

SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

NOVEMBER 15, 2022

The Safety Committee meeting was held on November 15, 2022 at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chair Mike Vos, Vice Chair Jeremy Dietrich, Dawn Carbone-McDonald; **Council:** Paul Marnecheck, Linda Barath, Joanne Krejci, John Nickell; **Administration:** Mayor Larry Antoskiewicz, Fire Chief Robert Chegan, Police Chief Keith Tarase, Finance Director Jenny Esarey, Law Director Thomas Kelly; **Other:** Michael McDonald, Laura Ann Holland, Jim Kulikowski, Jessica Fenos, Joel Spatz.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Dietrich moved to excuse Mr. Vos from voting on the October 18, 2022 Safety Committee minutes, seconded by Ms. Carbone-McDonald. Vote: Yeas: 2 Nays: 0 **Motion carried**

Approval of October 18, 2022 Safety Committee minutes. Moved by Mr. Dietrich, seconded by Ms. Carbone-McDonald. Vote: Yeas: 2 Nays: 0. Excused: Mr. Vos. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Police & Safety Report

See report.

Chief Tarase expressed his appreciation to Mayor Antoskiewicz, as well as Council, for the recognition that veterans received last Friday. Mr. Dietrich thanked Chief Tarase for helping out with that veteran's ceremony, and also Chief Chegan, who is always willing to help.

Chief Tarase reported that in July, he notified Council about the receipt of a grant for Ballistic Vests from the State of Ohio, totaling roughly \$11,000. Also, in September, we received an award from the federal government for the same thing for \$6,000.00; for vest reimbursements.

Mr. Vos raised question about the school bus light issue, as to whether any of those nine offenders were repeat offenders. Chief Tarase was uncertain. Ms. Carbone-McDonald inquired whether there has been a noticeable increase in the number of people not stopping; since we passed things to make it sterner. Chief Tarase felt that the numbers are not going down. However, it depends on the month; last month was lower because of school just starting. It takes some time to review all of the video that is sent and track down the offenders. Unfortunately, he did not feel that the penalties have deterred these occurrences. Mr. Dietrich felt strongly that if it is a repeat offender, it should increase for them. If there are people repeating the offense after having made the change, we should discuss it. Mr. Vos believed that the last thing we passed gives the Court the ability to impose a jail sentence. Mr. Kelly concurred. He went on to say it is a first-degree misdemeanor; up to 180 days in jail. We had encouraged the magistrate to impose a penalty of ten-day jail for first offenders to hold that, and to extend these people on some non-reporting probation. He was assured that if there is a repeat offender, they are going to be treated much more harshly. The magistrate and prosecutor get the criminal history and traffic history; generally, they review those at the time of the sentencing. His suspicion was that perhaps none of those people are repeat offenders; he was uncertain however, he could check.

2. Safety Town

No update until after the school board meets next week.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Flock Safety Cameras

Chief Tarase mentioned that Deputy Chief Swanson of Middleburg Heights is present. Also present, is Lauren Holland, Community Affairs Manager, from Flock Safety in Atlanta.

Deputy Chief Swanson, of 15850 East Bagley Road, shared his personal experience with the cameras in Middleburg Heights. This is something that they worked on for years. He was in the Protective Bureau for twelve years and in Middleburg Heights for twenty-six years. He utilized the Flock Cameras prior to us even having them, to help solve crimes; which has been very beneficial. They were able to install seventeen cameras. They have been up and running for seven months. It has been a game changer as far as stolen vehicles, license plates, and warrants. They arrested a murder suspect on the November 9th from Cleveland, which was due to the cameras. It has been amazing what they have found, and he wishes that they had more of them. He cannot stress enough; how valuable the cameras have been in investigations. There are things you can do with them in addition to giving information. They have used them for domestic violence cases as well. Also, it provides a hot list, whereas you can enter a vehicle plate. If an offender leaves a scene, you enter the plate and if they re-enter the city, they are made aware of it.

