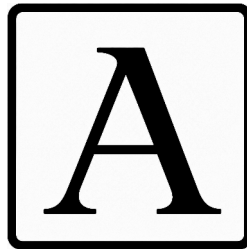


# FLOCK SAFETY

## Research & Source Document



Supporting research for

*“Flock : Does This Belong in Our Kind of Country?”*

[\[ Article Link \]](#)

Prepared August 9, 2026

*Independent source research conducted from the published draft as the research guide.*

## Sources

*Curated sources supporting the article's factual claims, examples, and conclusion. Headline and date are the link.*

- [Flock Highlighted Police Departments Using Its Tech. Now 4 Face Allegations of Misuse — August 6, 2026](#)
- [Flock cameras are everywhere. Here's how they track cars. — August 3, 2026](#)
- [Monroe County cancels contract with Flock Safety — July 26, 2026](#)
- [5 Georgia officers fired, arrested for misusing access to city's Flock cameras, GBI says — July 7, 2026](#)
- [More License Plate Reader Mission Creep: School Residency Verification, Background Checks, and Noise Complaints — May 26, 2026](#)
- [Oxnard Police Department Suspends Use of Flock Safety Automated License Plate Readers — February 27, 2026](#)
- [City Council Terminates Automated License Plate Reader Contract with Flock Safety — February 25, 2026](#)
- [EFF's Investigations Expose Flock Safety's Surveillance Abuses: 2025 in Review — December 30, 2025](#)
- [Flagstaff cancels controversial contract for Flock Safety cameras — December 19, 2025](#)
- [Border Patrol is monitoring US drivers and detaining those with 'suspicious' travel patterns — November 20, 2025](#)
- [How Cops Are Using Flock Safety's ALPR Network to Surveil Protesters and Activists — November 2025](#)
- [Flock Safety and Texas Sheriff Claimed License Plate Search Was for a Missing Person. It Was an Abortion Investigation. — October 7, 2025](#)
- [License plate camera company halts cooperation with federal agencies among investigation concerns — August 25, 2025](#)
- [Syracuse police 'inadvertently' exposed driver data to thousands of cops around the country — July 4, 2025](#)
- [Victory! Austin Organizers Cancel City's Flock ALPR Contract — June 2025](#)
- [She Got an Abortion. So A Texas Cop Used 83,000 Cameras to Track Her Down. — May 30, 2025](#)
- [Federal Court Rejects Flock Safety's Late Bid to Join and Block IJ's Lawsuit Challenging Norfolk's Mass-Surveillance Cameras — May 28, 2025](#)
- [Anti-Surveillance Mapmaker Refuses Flock Safety's Cease and Desist Demand — February 2025](#)
- [Judge Rules Lawsuit Challenging Norfolk's Use of Flock Cameras Can Proceed — February 6, 2025](#)
- [Flock Safety Acquires Aerodome, Expands Into Drones — October 17, 2024](#)
- [Aerodome and Flock Safety Forge Strategic Partnership to Expand Drone-As-First-Responder Technology — July 24, 2024](#)
- [Flock Safety Reveals Expanded Product Suite, Bringing Vehicular, Audio, and Video Evidence Under One Public Safety Platform — May 17, 2023](#)
- [Flock Safety announces \\$150 million in Series D funding — July 13, 2021](#)
- [Flock Safety raised \\$47M to solve more crime and protect privacy — November 2, 2020](#)

## Associated Timeline

*Selected milestones showing Flock’s growth in scale, customers, capabilities, controversies, litigation, and significant institutional responses.*

