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123 Beach Road
Bristol, RO 02809

January 21, 2026

Nathan Calouro, Chairman, BTC
Mary Parella, Vice Chairwoman, BTC
Antonio Teixeira, Councilman, BTC
Aaron Ley, Councilman, BTC
Timothy Sweeney, Councilman, BTC

Dear Members of the Bristol Town Council:

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the installation of a Flock surveillance camera in Bristol. Our opposition is based on our concerns about the infringement on individual rights, the potential risk of significant liabilities that use of Flock surveillance technology creates for the Town of Bristol and for all Bristolians, and the extent to which Flock surveillance technology is antithetical to what makes Bristol such a very special place to live. It is critically important to note that the discussion about Flock camera surveillance in Bristol is occurring in the complete absence of any federal, state or local regulatory framework governing the use of Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPRs) in Bristol.

We oppose the use of Flock cameras (or any ALPRs) in Bristol because it is an unnecessary infringement on our personal privacy and liberty. As we shared in our December 4, 2025 letter published in the Bristol Phoenix, our opposition to automatic license plate readers is based on our desire to balance individual rights versus public safety. Bristol has been rated as the safest community in Rhode Island for six consecutive years based on violent and property crime rates. We credit our Police Chief and the men and women comprising our sworn and civilian public safety staff for this amazing record and are grateful for all they do for us. That being said, there is little empirical evidence that a town the size of Bristol needs or will benefit from installation of a surveillance system that monitors the activity of every Bristol resident and visitor regardless of their criminal intent.

Our January 22, 2026 letter in the Phoenix documented the extent to which Flock camera surveillance creates significant potential liabilities for the Town of Bristol and by extension, for all Bristolians. One category of liability involves potential privacy and civil rights violations and unauthorized data sharing. A current federal lawsuit in Virginia alleges that Flock camera use is

unconstitutional, a warrantless surveillance program in violation of the Fourth Amendment. An October 21, 2025 academic study by the University of Washington documents multiple instances of unauthorized ALPR data sharing for purposes of tracking individuals and population groups.

A separate liability issue is the extent to which Flock data is considered public and covered by the Public Records Act. On November 6, 2025, a Washington State judge ruled Flock data is public and subject to disclosure. While not yet litigated in Rhode Island, a similar ruling will have a tremendous impact on personnel and financial resources responding to resulting FOI and litigation discovery requests.

Bristol faces additional liabilities related to Flock data storage, security, and misuse. On November 23, 2025, Oregon Senator Wyden requested the FTC investigate FLOCK's failure to protect data while exposing Americans' personal data to theft by hackers, foreign spies, and criminals. The recent hacking of Rhode Island's health exchange compromised the health data and social security numbers of hundreds of thousands of Rhode Islanders. And in December we learned that scammers gained access to Bristol's computers and stole more than \$300,000. Like any database, the Flock national surveillance database is subject to hacking, and we know firsthand the cost of data hacking and abuse right here in Bristol.

Municipal risks specific to Flock Security camera surveillance include potential privacy and civil rights violations, unauthorized data sharing, Public Records Act violations and problems with data storage, security, and misuse. While these liabilities are inherent in any ALPR system, Flock is specifically identified as problematic in current litigation about warrantless surveillance and in congressional requests for investigation by the FTC.

These concerns and liabilities are heightened by the complete absence of any federal, state or local statutes, regulations or ordinances governing the use of Flock surveillance technology in Bristol. The RISP has said that there is a fully executed contract between Flock and the State Police, that the State Police are accountable for any issues related to the camera system, usage, or incidents arising from it. They also state that they have an insurance policy in place through Flock to cover liability. Since we have not seen this agreement, we don't know the extent to which Bristol and its residents are afforded liability coverage through the insurance policy in the RISP/Flock contract. The RI State Police indicated that they are writing a policy to govern the use of ALPRs, but once that policy is written, it can be changed to expand the capabilities of the cameras. We trust our State and Bristol Police Chiefs, but personnel change and proposed or actual contractual promises or agreements provide limited protection for liability without an actual regulatory framework.

Concerns over ALPRs liability are nonpartisan. Conservative states including Arkansas, Idaho and Montana joined left leaning states in writing laws addressing personal data collected through ALPRs and other means. Flock camera liability concerns contributed to the rejection or cancellation of Flock camera programs in communities across America and in Rhode Island. In just

the past few months, the Warren Town Council rejected an identical Flock proposal while Middletown and Portsmouth both delayed Flock approvals.

Finally, the invasive surveillance of every resident of and visitor to Bristol regardless of potential criminality couldn't be any more antithetical to the core values of our town. Bristol is known internationally for its patriotism. Our amazing Fourth of July celebrations are not just a way to attract visitors or an excuse for a parade and outdoor concerts. In Bristol we celebrate and are celebrated for our commitment to liberty, to protecting individual rights, to warmly welcoming everyone to our town. Meanwhile, all across this country, from Los Angeles to Minneapolis, from Portland, Maine to Pawtucket, Rhode Island, we are witnessing first-hand the trampling of constitutionally guaranteed rights of all US citizens to express themselves freely, to assemble and protest peacefully, to be free from warrantless surveillance, to expect privacy in our own homes without the government smashing down our front doors without cause and without a warrant. These constitutional rights are under assault by federal Immigration, Custom and Enforcement agents in the name of public safety, in the cause of national security. A November 20, 2025 article in the Electronic Frontiers Foundation detailed how Flock data is now being used in searches associated with "no Kings" rallies, how the U.S. Border Patrol is using the Flock surveillance program to target those citizens who choose to protest these abusive tactics. Now, here in Bristol, we are faced with a choice, to stand up for the protection of individual liberties or to voluntarily enroll Bristolians in a national surveillance program run by Flock, a company with a track record of prioritizing profit over the protection of individual rights.

Flock operates the largest network of surveillance cameras in the United States, reportedly contracting with thousands of police departments, businesses, and homeowners associations across 49 states. As noted by Senator Ron Wyden in his November 3, 2025 letter to the Federal Trade Commission requesting an investigation into Flock, the company has received vast amounts of taxpayer dollars to build a national surveillance program but its "...inadequate attitude towards cybersecurity needlessly exposes Americans to the threat of hackers and foreign spies tapping this data.". The free Flock cameras offered to Bristol under the RISP pilot program will be part of this surveillance network. We know for a fact that Flock data has been misused to track everyone from ex-spouses to immigrants to citizen protesters while the company has failed to implement adequate data security safeguards. Flock has chosen to share its data inappropriately and is subject to a current federal lawsuit alleging violations of the 4th amendment. We trust our elected officials and our State and local police but have no reason to trust that Flock or federal immigration agents will protect our individual rights. Unfortunately, the exact opposite is true.

We are faced with a choice. We can choose to accept Flock's promises that it will do better, that it will secure its data, that it no longer allow inappropriate access to its data to help drive a national surveillance and enforcement program which is trampling the rights of US citizens. Or we can reject the offer of a free Flock camera and join with our colleagues in Warren, Portsmouth and Newport and reject the Flock offer unless and until there is a robust state and local regulatory

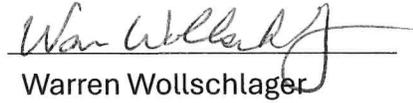
framework in place to regulate Flock surveillance and to protect the Town of Bristol and all Bristolians. Considering these options, we urge members of the Bristol Town Council to reject the proposal to install a Flock surveillance camera in our town.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,



Sharon Wollschlager



Warren Wollschlager