Mr. Wos asked about getting active hits; such as pings, or whether it puts an APB out. Deputy Chief Swanson indicated there are multiple ways you can receive it. The MDT's (electronic devices) in the car, if you run it off of Google Chrome Browser, it will give you an alert in the vehicle on your MDT; you can also have it sent to your phone. He probably received five just while sitting here tonight; such as sex offenders, amber alerts, stolen vehicles, violent persons, and warrants. You can pick and choose which alerts that you receive. The number of cameras is important. Not only are you getting the hit that the person is in the city, you are getting a direction of travel. Each time they hit a camera; you are getting an additional hit.

Mr. Dietrich asked if those license plates are already in the system, then. He also wanted to know who enters those into that system. The Deputy clarified that they are all in the system. They are tapping into NCIC (National Crime Investigation Center) as far as the warrant hits etc., however, the data basis for the different Bureau of Motor Vehicles from all the states, they are tapping into that. It is not as if Flock are entering those plates. Mr. Dietrich inquired if his department has the ability to add to that, if there was something local; picking up a license plate number. Also, whether they can add to the system to where it alerts the officers in the city. The Deputy agreed; the hot list. They can put any plate in there. For example, a drug investigation or domestic violence. They put that plate in and if it comes back in, they get the hit; they will get the alert that way. You can do that manually, yes; limited to the supervisors for the department. He added that they are regionally dispatched.

Ms. Carbone-McDonald questioned if their cameras were leased or purchased. The Deputy explained that they bought them. Ms. Carbone-McDonald asked if they also have tasers in their city. The Deputy indicated that they do. Mr. Dietrich asked about the number of officers in Middleburg Heights. The Deputy clarified there were 31. Mr. Dietrich asked Chief Tarase how many officers we have here in North Royalton, in which Chief Tarase clarified 36. Mr. Dietrich stated that we have about the same number of officers, double the number of residents, and we have way more ground to cover; as the third largest land mass. That is why he has been pushing for these cameras. He felt it is going to help us do more with less. We are way understaffed in this City, which is why he brought it up in the past. He reiterated that he is very glad we are hearing this; it is a perfect example of what he has been saying. He realizes we need more money, however, we do not have that opportunity to go out and hire one officer; which would be \$80,000 base, plus with benefit package, so you are at \$120,000.00. He reiterated that if you do the math, these cameras are saving the City money and helping a very stressed, and very understaffed Police Department to do its job. Deputy Chief Swanson pointed out that they also have freeway exits.

Ms. Barath inquired about what happens to the data. Deputy Chief Swanson explained that they are not responsible for the data, because it is stored in the Cloud; it is their data, however, they do not have it physically in-house. Ms. Barath questioned how long it is stored. Deputy clarified it is stored for 30 days and then purged. Ms. Barath asked about whether there is an app. Ms. Holland, representative from Flock Safety, clarified that there are different ways the departments can access the data. There is an in-house app that can be

downloaded onto a device, such as a cell phone. It then requires login information just like what it would be in order to log in on a browser. Ms. Barath wanted to know if it is strictly for the officers; not the residents. Ms. Holland agreed. There has been some confusion, because we do sell to residents, neighborhood associations, and businesses; however, they have a different system. The only people that can access the network and those larger cameras for Middleburg, or other communities, are law enforcement. Our private customers can access their own data for only seven days; only the images that come through on their system. Ms. Barath asked about getting pinged pertaining to the time frame. Deputy Chief Swanson indicated it takes roughly the same amount of time as sending a text. They are working with a lot of their community members. They have our safety officer and people that go out. He is encouraging them to go out and buy them, because they can access their cameras and make their cameras part of their network. If they buy two cameras for their development, now he can get their information; they cannot get theirs however, he can get 'theirs'. If North Royalton were to get cameras, he would have access to them; it just expands the information that he has access to. Currently, they have access to about 1000 cameras in Middleburg Heights. The more they get out there, the more information that is better for everyone.

Mr. Dietrich asked how their residents responded initially. Deputy indicated that when they started talking about it, there were a few concerns; for example, privacy concerns. They are somewhat confused at the functionality at how the camera works; it is not a real time video. They explained that it is a still photo, that this would be nothing; a snap shot at an intersection perhaps. It is not facial recognition. Pictures are taken of the plate, that is it. Mr. Dietrich felt that we have to get that message out to our residents.

