

INVESTIGATIVE RESEARCH DATABASE

Police Misuse of Flock Safety & ALPR Systems

Verified Incidents of Stalking, Unauthorized Access & Abuse

A curated, cited compilation of publicly documented cases in which law-enforcement personnel misused automated license plate reader systems - especially Flock Safety - for personal tracking, romantic or domestic stalking, unauthorized searches, or related official-misconduct purposes.

39 unique incidents after deduplication

Compiled 2026-07-14



INCIDENTS BY MISUSE CATEGORY

Classification	Cases	% of total
Romantic Stalking	9	22.6%
Domestic Stalking	3	7.7%
Unauthorized Access / Personal Tracking	3	7.7%
Co-worker Stalking / Harassment	2	5.1%
Flawed AI Recognition / Gunpoint Detention	2	5.1%
Flawed AI Recognition / Wrongful Stop	2	5.1%
Personal Tracking / Stalking	2	5.1%
Conflict of Interest / Unauthorized Search	1	2.6%
Flawed AI Recognition / Excessive Force	1	2.6%

+ 11 additional classifications detailed in summary tables.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

KEY FINDINGS

39	16	15	9
Unique incidents	States represented	Terminated & charged	Criminally charged/indicted

Interpretation caution. Named public cases are an undercount. ALPR misuse often surfaces only via internal complaint, indictment, public-records request, or investigative journalism - not vendor audit marketing.

INCIDENTS BY YEAR

Year	Cases	% of total
2026	17	43.6%
2025	10	25.6%
2024	6	15.4%
2023	2	5.1%
2022	1	2.6%
2021	1	2.6%
2020	2	5.1%

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION BY STATE

State	Cases	% of total
GA	8	20.2%
CA	6	15.4%

PRIMARY LEGAL / EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

Outcome	Cases	% of total
Terminated / Resigned & Criminally Charged	15	38.4%
Criminally Charged / Indicted	9	23.1%
Internal Disciplinary Action / Other	6	15.4%
Civil Lawsuit / Settlement / Dismissed Stop	5	12.8%
Terminated / Resigned (Employment Fallout)	4	10.3%

Year (and Case_ID year prefix) is the canonical chronology key for this database: the year assigned when the case was first catalogued, usually the year of public disclosure, charging, or Case_ID issuance. It is NOT always identical to the year the underlying ALPR queries occurred. Use Incident_Year for the abuse/window year and Resolution_Year for arrest / plea / conviction / termination when known.

ALL MISUSE CLASSIFICATIONS

Classification	Cases	% of total
Romantic Stalking	9	22.6%
Domestic Stalking	3	7.7%
Unauthorized Access / Personal Tracking	3	7.7%
Co-worker Stalking / Harassment	2	5.1%
Flawed AI Recognition / Gunpoint Detention	2	5.1%
Flawed AI Recognition / Wrongful Stop	2	5.1%
Personal Tracking / Stalking	2	5.1%
Conflict of Interest / Unauthorized Search	1	2.6%
Flawed AI Recognition / Excessive Force	1	2.6%
Flawed AI Recognition / False Arrest	1	2.6%
Flawed AI Recognition / False Stop	1	2.6%
Illegal Data Sharing / Mass Surveillance	1	2.6%
Mass Surveillance / Illegal Data Sharing	1	2.6%
Mission Creep / Low-Level Surveillance	1	2.6%
Personal Tracking / Unauthorized Search	1	2.6%
Retaliation / Political Targeting	1	2.6%
Romantic Stalking / GPS Tracking	1	2.6%
Romantic Stalking / Harassment	1	2.6%
Romantic Stalking / Physical Stalking	1	2.6%
Stalking / Kidnapping Facilitation	1	2.6%
Stalking / Unlawful Traffic Stop	1	2.6%

ALL MISUSE CLASSIFICATIONS (CONT.)

Classification	Cases	% of total
Unauthorized Access / Excessive Tracking	1	2.6%
Wrongful Accusation / Flawed AI Evidence	1	2.6%

VERIFIED INCIDENT DOSSIERS

Each dossier summarizes a publicly reported case. Fields unavailable in source material are marked n/a.

INCIDENT 01 | FLK-2026-001

Sgt. Michael Palitz

Pasadena Police Department | TX | 2026

Narrative

An active internal investigation revealed Sgt. Palitz allegedly abused the Pasadena Police Department's Flock Safety license plate reader camera system to track and stalk a female fellow police officer. According to City Council Member Emmanuel Guerrero, the abuse involved such 'overwhelming use' that the automated system itself flagged the account and notified department administrators. Palitz resigned while under active investigation.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Co-worker Stalking / Harassment
Documented searches	Repeated ('Overwhelming Use' Flagged by System)
Incident year	2026
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Automated system flag / internal notification triggered by overwhelming volume of searches
Outcome	Resigned from the police department in July 2026 while under active internal investigation; investigation remains ongoing.
Outcome bucket	Terminated / Resigned (Employment Fallout)
Verification status	Verified
Reference source	KPRC 2 Click2Houston Investigative Report (July 10, 2026)
Source URL	https://www.click2houston.com/news/local/2026/07/10/pasadena-police-sergeant-resigns-while-under-internal-investigation-council-member-cites-alleged-misuse-of-flock-camera/

Notes

KPRC 2 Click2Houston Jul 10 2026: Palitz resigned under investigation; Councilmember Guerrero alleges Flock co-worker stalking; Dept confirms investigation continues.

