



City of Lakewood City Council

Council At Large
Sarah Kepple, President
Thomas R. Bullock III
Angelina Hamilton Steiner

Ward Council
Kyle Baker, Ward 1, Vice President
Bryan Evans, Ward 2
Cindy Strebis, Ward 3
Matthew Bixenstine, Ward 4

Noticed 10/07/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE – PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Public Safety Committee will meet Monday October 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium at Lakewood City Hall, 12650 Detroit Ave. The meeting is open to the public.

The meeting will be livestreamed on the [City's website](#).

The agenda is as follows:

Approval of the minutes of the July 20, 2026 Public Safety Committee meeting.

Communication from Councilmember Hamilton Steiner, Council President Kepple and Vice President Baker regarding City of Lakewood Flock Contract. (*referred to PS 09/08/26*)

Angelina Hamilton Steiner, Chair
Cindy Strebis, Matt Bixenstine; Members

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

PUBLIC COMMENT PROTOCOL

The public is invited to comment on agenda items by submitting a written comment in advance of the meeting using the [eComment platform](#). New users must create an eComment account. Committee Chairs may also accommodate in person public comment.

ADA PROTOCOL

Individuals with disabilities who require accommodations for participation in meetings must request accommodations at least 3 business days ahead of the scheduled meeting. Contact Michelle Nochta at (216) 529-5906 or michelle.nochta@lakewoodoh.gov.



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September 8, 2026

Lakewood City Council
Lakewood, Ohio

RE: City of Lakewood Flock Contract

Dear Colleagues,

The City of Lakewood is in year four of a five-year contract with Flock Safety (“Flock”) for Lakewood’s *Citywide Surveillance Camera Program*. At the August 5, 2026 Board of Control meeting, the Administration approved an amount of \$125,000 for payment on the contract with Flock. Initially, in April 2021, the City entered into a contract with Flock for 40 cameras at an amount of \$110,000. Additional cameras were added in February of 2023 bringing the total number of cameras to 50. In July 2023, the contract was amended for the current 5-year agreement, in which we are in year 4.

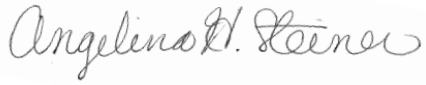
There is growing concern amongst our residents over the City’s use of Flock (the company) and use of the ALPR (Automatic License Plate Reader) in general. Communities throughout Northeast Ohio and beyond are examining specific policies surrounding use of this technology and determining what guardrails, if any, are needed for its responsible and ethical use. There are members of the state legislature working on bi-partisan legislation to either ban the technology outright or at least put some guardrails on the system.

We all can appreciate technology and how it can make our lives easier and safer. Police Officers have benefitted from technological advances which have kept them and subsequently, our communities safer: bullet resistant vests, body cams, and enhanced on the job communication tools and devices. Technology used responsibly and how it is supposed to be, can be a good thing.

We are however, hearing from residents that they are concerned about the use of Flock. In particular, we have heard privacy concerns, questions about what data and information is being shared with other agencies, and with which outside agencies the City has shared information. Additional questions include how much crime has been solved and/or deterred as a result of this technology. Our residents trust that Councilmembers are working with the Administration on this issue to have their concerns addressed.

We have met with Mayor George, Chief Fisher, and the IT Department to better understand how Flock is used, to gather preliminary answers to these important questions, and discuss responsive policy and procedure updates. We found this dialogue informative and constructive, and we want the rest of Council to have the opportunity to ask questions and for residents to hear directly from the Administration about the City’s use of Flock. We respectfully request that this communication and subsequent ALPR Policy be referred to Public Safety or Committee of the Whole for future discussion.

Sincerely,



Angelina Hamilton Steiner
Member of Council-At Large



Sarah Kepple
President of Council
Member at Large



Kyle Baker
Vice President of Council
Ward 1 Representative

Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR)

428.1 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 Lakewood 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.

428.2 ADMINISTRATION OF ALPR DATA

All installation and maintenance of ALPR equipment is arranged by the ALPR provider. The ALPR Administrator designated by the Chief of Police or authorized designee, will be the primary point of contact with the ALPR provider. Any issues related to ALPR's shall be directed to the ALPR Administrator who will coordinate with the provider to address them.

428.3 ALPR OPERATION

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.

- (a) An ALPR shall only be used for official and legitimate law enforcement business.
- (b) 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.
- (c) While an ALPR may be used to canvass license plates around any crime scene, particular consideration should be given to using ALPR-equipped cars to canvass areas around homicides, shootings and other major incidents. Partial license plates reported during major crimes should be entered into the ALPR system in an attempt to identify suspect vehicles.
- (d) No member of this department shall operate ALPR equipment or access ALPR data without first completing department-approved training.
- (e) If practicable, the officer should verify an ALPR response through LEADS before taking enforcement action that is based solely upon an ALPR alert.
- (f) No ALPR operator may access Ohio Law Enforcement Automated Data System (LEADS) data unless otherwise authorized to do so.
- (g) All members of this department shall review this policy on a regular basis.

428.4 ALPR DATA COLLECTION AND RETENTION

All data and images gathered by an ALPR are for the official use of the Lakewood Police Department. Because such data may contain confidential information, LEADS data is not open

Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR)

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. ALPR data is not to be shared for the purpose of immigration enforcement or reproductive rights enforcement without prior approval from the Chief of Police.

ALL ALPR data is the sole responsibility of the company (service provider).

In cases where ALPR data is used to investigate or prosecute crimes, photos and other relevant data should be downloaded from the ALPR service provider and included in the report or case file for the investigation. Failure to download this data from the ALPR service provider will result in its automatic deletion after the 30 day retention period. Any data downloaded from the ALPR service provider will be retained subject to the City of Lakewood's records retention schedule.

428.5 ACCOUNTABILITY AND SAFEGUARDS

All saved data will be closely safeguarded and protected by both procedural and technological means. The Lakewood Police Department will observe the following safeguards regarding access to and use of stored data:

- (a) All non-law enforcement requests for access to stored ALPR data shall be referred to the ALPR Administrator and processed in accordance with applicable law.
- (b) All ALPR data downloaded to the mobile workstation and server shall be accessible only through a login/password-protected system capable of documenting all access of information by name, date and time.
- (c) 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.
- (d) Such ALPR data may be released to other authorized and verified law enforcement officials and agencies at any time for legitimate law enforcement purposes.
- (e) ALPR system audits should be conducted by the ALPR Administrator on a regular basis.