Ms. Holland commented that her team will help develop any educational materials that would be helpful for the community. They can work with the Chief to do that as well, and do some public information campaigns. She encouraged whatever education works best for the community to help get information out. It is just that image of the back of the car, and she feels that after most people see how helpful things are, they realize the importance of the officers having access to the information. Mr. Dietrich stated he has tried to explain that. He is very much for this and doing his best to promote it.

Ms. Barath asked if one can share off of other communities when people are entering other communities. Deputy explained that yes, they can do that now. Ms. Holland noted that Flock does not automatically give access to everybody. It is something that your department decides; and who you want to add to your system as well, you have to ask for their permission. Ms. Barath also commented on how her residents have concerns as well. Deputy anticipated fighting that same battle, however, they did not have as much push back.

Ms. Carbone-McDonald feels that cops should be protected on the ground and that all the camera access is better; it helps them. However, if our cops are not protected on the ground with everything out there, she believed that they need tasers. She feels that we need to make sure our cops have those before we spend the money on these cameras. She is very passionate about them getting tasers. She asked how many cameras we would need. Chief Tarase indicated 18. Ms. Carbone-McDonald pointed out that we have joining cities that have them, Middleburg Heights has a freeway, which we do not. You have to look at all means, but we have to make sure our cops are on the ground with the proper equipment; that is what we need. Her number one priority is the tasers.

Mr. Nickell's expressed his support if the Chief wants tasers, they would have requested it in the budget; the Chief has been around a long time. He strongly supports the cameras and is even more supportive today. He is for a larger number of cameras, as well; not just ten. He believes we have working examples of how much it has been of help. This will protect our residents and then the tasers can come; which is up to the Chief.

Mr. Dietrich agreed with Mr. Nickell and Ms. Carbone-McDonald. He believes that we need as many cameras as possible. He also feels strongly about tasers, however, he feels Ms. Schroeder did some research on some of the surrounding cities regarding tasers. He thinks North Royalton is the only ones that does not have them. He realizes not too long ago; we did not have body cams and we did not feel that we needed those either, until something happened; then it became an issue. Mr. Dietrich does not want to be reactive or wait for something, he wants to be proactive. He wants to look into tasers, although he agreed that both need to be done and both

can help. As discussion ensued, he felt it would be great if we have the money to budget both. He pointed out that we are talking about the Flock cameras, however, he wanted to acknowledge what Ms. Carbone-McDonald expressed. He reiterated that we are way under staffed in the Police Department; we should have over 50 officers. He encouraged providing them with as many tools as we can for them to do their job. He felt the more cameras that we can fit into the budget, the better.

Mr. Vos had voted against this last time however, he also felt that we should have approached differently. He was not convinced of the effectiveness before testimonies like this were given. He figured if they are effective, start with a smaller number of them and revisit later. He felt this information was very helpful. Mr. Nickell stated that he is not against tasers. This Council can budget any money we want, you saw the financial statements, there is money. He went on to say that we can update the cost.

Ms. Krejci asked what the Chief is asking for at this time. Chief Tarase indicated that he had asked for the 15, which would have been the initial cost for the first year of \$42,750.00; re-occurring cost of \$37,500.00. However, if we are looking at 10 cameras, it would be roughly \$28,500.00 first year; recurring cost of \$25,000.00. Mr. Marnecheck asked for clarification on the figure of \$28,500.00. The Chief agreed that was the number, including installation. Mr. Dietrich wanted to know if we then own those cameras after the first year. Chief Tarase clarified that we do not.