INCIDENT 02 | FLK-2026-002

Tytianna Davis, Jade Jackson, Nicholas Richardson, Brittney Smith, Issac Whitus (5 Officers)

Albany Police Department | GA | 2026

Narrative

An internal agency audit revealed that five officers repeatedly accessed the city's Flock Safety LPR camera system for personal, non-law enforcement purposes. The officers used automated plate tracking data to monitor individuals without legitimate investigative justification.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Unauthorized Access / Personal Tracking
Documented searches	Repeated (Unspecified)

Incident year	2026
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Internal department audit of Flock ALPR search logs; requested GBI investigation
Outcome	All five officers were terminated immediately and arrested by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI); charged with felony violation of oath of office and misuse of license plate data.
Outcome bucket	Terminated / Resigned & Criminally Charged
Verification status	Verified
Reference source	Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) Official Press Release (July 2026)
Source URL	https://gbi.georgia.gov/press-releases/2026-07-06/gbi-arrests-five-former-albany-police-department-officers-misuse-license
Notes	GBI Jul 6 2026 press release confirms five former Albany officers arrested for Misuse of License Plate Data + Violation of Oath after Flock audit.

INCIDENT 03 | FLK-2026-003

Detective Tehranghi Chapman (Internal Affairs)

Milwaukee Police Department | WI | 2026

Narrative

An Internal Affairs detective assigned to investigate another officer's ALPR stalking case used MPD's Flock camera network 20 times between Jan 2024 and Jan 2025 to stalk two individuals. He logged queries under false justifications like 'training' and 'test', and secretly installed an unauthorized GPS tracking device on one victim's vehicle.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Romantic Stalking / GPS Tracking
Documented searches	20
Incident year	2024-2025
Resolution year	2026
Discovery method	Victim report to police regarding stalking and discovery of physical GPS device
Outcome	Suspended with pay; charged by Milwaukee County DA in July 2026 with felony misconduct in public office and misdemeanor GPS device misuse.
Outcome bucket	Criminally Charged / Indicted
Verification status	Verified
Reference source	Urban Milwaukee / Milwaukee County criminal complaint (Jul 2026)
Source URL	https://urbanmilwaukee.com/2026/07/09/mpd-investigator-in-flock-stalking-case-now-accused-of-own-misuse/

Notes

Urban Milwaukee / FOX6 / TMJ4 Jul 2026: IA Det. Tehranghi Chapman charged with felony misconduct + GPS-device misuse after Flock audit during Ayala investigation; 20 searches logged as training/test.

INCIDENT 04 | FLK-2026-004**Lt. Chris Bryant, Sgt. Mike Creeden, Deputy Cynthia Jodesty**

Cherokee County Sheriff's Office | GA | 2026

Narrative

A self-initiated audit by the agency's Real-Time Intelligence Division uncovered anomalies in Flock search logs involving two supervisors and one deputy. Investigation confirmed all three used LPR cameras to track license plates for personal reasons unrelated to official police duties.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Unauthorized Access / Personal Tracking
Documented searches	Multiple (Unspecified)
Incident year	2026
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Internal audit by Real-Time Intelligence Division
Outcome	All three deputies were fired and arrested; charged with felony violation of oath of office and misdemeanor unlawful retention of license plate reader data.
Outcome bucket	Terminated / Resigned & Criminally Charged
Verification status	Verified
Reference source	Atlanta Journal-Constitution / CBS News Atlanta (June 2026)
Source URL	https://www.ajc.com/news/2026/06/2-more-cherokee-deputies-accused-of-misusing-license-plate-reader-database/

Notes

AJC Jun 2026: Cherokee deputies Cynthia Jodesty, Lt Chris Bryant, Sgt Mike Creeden fired+charged for non-LE LPR database misuse after audit.

INCIDENT 05 | FLK-2026-005**Sheriff's Deputy (Unnamed in state report)**

Richmond County Sheriff's Office | GA | 2026

Narrative

A Richmond County deputy was arrested and charged after an audit revealed they had used the department's automated license plate recognition database for non-law enforcement personal tracking.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety / ALPR
Misuse category	Personal Tracking / Unauthorized Search
Documented searches	Multiple (Unspecified)
Incident year	2026
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Internal department database audit
Outcome	Arrested and criminally charged; employment terminated.
Outcome bucket	Terminated / Resigned & Criminally Charged
Verification status	Cited / aggregator-aligned
Reference source	Atlanta Journal-Constitution Statewide ALPR Audit Report (June 2026)
Source URL	https://www.ajc.com/news/2026/06/georgia-officers-misuse-license-plate-reader-databases-can-they-be-stopped/

Notes

Retained from master workbook; cited source URL present and cross-checked against IJ/AJC/KCUR/EFF aggregator reporting where applicable.

INCIDENT 06 | FLK-2026-006

Deputy Quinsha Goss

Greene County Sheriff's Office | GA | 2026

Narrative

A departmental audit found that Deputy Goss accessed Flock license plate readers to run searches involving at least one license plate for personal reasons over a 3-month period without any law enforcement mandate.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Personal Tracking / Stalking
Documented searches	Multiple (Over 3 Months)
Incident year	2026
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Internal audit of Flock camera search logs
Outcome	Terminated from employment; arrested and charged with violation of oath of office and misuse of LPR data.
Outcome bucket	Terminated / Resigned & Criminally Charged
Verification status	Verified
Reference source	CBS News Atlanta / Greene County Sheriff's Office (June 2026)
Source URL	https://www.ajc.com/news/2026/07/more-georgia-officers-arrested-for-flock-came-ra-misuse-officials-say/

Notes

AJC Jul 2026: Greene County Dep. Quinsha Goss arrested after Flock audit found unauthorized plate queries.

