

# Flock ALPR use in the City of Fort Collins

---

**Jeff Swoboda, Chief of Police**  
**Greg Yeager, Deputy Chief of Police**  
**Adam McCambridge, Asst. Chief of Patrol**



## Purpose and Mission

- Fort Collins Police Services (FCPS) provides robust and diverse services to make accessible, Safety and Service for ALL members of our community.
- Beyond traditional policing methods, FCPS continually seeks innovative practices and technology to increase the efficiency and efficacy of its personnel.
- All practices and technological solutions are vetted for compliance with local, state, and federal law.
- FCPS partners with community members and organizations so service is maximized for safety and criminal investigations practices.
- We take seriously the work to balance privacy with community safety.
  - Flock is a tool that helps solve crime, find people and property more efficiently.
- Accountability is built into each practice and tool.

# Flock Safety Overview

## The Flock System:

- Is an automated license plate reader (ALPR) system that collects facts about vehicles, not people, associated with crime or a safety matter
- A pointer system, to alert investigators if detected vehicles have been flagged by law enforcement as “wanted”
- Is used as an aid in solving crimes, while adhering to all local, state, and federal laws
- Produces images owned by FCPS, and by contract, Flock cannot sell or share with others
- Helps officers work more efficiently & resolve cases more quickly, improving safety & service
- Reduces human bias by collecting objective data for police queries (e.g. stolen vehicles)
- Stores data for 30 days, then it is automatically deleted (unless kept as part of criminal case)
- Requires authorized FCPS users and is only shared with Colorado law enforcement

I am accessing a restricted information system provided for authorized use only, and in compliance with Flock's Terms and Conditions / Privacy Policy and CJIS Security Policy. I agree to use the system in accordance with the laws of all the jurisdictions whose data I access, including prohibitions on immigration enforcement (CA, CO, IL, NJ, OR, VT, WA) and reproductive care (CA, CO, CT, HI, IL, MA, MD, ME, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OR, RI, VT, WA, D.C.) and consent to be monitored, recorded, and audited by Flock and my agency. Unauthorized/improper use may lead to disciplinary action and criminal and/or civil legal penalties. My agency is responsible for the security of my devices and for the authorized use and privacy of any data.

Accept and Continue

# Flock Safety Overview

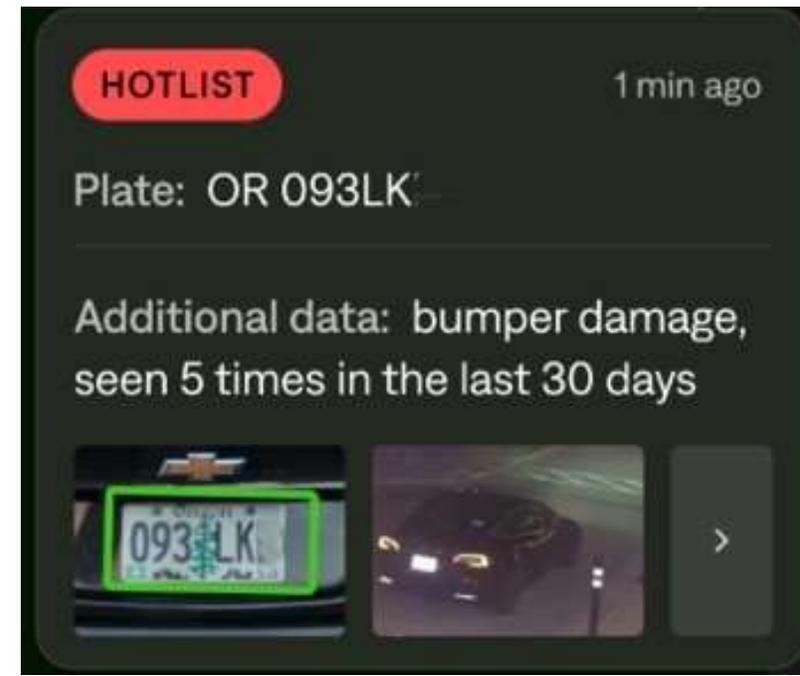
## The Flock System:

- Is NOT facial recognition
- Is NOT connected to personal identifying information of drivers or vehicle owners
- Is NOT used for immigration enforcement and is not shared with immigration officials
- Is NOT used track individuals seeking medical treatment or anything legal
- Is NOT standalone evidence; officers must confirm the information and develop reasonable suspicion or probable cause before taking action
  - Flock ALPRs have a 93% license plate reading accuracy rate, yet department policy requires officers to visually confirm a plate before taking action which mitigates risk from a potential misread.



