long data is kept. It does not shield the City from federal civil-rights lawsuits if a bad stop or misuse occurs. Flock typically leases the cameras as a subscription service and keeps ownership of the hardware. Taxpayers still pay the bills — and any settlements.

What I am asking is modest and practical — not “end policing”:

- Place Flock locations, costs, renewals, sharing agreements, and measured outcomes on a public agenda.
- Publish written rules: retention, who may search, which agencies can query plates, and audit logging.
- Require a supervisor before every plate lookup — no free-text fishing.
- Condition any renewal on a published efficacy report, privacy limits, and a sunset date.

I have a short liability brief drawn from public records and verified case databases. I ask that staff place this item on the next available agenda so Council can deliberate in daylight, before the next renewal.

Thank you.

Sources

Site — CrossvillePrivacy.org: <https://crossvilleprivacy.org/>

Flock Quote Q-00234: <https://crossvilleprivacy.org/docs/FLOCK%20Crossville%20Quote.pdf>

Atlas of Surveillance — Crossville PD ALPR: <https://www.atlasofsurveillance.org/a/TN0180100ALPR>

City Council liability brief (PDF): https://crossvilleprivacy.org/docs/Flock_Liability_Risk_Report_Crossville.pdf

Oak Ridge / Gauthier — WBIR plea:

<https://www.wbir.com/article/news/crime/da-former-oak-ridge-officer-pleads-guilty-23-counts-of-misconduct/51-c7b250d6-0843-4407-a0e2-2ecc68c28>

Gauthier sentence — 3B Media:

<https://3bmedianews.com/former-oak-ridge-police-officer-sentenced-on-23-counts-of-official-misconduct/>

Morristown LOVEY misread — Business Insider: <https://www.businessinsider.com/flock-safety-alpr-cameras-misreads-2026-3>

Gilliam / Aurora \$1.9M ALPR settlement (not Flock) — AP:

<https://apnews.com/article/handcuffed-black-girls-colorado-settlement-a7a695839b8841e56b7db0d103cc5ed1>

TCA 55-10-302: <https://law.justia.com/codes/tennessee/title-55/chapter-10/part-3/section-55-10-302/>

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