INCIDENT 07 | FLK-2026-007

Officer Cristian Morales

Menasha Police Department | WI | 2026

Narrative

Officer Morales utilized the city's Flock ALPR camera network to track an ex-girlfriend, running multiple unauthorized searches without legitimate investigative justification.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Romantic Stalking
Documented searches	Multiple (Unspecified)
Incident year	2026
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Internal department audit and victim reporting
Outcome	Placed on administrative leave; criminally charged with felony misconduct in public office in Feb 2026.
Outcome bucket	Criminally Charged / Indicted
Verification status	Verified

Reference source The Marshall Project / Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council
Source URL <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2026/03/07/police-camera-wisconsin-california-colorado>

Notes

Marshall Project / IJ: Menasha Officer Cristian Morales; ex-girlfriend complaint; charged misconduct; administrative leave.

INCIDENT 08 | FLK-2026-008**Detective Kyle Rector**

Bonner Springs Police Department | KS | 2026

Narrative

Detective Rector allegedly used automated license plate readers to track his estranged wife and two men he suspected were her new romantic partners without law enforcement authorization.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Romantic Stalking
Documented searches	Multiple (Unspecified)
Incident year	2026
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Internal affairs audit and victim complaint
Outcome	Criminally charged with multiple stalking and computer crime offenses in March 2026.
Outcome bucket	Criminally Charged / Indicted
Verification status	Verified
Reference source	KCUR Radio / Institute for Justice Review
Source URL	https://www.kcur.org/news/2026-06-29/automated-license-plate-readers-alpr-kansas-city-lenexa-weston-police

Notes

KBI/KCTV/KSHB: Kyle Rector fired Jan 26 2026; charged Mar 2026 incl. Flock/LPR stalking of estranged wife + other offenses.

INCIDENT 09 | FLK-2026-009**SFPD Patrol Officer (Unnamed in report)**

San Francisco Police Department | CA | 2026

Narrative

An officer used SFPD's Flock ALPR system to locate his wife's stolen car for personal reasons, violating department rules regarding conflicts of interest. He then posted an image of the vehicle on social media.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Conflict of Interest / Unauthorized Search
Documented searches	1
Incident year	2026
Resolution year	n/a

Discovery method	An officer in a neighboring jurisdiction recognized the unauthorized social media post
Outcome	Subjected to formal internal affairs investigation for violating police surveillance protocols in March 2026.
Outcome bucket	Internal Disciplinary Action / Other
Verification status	Verified
Reference source	The San Francisco Standard / The Marshall Project
Source URL	https://www.themarshallproject.org/2026/03/07/police-camera-wisconsin-california-colorado

Notes

Marshall Project: SFPD officer investigated for ALPR search re: wife stolen car / conflict of interest.

INCIDENT 10 | FLK-2026-010
Patrol Officer (Unnamed in agency disclosure)
Joplin Police Department | MO | 2026

Narrative

An officer was discovered to have abused the department's Flock Safety database by conducting 395 unauthorized searches on a single license plate without any active investigative case.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Unauthorized Access / Excessive Tracking
Documented searches	395
Incident year	2026
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Investigation and records analysis by local transparency group DeFlock Joplin
Outcome	Officer was formally terminated from the police department in January 2026.
Outcome bucket	Terminated / Resigned (Employment Fallout)
Verification status	Cited / aggregator-aligned
Reference source	KCUR Kansas City / DeFlock Joplin Investigation
Source URL	https://www.kcur.org/news/2026-06-29/automated-license-plate-readers-alpr-kansas-city-lenexa-weston-police

Notes

Retained from master workbook; cited source URL present and cross-checked against IJ/AJC/KCUR/EFF aggregator reporting where applicable.

INCIDENT 11 | FLK-2026-011

Sheriff's Deputy Lamar Roman

Monroe County Sheriff's Office | FL | 2026

Narrative

Deputy Roman allegedly used an ALPR system to track and eventually pull over a woman he had met while providing off-duty security on a television set, monitoring her private vehicular movements.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety / ALPR
Misuse category	Stalking / Unlawful Traffic Stop
Documented searches	Multiple (Unspecified)
Incident year	2026
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Victim complaint and internal affairs investigation
Outcome	Arrested in 2026 and charged with accessing a computer or electronic device without authorization.
Outcome bucket	Criminally Charged / Indicted
Verification status	Verified
Reference source	Monroe County SO / Local 10 / Law&Crime (Mar 2026)
Source URL	https://www.local10.com/news/local/2026/03/10/florida-keys-deputy-arrested-on-computer-crimes-charges/

Notes

Local10 / Law&Crime / 404 Media: Dep. Lamar Eliseo Roman fired+arrested Mar 2026; DAVID/ALPR hotlist + unauthorized stop of woman met on Bad Monkey set. Primary Monroe County case. Canonical Monroe County Lamar Roman record (FLK-2024-031 removed as duplicate of this case).

INCIDENT 12 | FLK-2026-012

Officer / Chief William C. Copp

Prairie Grove & Holiday Hills Police Dept. | IL | 2026

Narrative

Officer Copp, who simultaneously served as Police Chief of nearby Holiday Hills, abused authorized police access to search Flock ALPR databases for vehicle locations of several former romantic partners and at least one of their new partners.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Romantic Stalking
Documented searches	Multiple (Unspecified)
Incident year	2026
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Internal police investigation and victim reporting
Outcome	Arrested in 2026 and criminally charged with official misconduct and LPR misuse.
Outcome bucket	Criminally Charged / Indicted
Verification status	Verified
Reference source	Institute for Justice ALPR Stalking Review
Source URL	https://ij.org/police-have-reportedly-used-license-plate-readers-to-stalk/

Notes

IJ Plate Privacy list: Officer/Chief William C. Copp Prairie Grove/Holiday Hills; arrested for Flock searches of former romantic partners.

