

Town of Bristol, Rhode Island
Town Council, Town Administrator, Bristol Police
C/O Melissa Cordeiro, Town Clerk

RECEIVED AT MEETING

January 22, 2026

Subject: Proposed MOU and Use of Flock Camera Technology in Bristol

I am writing in my personal capacity as Director of Public Safety to share perspective related to the proposed installation of a Flock camera in the town of Bristol. I have reviewed and considered the recommendations and proposed MOU terms prepared by Bristol Police Chief Kevin Lynch regarding the potential utilization of Flock Camera Technology in Bristol.

Roger Williams University has not taken an institutional position for or against the Town of Bristol's consideration of license plate reader technology. Nonetheless, as a career law enforcement professional with significant leadership experience at Brown University, Northeastern University, and currently at Roger Williams, I have a deep appreciation for proper utilization of technology in crime prevention and investigative work. From an operational standpoint, RWU Public Safety works closely with the Bristol Police Department on matters involving campus safety, emergency response, and coordination along shared roadways and perimeter areas. The area near the Mount Hope Bridge represents a location of high vehicular traffic, making coordination between agencies important regardless of the technology ultimately selected.

We recognize that, for some individuals, license plate reader systems raise questions related to privacy, data retention, access controls, and appropriate use. I appreciate that members of the RWU community, including faculty and staff who are oftentimes also Town residents, hold a range of views on these matters. I believe it is essential that any system implemented by the Town be accompanied by clear policies, transparency, and safeguards that reflect community values and legal standards.

Our interest, as a campus public safety partner, is to ensure effective communication, clear operational protocols, and mutual understanding between wherever campus and municipal responsibilities may intersect. We appreciate the Town's engagement with stakeholders and its efforts to provide information about the proposed system.

It is my professional opinion that the Flock camera system, if implemented, and when utilized appropriately, serves as a powerful investigative tool assisting response to significant incidents, missing persons, and matters pertaining to the health and safety of Bristol residents, their visitors, and, if required, the RWU community.

I support the Memo of Understanding between the R.I. State Police and the Bristol Police Department proposed by Chief Lynch. In addition, I have identified the most important components critical to informing my recommendation and highly important to public safety and community member support:

CONDITIONS OF ACCESS

Authorized Use:

Access to FLOCK LPR data is granted solely for law enforcement and public safety purposes, including but not limited to criminal investigations, active searches for stolen vehicles, missing persons, or suspects in serious crimes.

Prohibition and Data Sharing:

The Outside Agency shall not share, disseminate, forward, or otherwise provide access to any data, images, or alerts obtained from Rhode Island State Police FLOCK ALPR system to any third party, including but not limited to:

Other municipal or state agencies that have not entered into a substantially similar MOU with the Rhode Island State Police;

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or any external agency when the purpose of that agency or request is the enforcement of potential violations of federal civil immigration law; and;

Any private organizations or entities.

Violation of Data Sharing Restrictions:

Any unauthorized disclosure, sharing, or use of Rhode Island State Police FLOCK ALPR data in violation of this MOU will result in immediate revocation of access privileges for the outside agency. Additional administrative or legal actions may also be pursued at the discretion of the Rhode Island State Police and/or the State of Rhode Island.

DATA OWNERSHIP AND OVERSIGHT

All data collected from FLOCK ALPR cameras is owned by the Rhode Island State Police and remains the property of the Rhode Island State Police. Access is granted at the sole discretion of the Rhode Island State Police and may be revoked at any time with or without cause.

The Rhode Island State Police reserve the right to audit all access logs, user activity, and data usage pertaining to the FLOCK system to ensure compliance with this MOU.

The above safeguards will increase confidence and support for this important crime prevention and response tool from our campus community, town residents, and neighboring communities.

The RWU Department of Public Safety enjoys a close collaborative relationship with the Bristol Police Department and respects the decision-making and state wide leadership provided by the Rhode Island State Police.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark Porter, Director of Public Safety, Roger Williams University

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