| Date             | Development                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2017             | Flock Safety is founded in Atlanta. The company develops its first automated license-plate-reader camera prototype.                                                                                                                                            |
| 2018             | Flock lists its first solved crime and first news coverage among its early company milestones.                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2019             | Jersey Village, Texas becomes Flock’s first police customer, according to Flock’s company history.                                                                                                                                                             |
| 2020             | Flock lists its first AMBER Alert success. In November, it announces \$47 million in new funding.                                                                                                                                                              |
| July 2021        | Flock raises \$150 million in Series D funding and says its technology is being used in more than 1,200 U.S. cities.                                                                                                                                           |
| 2021             | Flock expands beyond license-plate recognition with Raven gunshot detection.                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2022             | Flock raises a Series E at a reported \$3.5 billion valuation.                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| August 2022      | Flock reports expansion to more than 2,000 cities.                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| October 2022     | Flock reports partnerships with more than 1,500 law-enforcement agencies.                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| April 2023       | A police department describing the network reports Flock cameras tied into more than 2,000 cities in 42 states and collectively capturing more than one billion vehicles per month.                                                                            |
| May 2023         | Flock unveils an expanded public-safety platform combining vehicle recognition, Raven audio detection, Condor video, and FlockOS.                                                                                                                              |
| 2023             | Flock’s company history lists launches of FlockOS, fixed video, a mobile app, and a long-range LPR camera.                                                                                                                                                     |
| 2024             | Public reporting places Flock fixed cameras in more than 4,000 U.S. communities across 42 states.                                                                                                                                                              |
| July 24, 2024    | Flock and Aerodome announce a Drone-as-First-Responder partnership. The announcement says Flock has more than 5,000 law-enforcement partners.                                                                                                                  |
| October 17, 2024 | Flock acquires Aerodome, adding drone and remote-piloting technology.                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| October 21, 2024 | A federal lawsuit challenges Norfolk, Virginia’s dense Flock network as prolonged, warrantless surveillance under the Fourth Amendment.                                                                                                                        |
| January 6, 2025  | Flock says its camera network is present in more than 5,000 communities across 49 states.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| February 6, 2025 | A federal judge allows the Norfolk Fourth Amendment challenge to proceed.                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| March 13, 2025   | Flock raises \$275 million at a reported \$7.5 billion valuation.                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| May 28, 2025     | Flock says more than 5,000 law-enforcement agencies and more than 6,000 communities use its technology.                                                                                                                                                        |
| May 30, 2025     | EFF reports a Texas officer searched 6,809 Flock networks encompassing more than 83,000 cameras in an abortion-related investigation.                                                                                                                          |
| June 2025        | Austin organizers succeed in ending the city’s Flock ALPR contract.                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| July 4, 2025     | Syracuse reports its data had been exposed to nationwide searching despite contract language limiting sharing. Police around the country had searched Syracuse data nearly 4.4 million times since June 2024; 2,097 searches were labeled immigration-related. |
| August 25, 2025  | Flock pauses federal pilot programs with Customs and Border Protection and Homeland Security Investigations after scrutiny of federal access and data-sharing safeguards.                                                                                      |
| September 2025   | Flock says more than 30,000 livestreams have been deployed nationwide as its video product line expands.                                                                                                                                                       |
| October 7, 2025  | EFF reports that the Texas abortion-related search had been characterized to Flock as a missing-person investigation, adding new questions about stated search purpose and oversight.                                                                          |

## Associated Timeline (cont'd)

| Date              | Development                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 17, 2025  | Flock announces Drone-as-First-Responder software upgrades including Vehicle Follow, in-flight LPR, and multi-drone operations. Flock says Vehicle Follow lets a drone autonomously follow a selected vehicle.                          |
| October 23, 2025  | Puyallup, Washington reports an autonomous Drone-as-First-Responder aircraft self-dispatched after a Flock stolen-vehicle alert and located the vehicle.                                                                                |
| November 2025     | EFF reports use of Flock searches involving protesters and activists.                                                                                                                                                                   |
| November 20, 2025 | An Associated Press investigation reports Border Patrol using nationwide license-plate-reader data and algorithms to flag drivers based on travel patterns deemed suspicious; the reporting identifies Flock as one source of LPR data. |
| December 19, 2025 | Flagstaff, Arizona votes unanimously to end its Flock contract after months of privacy concerns.                                                                                                                                        |
| December 30, 2025 | EFF's year-end review summarizes multiple documented Flock controversies and surveillance-use cases from 2025.                                                                                                                          |
| February 25, 2026 | Mountain View, California terminates its Flock contract after an audit found federal and state agencies accessed city data in violation of local policy.                                                                                |
| February 27, 2026 | Oxnard, California suspends fixed Flock ALPR use after finding unauthorized nationwide querying; Oxnard says Flock accepted responsibility for the platform error.                                                                      |
| May 26, 2026      | EFF reports Flock searches being used for school-residency verification, background checks, and noise complaints, illustrating expansion beyond major-crime investigations.                                                             |
| July 6–7, 2026    | Five former Albany, Georgia police officers are arrested after an internal audit identifies alleged use of retained Flock license-plate data for non-law-enforcement purposes.                                                          |
| July 26, 2026     | Monroe County, Indiana votes to terminate its Flock contract early, citing privacy concerns while acknowledging the technology's crime-fighting utility.                                                                                |
| August 3, 2026    | Business Insider reports roughly 120,000 Flock cameras operating in 49 states.                                                                                                                                                          |
| August 6, 2026    | WIRED reports that four police departments previously highlighted in Flock promotional material face allegations of misuse; Savannah's audit alone identified 127 inappropriate searches among roughly 39,000.                          |
| August 2026       | Flock's website says more than 12,000 communities trust the platform nationwide.                                                                                                                                                        |

# Background

## Who Flock Safety Is

Flock Safety is a privately held, Atlanta-based public-safety technology company founded in 2017 by Garrett Langley, Matt Feury, and Paige Todd. It began with vehicle-identification cameras and has expanded into a connected platform serving law enforcement, municipalities, businesses, schools, neighborhoods, and other organizations.