INCIDENT 13 | FLK-2026-013

Municipal Operators & Federal Agencies

San Francisco PD & Los Altos PD | CA | 2026

Narrative

A class action lawsuit revealed that federal immigration and law enforcement agencies accessed SFPD's Flock cameras over 1.6 million times, while Los Altos shared data over 1 million times with out-of-state agencies, violating California statutory privacy laws designed to protect civil liberties and immigrant communities.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Mass Surveillance / Illegal Data Sharing
Documented searches	2,600,000+ (Systemic)
Incident year	2026
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Public records disclosures and class action legal investigation
Outcome	Class action lawsuit filed by Gibbs Mura against Flock Safety and municipal operators seeking statutory damages (\$2,500/violation) and injunctions.
Outcome bucket	Civil Lawsuit / Settlement / Dismissed Stop
Verification status	Cited / aggregator-aligned
Reference source	Gibbs Mura Class Action Complaint / California Civil Code Sec. 1798.90.54 (April 2026)
Source URL	https://www.classlawgroup.com/flock-safety-license-plate-reader-cameras-lawsuit

Notes

Retained from master workbook; cited source URL present and cross-checked against IJ/AJC/KCUR/EFF aggregator reporting where applicable.

INCIDENT 14 | FLK-2026-014

Detective Gary Gonzales / Patrol Officers

San Diego Police Department | CA | 2026

Narrative

San Diego police relied on a false Flock hit to arrest Ariel Beltran and Parra at gunpoint inside a cigar lounge for an attempted carjacking 5 miles away. The camera hit occurred before the pursuit began, proving physical impossibility, yet police ignored cell phone location alibis and arrested both men.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Flawed AI Recognition / False Arrest
Documented searches	1 (AI Error)
Incident year	2026
Resolution year	n/a

Discovery method	Defense investigation proving physical alibi and impossible timestamp synchronization
Outcome	Criminal charges dismissed; victims filed formal civil rights tort claims seeking \$1.5 million apiece in damages in April 2026.
Outcome bucket	Criminally Charged / Indicted
Verification status	Verified
Reference source	Times of San Diego Legal Investigation (June 2026)
Source URL	https://timesofsandiego.com/crime/2026/06/07/a-flock-license-plate-reader-link-ed-a-san-diego-man-to-a-violent-crime-he-was-five-miles-away/

Notes

Times of San Diego Jun 2026: Hugo Parra AI vehicle match false positive; jailed ~1 month; charges dropped.

INCIDENT 15 | FLK-2026-015

Patrol Officers / Automated System

Plymouth Police Department | MN | 2026

Narrative

A Flock Safety AI camera misread the characters on a passing vehicle's license plate, generating a false positive hit for a wanted vehicle that led officers to initiate an armed stop of an innocent motorist.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Flawed AI Recognition / False Stop
Documented searches	1 (AI Error)
Incident year	2026
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Roadside verification by patrol officers after stop
Outcome	Documented in Institute for Justice national review of automated license plate reader errors; FOX9 news investigation.
Outcome bucket	Internal Disciplinary Action / Other
Verification status	Cited / aggregator-aligned
Reference source	FOX 9 Minneapolis / Institute for Justice ALPR Error Report
Source URL	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aazWpPOyUIs

Notes

Retained from master workbook; cited source URL present and cross-checked against IJ/AJC/KCUR/EFF aggregator reporting where applicable.

INCIDENT 16 | FLK-2026-016

Patrol Officers / Automated System

Cherry Hills Village Police Dept. | CO | 2026

Narrative

Flock Safety camera data led police to conduct an improper traffic stop on an innocent driver due to character misinterpretation and database synchronization errors.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Flawed AI Recognition / Wrongful Stop
Documented searches	1 (AI Error)
Incident year	2026
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Roadside investigation and license plate verification
Outcome	Driver released without charges; documented in national civil rights review of ALPR accuracy failures.
Outcome bucket	Civil Lawsuit / Settlement / Dismissed Stop
Verification status	Cited / aggregator-aligned
Reference source	Institute for Justice ALPR Error Report
Source URL	https://ij.org/dozens-of-innocent-motorists-have-been-pulled-over-detained-at-gunpoint-or-jailed-due-to-ai-license-plate-camera-errors/

Notes

Retained from master workbook; cited source URL present and cross-checked against IJ/AJC/KCUR/EFF aggregator reporting where applicable.

INCIDENT 17 | FLK-2026-017

Patrol Officers / Automated System

Sherwood Police Department | AR | 2026

Narrative

A Flock camera misread the license plate of an SUV, leading officers to detain an innocent couple at gunpoint while their six-week-old baby sat alone in a car seat in the back of the vehicle.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Flawed AI Recognition / Gunpoint Detention
Documented searches	1 (AI Error)
Incident year	2026
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Roadside verification after armed detention
Outcome	Officers admitted the AI camera error on scene ('I'm not gonna say they're completely perfect...'); documented in national civil rights review.
Outcome bucket	Civil Lawsuit / Settlement / Dismissed Stop
Verification status	Cited / aggregator-aligned
Reference source	Institute for Justice ALPR Error Report
Source URL	https://ij.org/dozens-of-innocent-motorists-have-been-pulled-over-detained-at-gunpoint-or-jailed-due-to-ai-license-plate-camera-errors/

Notes

Retained from master workbook; cited source URL present and cross-checked against IJ/AJC/KCUR/EFF aggregator reporting where applicable.

INCIDENT 18 | FLK-2025-018

Officer Josue Ayala

Milwaukee Police Department | WI | 2025

Narrative

Officer Ayala conducted 179 unauthorized searches in the Flock Safety system using a single-word justification ('investigation') to stalk a dating partner (>50 searches) and their ex-partner (>100 searches).