Ms. Holland explained that their model is a leasing model; basically, a service agreement. They did that because a lot of the other technology companies will get you to buy the equipment up front, and you have to maintain it over time and keep up with it; and update it. They own the device and you as a city, access all of the range of services that Flock offers; from permitting, to community outreach, to also accessing the Police data. Therefore, that \$2500.00 fee per device, per year, gets your officers access to that full system. The \$350.00 install fee is a one-time fee. Mr. Dietrich questioned the responsibility of taking them down. Ms. Holland indicated it is Flock's responsibility to do so. Mr. Dietrich asked about the term lease. Ms. Holland explained it is a two-year term; then you may decide to renew for future years if you wish. However, there is also a clause if it does not work out and you do not want to keep moving forward, whereas you can end the contract; we would come out and remove those devices. Mr. Dietrich questioned the process if and when we added more cameras. Ms. Holland explained that they would work with their legal team to see if you just add on the contract. Mr. Dietrich inquired about whether we would be saving money by going with more cameras up front. Ms. Holland indicated it is the same; \$2500.00 per device and \$350.00 install fee. Mr. Dietrich asked what the lead time is. Ms. Holland explained that it takes roughly 8-12 weeks for installation; after everything is finished. She noted that they have a team in Ohio that works to install and update those devices; they will get on the schedule as soon as they have all of the information needed.

Mr. Vos asked about how the software is supported and whether all of that is included in the price. Ms. Holland clarified yes; upgrades, new features, etc. Everything is included so that it would not be so expensive up front. Ms. Krejci voted for them last time and she still feels that they would be important. She wanted to know if 10 cameras are going to provide enough to get effectiveness out of the cameras. Ms. Holland commented that typically, their solutions team, which is former Law Enforcement, works to help figure out the map of where all of the devices should go; then works within the budget of the community. They typically put devices on every entrance and exit of the city as a starting point.

Chief Tarase conveyed that when we looked at this earlier in the year and he spoke with Flock, they recommended roughly 26 cameras. He reduced it to 15 at the time, because we have such a big area to cover; we really need follow up cameras other than entrances and exits. He wanted to make clear for Council that these cameras were specifically budgeted for in 2022. He had set aside more than enough money to cover this and that is still there.

Mr. Nickell felt that we want to be respectful to residents with everything; controversial issues are going on. He feels that we are afraid to do anything. He expressed that this is going to protect your residents. Furthermore, we have budgeted the money. This is far more important than other things we have spent money on and it is preventing crime. It also helps with domestic violence. Other communities have done it. He felt

we are making decisions in fear. He pointed out that nobody is here against this. It is the second time on the ballot and it has been out there.

Mr. Dietrich concurred with Mr. Nickell, especially after the Chief said they originally suggested 26 cameras. He is not going to change his stance; he is in support of it. We budget here as Council and the Chief has his own budget, which we approve. If he has budgeted for this, he is the Chief. If he would like to do this and feels it would help, Mr. Dietrich is still in support. He, once again requested to be on the Safety Committee. He felt the biggest reason it did not pass before was its delivery and that we needed to give better information. He felt that this should move forward.

Michael McDonald, 14599 Bennett Road, asked the Deputy Chief if Middleburg Heights received any grant money that was used toward their cameras. The Deputy indicated that they did not. He asked those of Council that have been in favor of the cameras, what they have done to lobby the state and federal government to see if grant money could be received. As a Council, you should always try to get grant money and research that.

Chief Tarase mentioned that when Council voted down these cameras in April, the round of federal grants came out afterwards; this was already a dead issue at that time. Therefore, we did not apply for technology grants this year and those have all closed. That does not mean we cannot apply by the time state grants open up next year. Mr. Marnecheck raised question whether the Chief was referring to the Edward Byrne Memorial Grant. Chief Tarase concurred.

Mr. Kelly wanted to clarify for the benefit of the audience, that grant applications and grant seeking is an administrative function. It is a function of the Executive Branch of Government, not the Legislative Branch of Government. Mayor Antoskiewicz added that we have many grant opportunities, which all of our Department Heads work very hard on anything that comes, whether it be forwarded from his desk to the Chief, or whatever Department. He expressed that we are always looking at grant opportunities every chance we get. He felt that we have done quite well in the last couple of years with the amount of money we have received. When the technology grant comes up again next year, we will apply for it. We have continuously done that and we always will do that. Chief Tarase noted that also, there was a camera grant that we did apply for, however that was limited to two cameras and was on a different system. We have not heard anything on that one; it is still out. We also applied for a Wellness Grant for our officers and that one was turned down this year, however, when grants come forth, we will apply for them; which included grants for tasers as well.