## How does Flock Work?

- License plate and/or vehicle identifiers from law enforcement agency's report, is entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) or the Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC) & then into a Flock active "hotlist."
- Flock cameras provide alerts for vehicles related to Amber Alerts, other missing/endangered persons, stolen vehicles, wanted persons, and more
- Additionally, officers can enter a license plate, description and/or identifying information about vehicles (ex. Red truck, bumper sticker, cargo rack, etc.) and set parameters for a search
- Parameters may include last known location (i.e., crime scene) and direction of travel
- If vehicle passes a Flock camera, officers receive a "hit" on the vehicle
- Detection consists of a vehicle photo (often taken from the rear) and a closer photo of its license plate.



## How does Flock Work?

- Alerts serve as a “shoulder tap” for officers
- The officer must then utilize their own observations to determine if there is reasonable suspicion or probable cause for a traffic stop.
- Detectives with a hit may use that information as part of their investigation but are subject to the same legal verifications to take later action.
- Flock is used by many private businesses and other agencies in Fort Collins.
  - Private organizations do not have access to our data
- Examples of local and regional utilizations follow in later slides.



- **June 2022** Flock MOU signed allowing FCPS pilot access to other US agencies' cameras for searches only
- **July 2022** Flock abilities introduced to other City service areas
- **March 2024** Presentation for the City's executive leadership team  
Received the first service quotes from Flock
- **April 2024** MOU expired and Flock then required minimum of 12 owned cameras, for search access
- **August 2024** Began contract negotiations, SAAS questionnaire completed and funding researched
- **Sept. 2024** Contract signed with Flock; permitting began
- **April 2025** Installation of cameras began  
Training for new users initiated
- **Fall of 2025** 14 of 15 cameras mounted
  - One mobile (Flex) is not deployed