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Romantic Stalking
Documented searches	179
Incident year	2025
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Victim self-searched license plate on haveibeenflocked.com and reported unauthorized police hits to MPD
Outcome	Charged with attempted misconduct in public office; pleaded guilty; resigned from MPD.
Outcome bucket	Terminated / Resigned & Criminally Charged
Verification status	Verified
Reference source	The Marshall Project / Novara Media Investigation
Source URL	https://www.themarshallproject.org/2026/03/07/police-camera-wisconsin-california-colorado

Notes

Marshall Project / Urban Milwaukee / IJ: Ayala ~179 Flock searches of dating partner + ex; charged; pleaded; resigned.

INCIDENT 19 | FLK-2025-019

Police Chief Michael Steffman

Braselton Police Department | GA | 2025

Narrative

Police Chief Steffman abused municipal license plate reader databases to actively track, stalk, and harass multiple people, including a former romantic partner.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety / ALPR
Misuse category	Romantic Stalking / Harassment
Documented searches	Multiple (Unspecified)
Incident year	2025
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) criminal probe
Outcome	Resigned as Police Chief in Nov 2025; arrested by GBI on criminal stalking and misconduct charges.

Outcome bucket	Terminated / Resigned & Criminally Charged
Verification status	Verified
Reference source	Atlanta Journal-Constitution / GBI Report (Nov 2025)
Source URL	https://www.ajc.com/news/2026/06/georgia-officers-misuse-license-plate-reader-databases-can-they-be-stopped/
Notes	AJC/GBI: Braselton Chief Michael Steffman; ALPR misuse + stalking/harassment; resigned then arrested.

INCIDENT 20 | FLK-2025-020

Former Deputy Chris Rozar

Coffee County Sheriff's Office | GA | 2025

Narrative

Deputy Rozar utilized the department's Flock Safety ALPR database to monitor the movements of a woman he was romantically interested in, tracking her vehicle locations without her consent or any active criminal case.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Romantic Stalking
Documented searches	Multiple (Unspecified)
Incident year	2025
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Victim complaint and subsequent internal investigation
Outcome	Fired from the department at the onset of the investigation; criminally charged with multiple offenses.
Outcome bucket	Terminated / Resigned & Criminally Charged
Verification status	Verified
Reference source	Atlanta Journal-Constitution / Institute for Justice
Source URL	https://www.ajc.com/news/2026/06/georgia-officers-misuse-license-plate-reader-databases-can-they-be-stopped/

Notes

IJ/AJC: Coffee County former Dep. Chris Rozar charged after Flock stalking of romantic interest; fired.

INCIDENT 21 | FLK-2025-021

Anna Altobello (Civilian Secretary)

Echols County Sheriff's Office | GA | 2025

Narrative

A civilian secretary at the sheriff's office accessed the agency's Flock Safety account on multiple occasions for non-law enforcement purposes, conducting unauthorized tag searches on two acquaintances.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Personal Tracking / Stalking
Documented searches	Multiple (8 Felony Counts)
Incident year	2025
Resolution year	n/a

Discovery method	Sheriff requested GBI investigation following an external tip
Outcome	Arrested by GBI; charged with 8 counts of Misuse of License Plate Data, Stalking, Family Violence Stalking, and Violation of Oath of Office.
Outcome bucket	Criminally Charged / Indicted
Verification status	Cited / aggregator-aligned
Reference source	Atlanta Journal-Constitution / GBI Investigation
Source URL	https://www.ajc.com/news/2026/06/georgia-officers-misuse-license-plate-reader-databases-can-they-be-stopped/
Notes	Retained from master workbook; cited source URL present and cross-checked against IJ/AJC/KCUR/EFF aggregator reporting where applicable.

INCIDENT 22 | FLK-2025-022

Sgt. Jamie Milliman

Columbine Valley Police Department | CO | 2025

Narrative

Sgt. Milliman relied blindly on a Flock ALPR camera hit to accuse Denver resident Chrisanna Elser of stealing a \$25 package. Police issued a criminal summons without verifying obvious discrepancies. Elser had to obtain her own vehicle's onboard Rivian video to prove she was miles away when the theft occurred.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Wrongful Accusation / Flawed AI Evidence
Documented searches	1 (AI Error)
Incident year	2025
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Victim presented video alibi proving the Flock hit and police accusation completely false
Outcome	Criminal summons voided; town administrator announced formal disciplinary action against Sgt. Milliman.
Outcome bucket	Criminally Charged / Indicted
Verification status	Verified
Reference source	The Colorado Sun / 404 Media Investigation
Source URL	https://coloradosun.com/2025/10/28/flock-camera-police-colorado-columbine-valley/

Notes

Colorado Sun Oct 28 2025 (and Nov discipline follow-ups): Sgt Milliman / Chrisanna Elser wrongful package-theft summons via Flock; summons voided; reprimand + training.

INCIDENT 23 | FLK-2025-023

Officer Roberto Cedeno

Louisville Metro Police Department | KY | 2025

Narrative

Officer Cedeno utilized the city's automated license plate reader system to track an ex-partner and her friends hundreds of times over a two-month period without any legitimate law enforcement objective.

Record fields	
System / vendor	Flock Safety / ALPR
Misuse category	Romantic Stalking
Documented searches	Hundreds
Incident year	2025
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Internal affairs audit and victim reporting
Outcome	Arrested and charged with multiple felony offenses; terminated from police employment.
Outcome bucket	Terminated / Resigned & Criminally Charged
Verification status	Verified
Reference source	Institute for Justice Nationwide ALPR Review
Source URL	https://ij.org/police-have-reportedly-used-license-plate-readers-to-stalk/

Notes

IJ: Louisville Officer Roberto Cedeno charged after ALPR tracking of ex + friends hundreds of times.

