



## CITY OF MILWAUKEE

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August 25, 2026

The Honorable,

Members of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners

Mr. Jeffrey B. Norman, Chief

Milwaukee Police Department

RE: Request for Information on Flock ALPR Cameras

Honorable Members and Chief Norman,

In March of this year, members of the Common Council raised concerns about the Milwaukee Police Department's (MPD) use of Flock Safety technology after an MPD officer was charged with misconduct. In that case, the officer searched the license plate of current and former dating partners 175 times over the course of a year.<sup>i</sup> A second MPD officer – in fact a member of the Internal Affairs Division assigned to investigate the first case – was charged with misusing the system in July.<sup>ii</sup> Now, MPD has opened an investigation into a third officer for potential misuse of Flock technology.<sup>iii</sup>

These incidents of abuse, which pose serious risks to the safety and privacy of civilians, as well as to their First and Fourth Amendment rights, are not limited to Milwaukee. Nationwide, more than 50 law enforcement officers have been accused of misconduct for misusing Flock technology. The wide public concern has prompted multiple Wisconsin localities – including Dane County, Oshkosh, and Sturgeon Bay – to sever ties with Flock altogether.<sup>iv</sup>

The March letter recommended that the department implement – at minimum – the following reforms.

- Independent auditing and meaningful review thresholds.
- Purpose limitation tied to documented casework.
- Real-time flagging and supervisory escalation.
- A clear firewall for immigration enforcement in LPR-specific policy.
- Transparency reporting that can be audited externally.
- Oversight hearings built into normal governance routines.
- Contract and vendor governance that matches real-world risk.
- Community-governance models such as CCOPS.

It does not appear that these concerns have been heard as no substantive changes have been made or response offered. We therefore again request that the Commission review these proposed reforms and provide recommendations relating to them.

We further request the following information:

- 1) A list of all agencies that share their ALPR feeds or hotlists with the MPD, and those agencies with which the MPD shares its hotlist or ALPR feed.
- 2) A complete history of all searches conducted by outside agencies using MPD camera data or conducted by MPD officers on behalf of outside agencies. This list should include:
  - a) The reason entered in the "reason for search" field.
  - b) The name of the agency.
  - c) Available details about the searching officer (e.g. job title).
  - d) The number of hits returned.
  - e) Any available details about the matched images (excluding license plate numbers).
- 3) A list of all users who have searched the system, including timestamps and user information.
- 4) Information about whether the MPD has implemented Flock's new recommendation for seven-day ALPR data retention, as well as information on any other safeguards the department has implemented.

Going forward, we would ask you to review and comment on the following changes to current Standard Operating Procedures, all suggested by the community and national best practices.

- Adoption of a seven-day retention period for routine ALPR data, unless specifically preserved for a documented investigation.
- Mandatory assignment of case/CAD numbers and specific justification for every search.
- Use of automated misuse detection and independent auditing, rather than relying solely on internal review.
- Whenever reasonably practicable, automated expiration and prompt removal of alerts with "human-in-the-loop" verification before an alert contributes to a high-risk stop.
- Adoption of strict limits on interagency and federal access, including a prohibition on use for civil immigration enforcement without judicial warrant or other legal requirement.
- Adoption of a cadence of public reporting to the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners and the Common Council on searches, sharing, audit flags, erroneous alerts, and policy violations.
- Adoption of a policy providing for the immediate suspension of Flock access when there is credible evidence of intentional personal or unauthorized use.

- Adoption of a policy requiring access to the Flock system only on department-managed devices using multifactor authentication and requiring the logging of session information, unless the MPD can demonstrate a legitimate operational reason for remote access.

This is an urgent moment, and a problem that will not correct itself. As you know, the Common Council has the capacity to make procedural changes of its own accord, but these changes are always wiser and better informed when crafted with the assistance of those selected by the Mayor and confirmed by the Common Council to the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners. With that in mind, we would ask that your response to the above be provided no later than September 30, 2026, so that your findings and recommendations may be included in our deliberation of the 2027 Budget. One of the issues certain to arise in our deliberation of the budget is the manner in which these cameras have been funded in recent years. The multiple waivers granted for these contracts and future funding will be discussed.

Sincerely,



Marina Dimitrijevic  
Alderwoman, 14<sup>th</sup> District



Andrea M. Pratt  
Alderwoman, 1<sup>st</sup> District



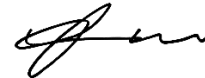
Mark Chambers, Jr.  
Alderman, 2<sup>nd</sup> District



Alex Brower  
Alderman, 3<sup>rd</sup> District



Robert J. Bauman  
Alderman, 4<sup>th</sup> District



Lamont Westmoreland  
Alderman, 5<sup>th</sup> District



Milele A. Coggs  
Alderwoman, 6<sup>th</sup> District



DiAndre Jackson  
Alderman, 7<sup>th</sup> District



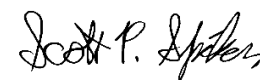
JoCasta Zamarripa  
Alderman, 8<sup>th</sup> District



Sharlen Moore  
Alderwoman, 10<sup>th</sup> District



José G. Pérez  
Alderman, 12<sup>th</sup> District



Scott Spiker  
Alderman, 13<sup>th</sup> District

<sup>i</sup> Ramirez, Chris. "MPD officer accused of using Flock cameras to monitor dating partner resigns". Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. March 4, 2026.

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/crime/2026/03/04/milwaukee-officer-accused-of-misusing-flock-cameras-has-resigned/88979205007>

<sup>ii</sup> Casey, Evan. "Second member of the Milwaukee Police Department charged with misuse of license plate reader system." Wisconsin Public Radio. July 9, 2026. <https://www.wpr.org/news/member-milwaukee-police-department-misuse-of-license-plate-reader-system>

<sup>iii</sup> Clarey, David. "Milwaukee police investigate third officer for flock misuse. August 19, 2026. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. <https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/crime/2026/08/19/milwaukee-police-investigating-flock-misuse-believed-non-criminal/91361501007>

<sup>iv</sup> Lawrence, Beatrice. "Wisconsin communities end contracts with surveillance company Flock over privacy, misuse concerns." Wisconsin Public Radio. June 3, 2026. <https://www.wpr.org/news/wisconsin-communities-end-contracts-flock>