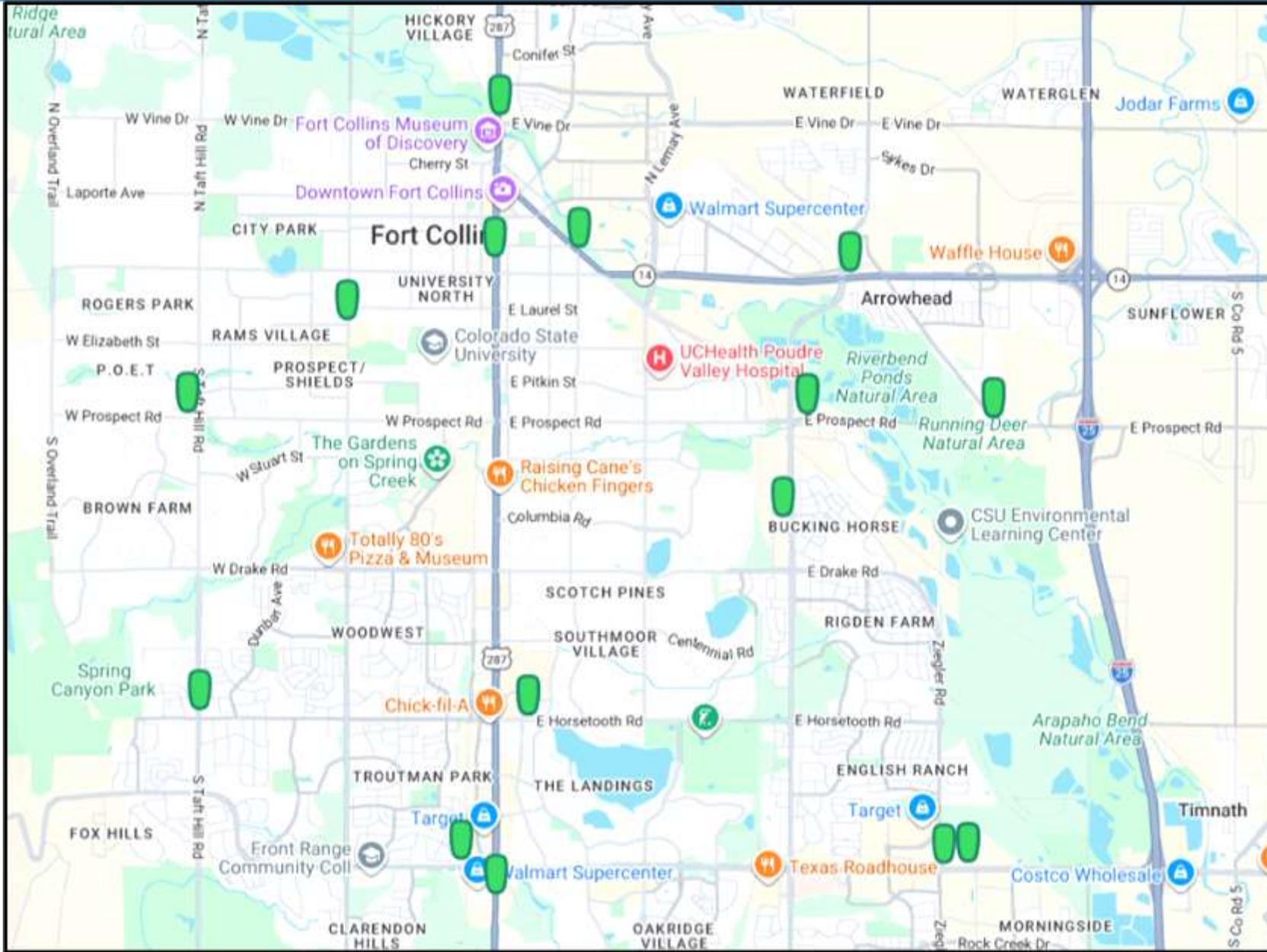
\*Dates are approximate

**There are 14 Flock cameras deployed at the following locations:**

1. N. College Ave @ E. Vine Dr NB
2. S. College Ave @ E. Magnolia St SB
3. Riverside Ave @ Stover St EB
4. S. Shields St @ W. Plum St SB
5. W. Prospect Rd @ Northbrook Dr EB
6. S. College Ave @ Palmer Dr NB
7. E. Harmony Rd @ S. Ziegler Rd EB
8. E. Harmony Rd @ Technology Pkwy WB
9. E. Prospect Rd @ Summit View Dr WB
10. E. Prospect Rd @ Spring Creek Trl EB
11. E. Mulberry St @ S. Timberline Rd EB
12. W. Horsetooth Rd @ S. Taft Hill Rd NB
13. E. Horsetooth Rd @ JFK Pkwy EB
14. Flex - currently at 303 W. Harmony Rd
15. Flex - 2221 S Timberline Rd (this is a 15th camera, not deployed)
  - Flex devices are mobile cameras that can be moved to areas with an identified need (e.g., location where there have been multiple burglaries).



# Map of Camera Placements



Cameras are placed in high-traffic areas used to enter, transit, and exit our city. Some are placed in areas of high activity or police call volume.

All Flock cameras are positioned to observe public roadways and the vehicles on them.

- 4th Amendment
  - Use of ALPRs is constitutional and has been consistently upheld by 30+ appellate and federal courts
    - There is no reasonable expectation of privacy for vehicles and license plates in public view
  - No access to personal data to include drivers' information and vehicle registration information.
    - All alerts must be verified by an FCPS employee and legal justification for action must be developed.
- **Immigration officers have no access to our Flock data**
- Data is stored in a Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) certified AWS cloud
- Prohibited Uses: Immigration enforcement, harassment or intimidation, personal use, or usage based solely on a protected class (i.e. race, sex, religion).
- Flock contract
  - All data is owned by FCPS:
    - Data is only held for 30 days unless exported by officers for evidence in a case
    - Flock's contract forbids it to sell FCPS' information (raw and anonymized)
    - Flock can only utilize anonymized data which "renders the data non-identifiable," to perform its services to include training machine learning algorithms for FCPS