INCIDENT 24 | FLK-2025-024

Deputy Welch

King County Sheriff's Office / Covington | WA | 2025

Narrative

Deputy Welch received a false Flock Safety alert for a stolen van, drove to a gas station, and tackled an innocent man to the ground, grabbing his waist and forcing him face-down onto pavement in a violent wrongful detention.

Record fields	
System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Flawed AI Recognition / Excessive Force
Documented searches	1 (AI Error)
Incident year	2025
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	King County Office of Law Enforcement Oversight (OLEO) independent investigation
Outcome	Formal oversight investigation confirming lack of probable cause and reliance on unverified Flock alert.
Outcome bucket	Internal Disciplinary Action / Other
Verification status	Cited / aggregator-aligned
Reference source	King County OLEO Investigation Report #2025-006
Source URL	https://cdn.kingcounty.gov/-/media/king-county/independent/governance-and-leadership/government-oversight/office-of-law-enforcement-oversight/investigation-findings-memos/2026/oleo2025-006-fir.pdf

Notes

Retained from master workbook; cited source URL present and cross-checked against IJ/AJC/KCUR/EFF aggregator reporting where applicable.

INCIDENT 25 | FLK-2025-025

City Police Department / Municipal Leadership

City of El Cajon | CA | 2025

Narrative

The City of El Cajon systematically violated California law by sharing Flock ALPR data feeds with out-of-state police agencies and federal border/immigration authorities without required legal guardrails or statutory oversight.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Illegal Data Sharing / Mass Surveillance
Documented searches	Systemic (Continuous)
Incident year	2025
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Investigation by California Office of the Attorney General
Outcome	California Attorney General Rob Bonta filed a formal lawsuit against the City of El Cajon in Oct 2025 to halt illegal ALPR data sharing.
Outcome bucket	Civil Lawsuit / Settlement / Dismissed Stop
Verification status	Cited / aggregator-aligned
Reference source	California Attorney General Lawsuit / CalECPA (Oct 2025)
Source URL	https://www.classlawgroup.com/flock-safety-license-plate-reader-cameras-lawsuit

Notes

Retained from master workbook; cited source URL present and cross-checked against IJ/AJC/KCUR/EFF aggregator reporting where applicable.

INCIDENT 26 | FLK-2025-026

School Police Officers

Buford City Schools Police Department | GA | 2025

Narrative

Between Jan 2025 and March 2026, school police ran more than 375 searches in ALPR tracking databases for low-level 'school residency verification' (RV), representing severe surveillance mission creep without criminal predicate.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety / ALPR
Misuse category	Mission Creep / Low-Level Surveillance
Documented searches	375+
Incident year	2025
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) nationwide audit log analysis
Outcome	Exposed nationally by EFF as an unchecked administrative shortcut around legal due process.

Outcome bucket	Internal Disciplinary Action / Other
Verification status	Cited / aggregator-aligned
Reference source	Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) Deep Links Investigation
Source URL	https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2026/05/more-license-plate-reader-mission-creep-school-residency-verification-background
Notes	Retained from master workbook; cited source URL present and cross-checked against IJ/AJC/KCUR/EFF aggregator reporting where applicable.

INCIDENT 27 | FLK-2025-027

Officer Zachary D. Gauthier

Oak Ridge Police Department | TN | 2025

Narrative

Former Oak Ridge PD Officer Zachary Gauthier accessed the Flock ALPR system 18 times for personal (non-law-enforcement) use between February 25 and March 25, 2025, and also misused Accurint, the State Link System, and his patrol-car computer. An Anderson County Grand Jury indicted him on 23 counts of official misconduct (Class E felony) on July 1, 2025-18 counts specifically for Flock misuse. He was placed on leave April 21, 2025, fired April 24, 2025, and pleaded guilty to all 23 counts on March 23, 2026 (48 hours custody, supervised probation, POST surrender, judicial diversion eligibility). Oak Ridge shares Flock data within the same East Tennessee network as Maryville.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Unauthorized Access / Personal Tracking
Documented searches	18 (Flock-specific counts of 23 total)
Incident year	2025
Resolution year	2026
Discovery method	Internal Oak Ridge PD complaints referred to Anderson County District Attorney General Dave Clark for independent investigation
Outcome	Terminated April 24, 2025; indicted July 1, 2025 on 23 counts of official misconduct; pleaded guilty March 23, 2026.
Outcome bucket	Terminated / Resigned & Criminally Charged
Verification status	Verified
Reference source	Maryville Residents for Privacy / WBIR 10News / WATE 6 News / Anderson County DA
Source URL	https://www.maryvilleprivacy.org/

Notes

Documented on [maryvilleprivacy.org](https://www.maryvilleprivacy.org/) (East TN regional Flock network context). Corroborated by WBIR indictment/plea coverage, WATE indictment detail (18 Flock counts), WVLT plea reporting (Mar 23, 2026), and Anderson County Grand Jury / DA Clark statements.

INCIDENT 28 | FLK-2024-027

Officer Jaila Cole-Clark

Matteson Police Department | IL | 2024

Narrative

Officer Cole-Clark conducted hundreds of unauthorized searches in the department's Flock Safety database to monitor the daily driving routes of her former domestic partner and that person's new partner.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Romantic Stalking
Documented searches	Hundreds
Incident year	2024
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Internal investigation triggered by complaint; documents obtained via FOIA by stopflock.org
Outcome	Officer resigned from the police department during the middle of the internal affairs investigation.
Outcome bucket	Terminated / Resigned (Employment Fallout)
Verification status	Verified
Reference source	Institute for Justice Review / stopflock.org FOIA
Source URL	https://ij.org/police-have-reportedly-used-license-plate-readers-to-stalk/

Notes

IJ/stopflock.org: Matteson Officer Jaila Cole-Clark; hundreds of Flock searches of former domestic partner; resigned mid-investigation.

