

Anna Ananko

From: Scott Dilworth
Sent: Tuesday, December 23, 2025 2:59 PM
To: Anna Ananko
Cc: Joseph Dickinson
Subject: FW: Lynnwood Police Department Temporarily Pauses Flock Camera System

Anna,

I located the following....

Scott

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Lynnwood Police Department
19321 44th Ave. W.
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 7th, 2025

Contact: Commander Joe Dickinson - PIO Lynnwood Police Department
crimeprevention_flocksafety@LynnwoodWA.gov

Lynnwood Police Department Temporarily Pauses Flock Camera System to Strengthen Privacy Protections

The Lynnwood Police Department (LPD) has temporarily paused use of its Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) system, known as Flock Cameras, to address community concerns about data privacy and system access.

"Flock cameras have already proven to be an invaluable investigative tool in solving crimes and keeping our community safe," said Police Chief Cole Langdon. "However, it's equally important that we maintain the public's trust. Out of respect for the concerns raised and our commitment to transparency, we have chosen to pause the system while we strengthen safeguards to ensure the technology is used responsibly and lawfully."

During this pause, all system access has been disabled, and cameras have been turned off. This decision reflects an abundance of caution and a proactive effort to ensure that the system's operation fully aligns with community expectations, privacy standards, and legal requirements.

Commitment to Responsible Technology Use

LPD remains confident in the public safety value of ALPR technology and is equally committed to earning and maintaining community trust. Before any reactivation, the Department will conduct a thorough review of vendor agreements, system settings, and departmental policies. This process involves collaboration with the City Administration, the Lynnwood City Council, and community stakeholders to ensure that privacy protections are robust and transparent.

Background on Lynnwood's ALPR Program

- Flock cameras provide officers with real-time information to identify and locate vehicles involved in crimes within our community.
- Funded by a Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority (WATPA) grant, the program deployed 25 cameras beginning June 29, 2025.
- Shortly after implementation, LPD identified that a vendor feature called "nationwide search" which provided access that wasn't authorized by LPD.
- On July 8, 2025, the Department worked with Flock Safety to immediately disable the feature and control access.
- On October 30, 2025, LPD paused the program entirely to further evaluate and enhance privacy controls.

Positive Outcomes and Investigative Value

While active, the ALPR system contributed to numerous successful investigations and public safety efforts, including:

- Averaging 66 alerts per month for stolen vehicles or license plates — the equivalent of nearly 800 alerts per year.
- Assisting in the recovery of multiple stolen vehicles and the arrest of suspects involved in child sexual assault, narcotics investigations, theft, and identity crimes.
- Locating a missing elderly male, helping ensure his safe return home.
- Providing critical leads to regional law enforcement partners in ongoing criminal investigations.

These successes underscore the potential of ALPR technology to support public safety when paired with responsible oversight and clear privacy safeguards.

Community Engagement and Next Steps

LPD encourages residents to continue sharing feedback, ideas, or concerns about the use of ALPR technology in Lynnwood. Comments can be sent to: crimeprevention_flocksafety@LynnwoodWA.gov

The Department will provide regular updates as the review progresses and remains committed to a transparent, accountable process that balances safety, privacy, and community trust.

Commander Joe Dickinson
LPDMedia@LynnwoodWa.Gov

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