As discussion ensued, Ms. Carbone-McDonald expressed that as a Council person, we all have different opinions and we should always respect the residents; no matter who they are. You do not disrespect somebody that is here. She was appalled. That is her husband and he is a resident. We need to treat people better than that. She thanked the Mayor for his response about grants.

Mayor Antoskiewicz stated that we have had this discussion, and asked whether it is the will of the committee to present legislation. Chief Tarase indicated that he could work with 10 cameras; and go from there.

Mr. Wos moved to have legislation drafted for ten Flock Safety cameras, seconded by Mr. Dietrich. Yeas: 3 Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Dietrich, seconded by Ms. Carbone-McDonald **to adjourn the November 15, 2022 Safety Committee meeting.** Yeas: 3 Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.



flock safety

Leverage the future of policing, *now*

North Royalton, OH



flock safety

Our Mission & Values

Eliminate Crime
Protect the **Whole Community**



How to structure your convo with the community and elected officials

- **Why your community is looking at Flock tech**
 - Numerous property crimes and hit-skip accidents where few investigative leads are present
- **How Flock works**
 - License plates provide investigative leads for crime solving
- **How you are mitigating community concerns**
 - ALPR policy, transparency portal, community education
- **Stories showing it actually solve crimes**
 - <https://fox8.com/news/automated-license-plate-reader-helps-police-track-down-local-bank-robber/>
 - <https://www.cleveland19.com/2021/10/12/mentor-police-cameras-take-criminals-off-streets-recovers-cars-finds-endangered-people/>
 - <https://www.cleveland.com/community/2022/01/orange-police-officer-receives-letter-of-commendation-for-pursuit-of-suspect.html>
 - <https://fox8.com/news/mentor-on-the-lake-hit-and-run-driver-identified/>



Why Flock Safety?

What we observe:

the current reality

- Police headcount is on the decline
- Crime is on the rise
- Trust is needed more than ever

What we believe:

the opportunity

- Technology multiplies the force
- Capture and distribute objective evidence to the right user
- Engage community to support and grow

How does the tech work?

flock safety

When you get Flock you get:

objective, real-time and investigative leads

- Vehicle Fingerprint™ = license plate plus
- **Indiscriminate evidence** from fixed locations
- Cost effective subscription service, infrastructure free
- No people, no traffic enforcement



Plate
TX LGS2639



Last Visit
3:15 PM EDT



Make
Toyota



Seen
3 OF 30 DAYS




Color
Gray



What is this tech?

- License plate recognition
- Gathers objective evidence and facts about vehicles, not people
- Alerts police of wanted vehicles
- Used to solve crime
- Adheres to all state laws

What ISN'T this tech?

- Not tied to personally identifiable information
 - Not used for traffic enforcement
 - Data not stored beyond 30 days → *automatically deletes every 30 days*
- 

How does this technology prevent and eliminate crime?

- **Proactive:** Real Time Alerts when Stolen or Wanted Vehicles enter your City
- **Investigative:** As clearance rates increase, crime rates decrease
- Flock cameras act as a deterrent




Accountability & Transparency



Protecting Privacy

- Footage owned by Agency/City and will never be sold or shared by Flock
- 30 day data retention, then deleted
- Short retention period ensures that all data not associated with a crime is automatically deleted & unrecoverable
- Takes human bias out of crime-solving by detecting objective data, and detecting events that are objectively illegal (ex. Stolen vehicles)

- All data is stored securely in the AWS Government Cloud, and end to end AES-256 encryption of all data
 - Search reason is required for audit trail
 - NOT predictive policing
 - NO personally identifiable information is identifiable in Flock
 - NOT used for traffic enforcement
 - Not connected to registration data or 3rd party databases (Carfax, BMV)
 - Transparency Portal (optional)
- 

ALPR Policy

● Purpose

- Allowed uses
- Sharing policy
- Hotlist verification

● Protections

- Data retention
- Audit procedures
- Misuse policy
- Training

Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR)

433.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Agency Content

Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology, also known as License Plate Recognition, provides automated detection of license plates. ALPRs are used by the North Royalton Police Department 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, homeland security, electronic surveillance, suspect interdiction and stolen property recovery.