INCIDENT 29 | FLK-2024-028

Officer Jarmarus Brown

Orange City Police Department | FL | 2024

Narrative

Officer Brown allegedly used automated license plate readers to stalk his girlfriend and her family members more than 100 times over a seven-month span without any investigative basis.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety / ALPR
Misuse category	Romantic Stalking
Documented searches	100+
Incident year	2024
Resolution year	2025
Discovery method	Internal audit and victim complaint
Outcome	Arrested and criminally charged in 2025; terminated from the police department.
Outcome bucket	Terminated / Resigned & Criminally Charged
Verification status	Verified
Reference source	Institute for Justice ALPR Stalking Review
Source URL	https://ij.org/police-have-reportedly-used-license-plate-readers-to-stalk/

Notes

IJ: Orange City Officer Jarmarus Brown; 100+ ALPR hits on girlfriend/family; arrested 2025.

INCIDENT 30 | FLK-2024-029

Deputy Alexander Vanny

Riverside County Sheriff's Department | CA | 2024

Narrative

After being arrested for kidnapping his ex-fiancée, forensic audits revealed Deputy Vanny had used the department's ALPR system to illegally track one of her close friends to monitor their movements and gather intelligence.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety / ALPR
Misuse category	Stalking / Kidnapping Facilitation
Documented searches	Multiple (Unspecified)
Incident year	2024
Resolution year	2025
Discovery method	Criminal investigation into domestic kidnapping and stalking
Outcome	Convicted by jury in Dec 2025 on multiple felony charges; terminated from Sheriff's Department.
Outcome bucket	Terminated / Resigned & Criminally Charged
Verification status	Verified
Reference source	Institute for Justice / Riverside County DA
Source URL	https://ij.org/police-have-reportedly-used-license-plate-readers-to-stalk/

Notes

IJ: Riverside Dep. Alexander Vanny; Flock tracking of ex-fiancée friend after kidnapping arrest; convicted Dec 2025.

INCIDENT 31 | FLK-2024-030

Deputy Thadius Gordon

Shelby County Sheriff's Office | TN | 2024

Narrative

Deputy Gordon accessed county ALPR tracking databases more than 100 times to stalk his ex-wife and monitor her vehicular movements across the jurisdiction without law enforcement purpose.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety / ALPR
Misuse category	Domestic Stalking
Documented searches	100+
Incident year	2024
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Victim complaint and internal audit
Outcome	Relieved of duty by Sheriff's Office; subjected to internal and criminal investigation.
Outcome bucket	Terminated / Resigned & Criminally Charged
Verification status	Verified
Reference source	Institute for Justice Nationwide ALPR Stalking Report

Source URL <https://ij.org/police-have-reportedly-used-license-plate-readers-to-stalk/>

Notes

IJ: Shelby County Dep. Thadius Gordon; 100+ ALPR tracks of ex-wife; relieved of duty.

INCIDENT 32 | FLK-2024-032
Patrol Officers / Automated System

York County Sheriff's Office | SC | 2024

Narrative

An automated Flock camera misread alphanumeric characters on a passing license plate, generating an erroneous stolen vehicle alert that resulted in an improper traffic stop of an innocent driver.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Flawed AI Recognition / Wrongful Stop
Documented searches	1 (AI Error)
Incident year	2024
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Roadside verification of vehicle registration and VIN
Outcome	Driver released; documented in Institute for Justice database of automated license plate reader errors.
Outcome bucket	Internal Disciplinary Action / Other
Verification status	Cited / aggregator-aligned
Reference source	Institute for Justice ALPR Error Report
Source URL	https://ij.org/dozens-of-innocent-motorists-have-been-pulled-over-detained-at-gunpoint-or-jailed-due-to-ai-license-plate-camera-errors/

Notes

Retained from master workbook; cited source URL present and cross-checked against IJ/AJC/KCUR/EFF aggregator reporting where applicable.

INCIDENT 33 | FLK-2024-033
Former Officer Coty Hall

Niceville Police Department | FL | 2024

Narrative

Officer Hall utilized the department's Flock camera network to unlawfully track the personal driving routes and movements of a fellow police officer and that officer's spouse.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Co-worker Stalking / Harassment
Documented searches	Multiple (Unspecified)
Incident year	2024
Resolution year	2025
Discovery method	Internal department audit and complaint
Outcome	Pleaded no contest to criminal charges; fired from the police department following arrest.
Outcome bucket	Terminated / Resigned & Criminally Charged

Verification status	Verified
Reference source	Institute for Justice / Florida Court Records
Source URL	https://ij.org/police-have-reportedly-used-license-plate-readers-to-stalk/
Notes	IJ: Niceville Officer Coty Hall; Flock tracking of coworker+spouse; pleaded no contest; fired (arrest ~Oct 2025).

INCIDENT 34 | FLK-2023-034

Officer Robert Josett

Costa Mesa Police Department | CA | 2023

Narrative

Officer Josett utilized a Flock camera system to track the movements of his mistress as well as her other romantic interests over an extended period without law enforcement authorization.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Romantic Stalking
Documented searches	Multiple (Extended Period)
Incident year	2023
Resolution year	2026
Discovery method	Internal affairs audit and complaint
Outcome	Pleaded guilty to multiple criminal charges in April 2026; employment terminated.
Outcome bucket	Terminated / Resigned & Criminally Charged
Verification status	Verified
Reference source	Institute for Justice / California Court Records
Source URL	https://ij.org/police-have-reportedly-used-license-plate-readers-to-stalk/

Notes

IJ: Costa Mesa Officer Robert Josett; Flock track of mistress; pleaded guilty Apr 2026.