## Stated Mission

Flock describes its mission as eliminating crime. Its current platform is organized around detection, investigation, and response rather than license-plate cameras alone.

## Scale

**2021** — More than 1,200 U.S. cities.

**2022** — More than 2,000 cities; more than 1,500 law-enforcement agency partners.

**2023** — More than 2,000 cities in 42 states reported by an agency describing the network; more than one billion vehicle captures per month.

**2024** — Public reporting places Flock fixed cameras in more than 4,000 communities across 42 states; the Flock/Aerodome partnership announcement says more than 5,000 law-enforcement partners.

**Jan. 2025** — Flock says more than 5,000 communities across 49 states.

**May 2025** — Flock says more than 5,000 law-enforcement agencies and more than 6,000 communities.

**Aug. 2026** — Roughly 120,000 cameras in 49 states reported by Business Insider; Flock says more than 12,000 communities trust the platform.

## What LPR Data Means

Flock uses the term LPR data for more than a license-plate number. Its own materials describe searchable vehicle-centric data that can include plate characters, time, location, vehicle make, color, body type, and distinguishing features such as a roof rack, bumper sticker, or missing hubcap. Flock's Evidence Policy also refers to stored vehicle and plate images.

## Current Capabilities

- Automated license-plate recognition and vehicle-characteristic search.
- Cross-agency and nationwide LPR-network searching where sharing is enabled.
- Real-time alerts tied to hotlists and other law-enforcement databases.
- Live and recorded video, including fixed cameras and mobile security systems.
- Gunshot and audio detection.
- FlockOS / Flock Safety Platform software integrating Flock and third-party evidence and feeds.
- Mobile access to alerts, searches, incident video, and investigative tools.
- Natural-language search tools for video and LPR data.
- Drone-as-First-Responder systems, including automated dispatch, in-flight LPR, multi-drone operations, and autonomous vehicle-follow capability.

## Background (cont'd)

### Retention, Downloads, and Audit Records

Flock describes 30 days as the default retention period for LPR data, not an absolute retention period for every customer. Flock says the actual period is set by contract and applicable law or policy; some jurisdictions use shorter periods and others use longer periods. Flock's Evidence Policy states that customers may receive extended LPR retention of up to one year when the longer period is not already required by law, provided the agency first obtains approval from an elected official and/or governing body.

Flock also expressly provides for LPR images to be downloaded and stored before the retention period expires, including procedures for authenticating previously downloaded images after the original Flock retention period has ended. Separately, Flock states that "comprehensive audit trails are retained indefinitely." Flock transparency portals likewise state that system access or access records are stored or retained indefinitely.

Flock says its configured cloud deletion is enforced through AWS lifecycle policies and tested through its annual SOC 2 Type II audit. The public materials reviewed for this report do not fully establish the contents of the indefinitely retained audit trails or the treatment and retention schedule, if any, for backup or disaster-recovery copies. Accordingly, "30-day retention" is best understood as Flock's default retention period for specified LPR data, subject to the company's stated exceptions and customer configuration.

### Documented Sharing and Access Problems

Several documented incidents show that configured policy and actual access have not always matched. Syracuse Police said it inadvertently enabled nationwide sharing even though its contract stated that SPD data was not to be shared outside the department; its data was included in nearly 4.4 million searches over roughly a year. In 2026, Mountain View reported that federal and state agencies had accessed its data in violation of city policy, and Oxnard said a Flock platform error enabled unauthorized nationwide querying.

### Constitutional Litigation

A federal lawsuit challenges Norfolk, Virginia's use of a dense Flock-camera network as warrantless, prolonged vehicle-location surveillance under the Fourth Amendment. In February 2025 the federal court allowed the constitutional claim to proceed. That ruling was not a final holding that Flock systems are unconstitutional; it allowed the challenge to continue.

### To Be Continued

Two issues identified during this research warrant separate follow-up rather than expansion of this document: (1) the complete data lifecycle behind Flock's 30-day default retention claim, including extended retention, exported records, indefinitely retained audit trails, and backup/disaster-recovery handling; and (2) Flock's Drone-as-First-Responder platform, including automated dispatch, autonomous vehicle follow, in-flight LPR, and multi-drone operations.