Transparency + Insights

Measure ROI and promote the ethical use of public safety technology

Transparency Portal

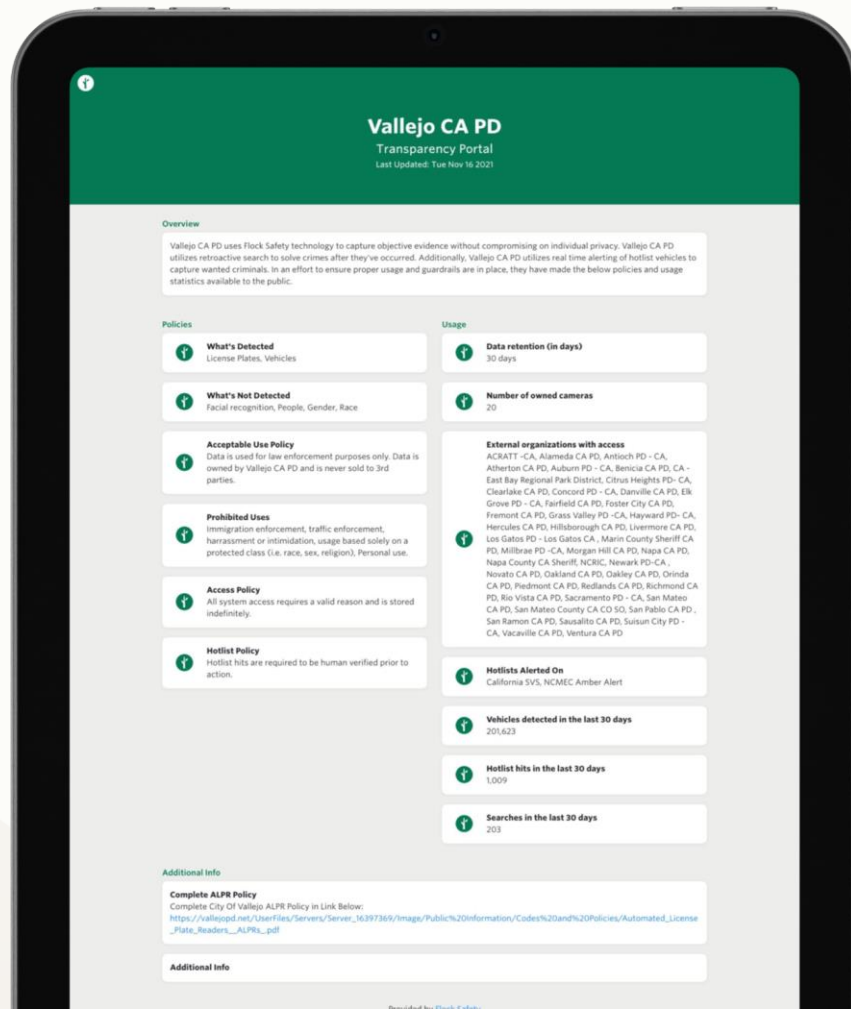
- Customizable for each agency
- Display technology policies
- Publish usage metrics
- Share downloadable Search audits

Insights Dashboard

- Measure crime patterns and ROI
- Audit Search history

Examples

- Click here for [Morgan Hill PD](#)
- Click here for [Vallejo PD](#)





Ethics + Innovation

flock safety

Privacy

- Footage owned by Agency/City and will never be sold or shared by Flock
- 30 day data retention, then deleted. Short retention period ensures that all data not associated with a crime is automatically deleted & unrecoverable
- NO personally identifiable information is identifiable in Flock
- Not connected to registration data or 3rd party databases (Carfax, BMV)

Transparency

- Public approval process and community education for each customer
- Flock's transparency portal tells your community how law enforcement use the system, including how many searches are conducted and who data is shared with

Accountability

- Investigative reason required for search
- Flock system proactively provides audit report that includes details of each search in the customer's network
- ALPR policy outlines how the system is used