INCIDENT 35 | FLK-2023-035

Police Chief Lee Nygaard

Sedgwick Police Department | KS | 2023

Narrative

Police Chief Nygaard used Flock cameras to track his ex-girlfriend's vehicles 228 times over four months and followed her and her new boyfriend in his police cruiser using real-time location alerts.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Romantic Stalking / Physical Stalking
Documented searches	228
Incident year	2023
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Internal investigation and county reporting

Outcome	Resigned as Police Chief under investigation; documented by ACLU and Institute for Justice.
Outcome bucket	Terminated / Resigned (Employment Fallout)
Verification status	Verified
Reference source	ACLU of Wisconsin / KCUR Report
Source URL	https://www.aclu-wi.org/news/what-the-flock-police-surveillance-is-ripe-for-abuse/

Notes

IJ/ACLU-WI: Sedgwick Chief Lee Nygaard; 200+ Flock hits on ex + boyfriend; resigned.

INCIDENT 36 | FLK-2022-036**Lt. Victor Heiar**

Kechi Police Department | KS | 2022

Narrative

Lt. Heiar abused municipal Flock license plate tracking databases to monitor the movements of his estranged wife without her consent or any criminal investigation.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety
Misuse category	Domestic Stalking
Documented searches	Multiple (Unspecified)
Incident year	2022
Resolution year	2023
Discovery method	Victim complaint and internal audit
Outcome	Pleaded guilty to criminal computer crime and stalking charges; terminated from police employment.
Outcome bucket	Terminated / Resigned & Criminally Charged
Verification status	Verified
Reference source	KCUR Radio / Kansas Court Records
Source URL	https://www.kcur.org/news/2026-06-29/automated-license-plate-readers-alpr-kansas-city-lenexa-weston-police

Notes

IJ: Kechi Lt Victor Heiar; Flock track of estranged wife; pleaded guilty (IJ lists 2023 resolution year).

INCIDENT 37 | FLK-2021-037**Officer Michael McSherry**

Westmoreland County | PA | 2021

Narrative

Officer McSherry repeatedly accessed automated license plate reader networks to track the vehicular movements of his estranged wife and several other family members.

Record fields

System / vendor	ALPR / Automated Systems
Misuse category	Domestic Stalking
Documented searches	Repeated (Unspecified)
Incident year	2021

Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Internal police audit and criminal investigation
Outcome	Pleaded guilty to criminal stalking charges; stripped of police powers and employment.
Outcome bucket	Criminally Charged / Indicted
Verification status	Verified
Reference source	Institute for Justice ALPR Stalking Review
Source URL	https://ij.org/police-have-reportedly-used-license-plate-readers-to-stalk/

Notes

IJ: Westmoreland Officer Michael McSherry; pleaded guilty to stalking via plate readers of estranged wife/family.

INCIDENT 38 | FLK-2020-038**Police Department Leadership / Patrol Officers**

Lenexa Police Department | KS | 2020

Narrative

After citizen Canyen Ashworth published a newspaper op-ed critical of local police cooperation with ICE, police retaliated by linking him to anti-ICE posters put up with glue around town. The Police Chief issued a 'MYOC' (Make Your Own Case) BOLO and utilized ALPR cameras to actively track his vehicle around town to manufacture a reason for a traffic stop.

Record fields

System / vendor	Flock Safety / ALPR
Misuse category	Retaliation / Political Targeting
Documented searches	Multiple (Unspecified)
Incident year	2020
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Open records request by KCUR radio and legal intervention by ACLU of Kansas
Outcome	Exposed nationally by ACLU as unconstitutional First Amendment retaliation and mass-surveillance abuse.
Outcome bucket	Internal Disciplinary Action / Other
Verification status	Cited / aggregator-aligned
Reference source	ACLU of Kansas / KCUR Radio Report
Source URL	https://www.aclu.org/news/privacy-technology/tracking-alpr-cameras/alpr-against-op-ed-writer

Notes

Retained from master workbook; cited source URL present and cross-checked against IJ/AJC/KCUR/EFF aggregator reporting where applicable.

INCIDENT 39 | FLK-2020-039

Patrol Officers / Automated System

Aurora Police Department | CO | 2020

Narrative

An ALPR system erroneously flagged Brittney Gilliam's minivan as a stolen vehicle (matching the plate number of a stolen motorcycle from Montana). Officers conducted a high-risk gunpoint stop, forcing four children (ages 6 to 17) to lie face-down in handcuffs on hot pavement before verifying the obvious vehicle mismatch.

Record fields

System / vendor	ALPR (In-car / Automated Reader)
Misuse category	Flawed AI Recognition / Gunpoint Detention
Documented searches	1 (AI Error)
Incident year	2020
Resolution year	n/a
Discovery method	Viral bystander video by Jennifer Wurtz and internal police review
Outcome	City paid \$2.99 million settlement to the family; police issued formal apology; state legislature reformed high-risk traffic stop protocols.
Outcome bucket	Civil Lawsuit / Settlement / Dismissed Stop
Verification status	Verified
Reference source	Institute for Justice ALPR Review / CBS News Colorado
Source URL	https://ij.org/dozens-of-innocent-motorists-have-been-pulled-over-detained-at-gunpoint-or-jailed-due-to-ai-license-plate-camera-errors/

Notes

Widely reported Aurora Gilliam family Flock hit / gunpoint stop; multi-million settlement corpus.