

TO: Town of Clifton Park Town Board
FROM: Damara Fredette, [REDACTED] Ushers Road, Ballston Lake 12019
RE: Banning Flock Cameras

Good evening Town Board:

I submit this letter in support of any current or future ban on the installation or use of automatic license plate reader (ALPR) cameras, commonly known as Flock cameras, or any other brand of surveillance cameras within the Town's limits.

These ALPR cameras are not like other traffic cameras used by state and local law enforcement. While touted as mere "automatic license plate readers," they are in truth connected to a nationwide database, tracking vehicles' movements even when no crime has been committed and no warrant issued.

The stories of law enforcement unlawfully using Flock cameras to track people are staggering. A Kentucky police officer was arrested after he allegedly used Flock cameras to track his ex-girlfriend over 2,000 times.¹ In Illinois, Flock Safety was used by out of state police to look for a woman who allegedly had had an abortion.² Even last week in Albany, a veteran investigator of the Albany County Sheriff's Office was charged with official misconduct, using Flock cameras to track a former partner and others nearly 3,000 times.³ This misconduct is not only criminal, it illustrates that the use of the cameras is not to "catch criminals," it is for law enforcement to usurp their power and authority.

Even conservative communities are catching on to the cameras' pervasive and unlawful surveillance. Last month, Florida's Department of Transportation revoked its permits for ALPR systems on its state highways, as have other Florida municipalities, citing the police use of the technology as "out of control."⁴ Texas Governor Greg Abbott has ordered all state agencies to halt funding for Flock cameras while a Lufkin, Texas, police officer was indicted in April on 100 counts of misusing Flock data.⁵

¹ https://www.cnn.com/2026/08/26/us/flock-kentucky-police-officer-arrest?Date=20260826&Profile=CNN,CNN+International&utm_content=1787787710&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook

² <https://capitolnewsillinois.com/news/hundreds-of-police-departments-use-camera-company-accused-of-breaking-state-law/>

³ <https://cbs6albany.com/news/local/sheriffs-office-employee-arrested-accused-of-unauthorized-access-to-law-databases-albany-county-sheriffs-office-press-conference-case-enforcement-wednesday-sept-9-2026-craig-d-apple-sr-district-attorney-lee-c-kindlon-cbs6-wrgb>

⁴ https://jamesmadison.org/it-doesnt-stop-with-flock/?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=24239618137&gbraid=0AAAAADiR0D_cTCfAMRN4Q8t61GL2OkPVj&gclid=Cj0KCQjwzY7VBhDwARIsAftPvBSdcDu1RdyKQmZc1ARYHWf2y_MUQVkyWhrvbLDnRkSDO_F4j6GnBVYaAt8VEALw_wcB

⁵ <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/6058974-abbott-halts-texas-flock-agencies-funding/>

And the data showing that these cameras reduce crime is not conclusive. In Cleveland, Ohio, 100 Flock cameras went live in 2023, and now a total of 1,700 cameras have been installed throughout Cuyahoga County. Yet Cleveland police and prosecutors could not tell Cleveland City Council how many cases have been solved using the cameras. While police stated that they do not always document when they use the technology, they report that their case closure rate went from 15.5% to 18.7% after the cameras were installed.⁶

In an age where an Orwellian-style government surveillance becomes a reality, the Town of Clifton Park must remain firm in its refusal to allow its community and its visitors to endure unlawful tracking by either law enforcement or any private company. I ask that the Town vote against any installation or use of Flock or any other similar brand of ALPR camera systems.

Thank you,

Damara J Fredette

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⁶ <https://www.govtech.com/public-safety/how-many-crimes-has-flock-safety-solved-in-cleveland>