**It actually solves and prevents
crime**



CASE STUDY *Amber Alert*



CPD



Chamblee, Georgia



Stranger on Stranger Abduction
August 28, 2020

When every second matters, Flock Safety's Machine Vision is Critical

- 12:33 PM ● Amber Alert Issued
- 1:01 PM ● Search Conducted with Flock Safety
- 2:30 PM ● Suspect Vehicle Located
- 5:03 PM ● Felony Stop + Arrest
- 6:00 PM ● Baby Reunited with Mother

Case study: Scamming Senior Citizens



Brooklyn
Heights PD



Cleveland, OH

- Suspect approached an elderly couple's home pretending to be a representative from the water company.
- While suspect talked two couple, two additional suspects entered the residence and began stealing items from their bedroom.
- Couple's adult son arrived and by the time he realized what was happening, the perpetrators had fled the scene.
- The adult son was able to capture their vehicle's license plate information and **police used Flock to track the vehicle and perpetrators to a nearby hotel.**



ONLY ON 19 NEWS

HEARTLESS CROOKS RIP-OFF ELDERLY COUPLE

19 NEWS IS EVERYWHERE: BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

[From Cleveland 19 News](#)

Flock ALPR



Duluth PD
Johns Creek PD



Duluth, GA

- At midnight on May 5, the driver of a white SUV hit Christopher Kinion in Duluth, but kept going. Kinion died at the hospital.
- Within hours, **neighboring jurisdictions Duluth PD and Johns Creek PD were working together** with their Flock systems to identify the **vehicle that matched the eye-witness description.**
- **Duluth PD identified the vehicle in the Flock System** and contacted Driver Services to receive the vehicle's registration information. Duluth detectives then **contacted the registered owner** at his home in Johns Creek, **found front-end damage to his SUV,** and arrested him as a **suspect in the crime.**
- From [WSB-TV Atlanta](#)



“It’s amazing to be able to solve some of these crimes and help people, because I can’t imagine me as a family member losing somebody then not having a tip to go on,” said Lt. Deb Kalish of the Johns Creek Police Department.

CASE STUDY: *Violent Crime Reduction*



Dayton PD



Dayton, Ohio

**Before Flock Safety,
crime in Dayton was 2.1X the
national average.***

**Result: 46% reduction in
violent crime within target
area after 6 months**

Problem

- Violent and non-violent crime on the rise
- Community members feel unsafe

Goals

- 29 strategically placed LPR cameras to capture evidence that solves crimes
- Proactively reduce crime to increase quality of life

CASE STUDY: *Long Term Results*



Gwinnett County PD - Central Precinct



Gwinnett County, GA

Central Crime Statistics Comparisons 2020 to 2021

Crime Type	2020	2021	Difference	+/- Percentage
Homicide:	17	10	-7	-41%
Robbery:	135	109	-26	-19%
Aggravated Assault:	259	229	-30	-12%
Aggravated Battery	26	16	-10	-38%
Residential Burglary:	226	204	-22	-10%
Commercial Burglary	190	120	-70	-37%
Entering Autos:	1097	947	-150	-14%
Motor Vehicle Theft:	375	345	-30	-8%

“2021 is the first time in six years that they have had under 1,000 entering autos.”



CASE STUDY 12 Month Results



San Marino PD



San Marino, CA

70%

Decrease in
residential
burglaries

19%

Decrease in
part 1 crimes

36%

Requested
increase in #
of cameras

**As the number of
cleared cases
increases, crime
correspondingly
decreases.**

**Police Chief and City Council Attribute
Crime Decrease to More Cases Cleared
With LPR Cameras**

Resources

1. Educate council and create buy in:

- a. What is ALPR? - [click here](#)
- b. ALPR FAQs - [click here](#)
- c. Crime stats - [click here](#)

1. Educate the community, and listen to concerns:

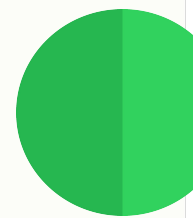
- a. Press release template - [click here](#)
- b. Images of ALPRs - [click here](#)

1. Transparently communicate:

- a. PIO Toolkit - [click here](#)
- b. Model ALPR policies
 - i. Option 1 - [click here](#)
 - ii. Option 2 - [click here](#)
 - iii. Option 3 - [click here](#)
- c. Examples of the Transparency Portal - [click here](#)

Flock's response to common concerns



1. **Short data retention & No sharing with 3rd parties**
 - a. Data is by default stored for 30 days and then permanently deleted, unless connected to an active investigation.
 - b. You own your data, and we never sell your data.
 2. **Public input and approval**
 - a. City Council approval
 - b. Community town-halls
 3. **Transparent communication**
 - a. [Transparency portal](#)
 - b. Annual updates to City Council
 4. **Slippery slope arguments**
 - a. Democratic authorization, good ALPR policies, and community engagement protects us and our customers from becoming what we want to avoid.
 5. **Audits and accountability**
 - a. Our system automatically requires a law enforcement reason to search. These can be reported through the transparency portal.
 6. **Over-policing**
 - a. Violent crime disproportionately affects the BIPOC community (8X more likely to be a victim than white counterparts), and violent crime has increased by more than 30% in the last 2 years.
 - b. Indiscriminate evidence. Unbiased, actionable leads
- 

Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR)

433.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology, also known as License Plate Recognition, provides automated detection of license plates. ALPRs are used by the North Royalton Police Department 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, homeland security, electronic surveillance, suspect interdiction and stolen property recovery.

433.1.1 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 North Royalton Police Department members who may utilize ALPR system/equipment. ALPR operators may be assigned to any position within the North Royalton Police Department.
- (c) **ALPR Administrator:** The Chief of Police and/or designee, serves as the ALPR Administrator for the North Royalton Police Department.

433.2 ADMINISTRATION OF ALPR DATA

- (a) All installation and maintenance of ALPR equipment, as well as ALPR data retention shall be managed by the ALPR vendor. The Chief of Police or designee will determine which department personnel shall have access to the data.

433.2.1 ALPR ADMINISTRATOR

- (a) The Chief of Police shall be responsible for compliance with all the requirements not limited to:
 - 1. Only properly trained sworn officers, crime analysts, and police assistants are allowed access to the ALPR system or to collect ALPR information.
 - 2. Ensuring that training requirements are completed for authorized users.
 - 3. ALPR system monitoring to ensure the security of the information and compliance with applicable privacy laws.
 - 4. Ensuring that procedures are followed for system operators and to maintain records of access.

433.3 ALPR OPERATION

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

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2. An ALPR may be used in conjunction with any patrol operation or official Department investigation. Reasonable suspicion or probable cause is not necessary before using ALPR.
3. No member of this department shall operate ALPR equipment or access ALPR data without first completing department-approved training.
4. If practicable, the officer should verify an ALPR response through LEADS before taking enforcement action that is based solely upon an ALPR alert.
5. No ALPR operator may access Ohio Law Enforcement Automated Data System (LEADS) data unless otherwise authorized to do so.

433.4 ALPR DATA COLLECTION AND RETENTION

- (a) All data and images gathered by an ALPR are for the official use of the North Royalton Police Department. Because such data may contain confidential information, LEADS data is not open to public review. ALPR information gathered and retained by this department may be used and shared with prosecutors or others only as permitted by law.
- (b) All ALPR data downloaded to the server should be stored for the minimum period established in the Department Records Retention Schedule identified in the Records Maintenance and Release Policy. Thereafter, ALPR data 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.
- (c) ALPR vendor, Flock Safety, will store the data and ensure proper maintenance and security of data stored. Flock Safety will purge their data at the end of the (30) days of storage. However, this will not preclude North Royalton Police Department from maintaining any relevant vehicle data obtained from the system after that period pursuant to the established department retention schedule.

433.5 ACCOUNTABILITY AND SAFEGUARDS

- (a) All saved data will be closely safeguarded and protected by both procedural and technological means. The North Royalton Police Department will observe the following safeguards regarding access to and use of stored data:
 1. All non-law enforcement requests for access to stored ALPR data shall be referred to the Records Clerk and processed in accordance with applicable law.
 2. 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.
 3. Such ALPR data may be released to other authorized and verified law enforcement officials and agencies at any time for legitimate law enforcement purposes.

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4. ALPR system audits should be conducted on a regular basis.