# Legal Standards & Protections - Continued

- The system is audited by a supervisor monthly to verify authorized users and purposes
- FCPS' policy 447 abides by the *Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies* standards and the *International Association of Chiefs of Police* model policy.
- Public releases of Flock audit data are governed by the Colorado Criminal Justice Records Act (CCJRA) and require a 5-Factor Analysis outlined in *Harris v. Denver Post Corp.*, 123 P.3d 1166 (Colo. 2005).
- Individuals who may improperly release data are subject to department policy and/or criminal law
- FCPS maintains a Flock transparency page on the agency's larger Transparency Page: <https://www.fortcollins.gov/Services/Police-and-Public-Safety/Police-Services/Police-Transparency> and through Flock: <https://transparency.flocksafety.com/fort-collins-co-pd>





- **Stolen Vehicle Recovery**

Vehicle stolen in Loveland. Later that day, stolen vehicle passed Flock ALPR in Fort Collins multiple times, helping officers narrow search. Officers located vehicle, conducted a stop, and after a short foot pursuit, arrested the driver and recovered the stolen vehicle.

- **Hit and Run Crash**

Hit-&-run collision at Harmony & I-25, at-fault vehicle drove into Ft. Collins. Victim had dashcam which captured suspect vehicle and partial license plate. Using Flock ALPR, officers identified suspect vehicle, allowing victim to receive insurance information & suspect accountability.

- **Fugitive Arrest**

FCPS, working with Larimer County and US Marshals Service, apprehend dangerous fugitive who was the subject of a 2-months long manhunt in Wyoming. Suspect was wanted for four counts of 1st Degree Sex Assault, one count of 3rd Degree Sex Assault, and Child Exploitation. He was driving stolen vehicle captured on Flock ALPRs in Fort Collins. Flock information was instrumental in helping to locate and arrest the suspect in Fort Collins.

- **Amber Alert – Juvenile Recovery**

Larimer County Sheriff's Office received an Amber Alert for 13-year-old female taken from her home in Utah by an armed sex offender. The suspect vehicle located after a Flock ALPR alert in Wellington. The suspect was arrested and the 13-year-old female was safely recovered.

- **Kidnapping/Menacing**

FCPS responded to woman kidnapped at gunpoint by a male. Woman's life was in grave danger and locating her quickly was paramount. Officers utilized Flock ALPR cameras and found vehicle had left Fort Collins. Specific camera location & direction of travel helped focus the search. Partner agency located the suspect vehicle and pursued. Suspect crashed and escaped on foot. The victim was safely recovered.

- **Stolen Vehicle Recovery/Assault on Officer/Fugitive Arrest**

Loveland Police received report that resident's vehicle had been stolen. After entering the vehicle as stolen, a Larimer County deputy used Flock ALPRs to help locate the vehicle in Berthoud. Suspect abandoned the stolen vehicle in road, ran to a gas station, and tried to steal another vehicle. The suspect fought with the deputy but was ultimately arrested.

- **Locating a Missing At-Risk Adult**

The wife of an elderly male with dementia called police after the man drove to the store but did not return. Officers utilized resources, including Flock ALPR cameras, to help locate the area of town that the husband was last seen. Eventually, he was found safe and reunited with family.



- **Thornton Fatal Hit-and-Run**

February 2026, 14-year-old boy was killed in a hit-and-run. Thornton Police used Flock ALPRs to identify suspect vehicle and Colorado Bureau of Investigation) issued Medina Alert. The 23-year-old suspect was arrested two days later.

- **Aurora Shooting Arrest**

January 2026, Aurora Police Department reported its Gun Violence Suppression Team significantly helped or solved 40% of its cases using technology including Flock cameras. This included tracking a vehicle involved in a shooting in January 2026, leading to an immediate arrest.

- **Douglas County Road Rage Shooting**

January 2026, man arrested & charged with attempted 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder and illegal discharge of a firearm after a road rage in which multiple shots were fired at another vehicle. The Douglas County Sheriff's Office used Flock ALPRs to help identify and arrest the suspect.

- **Littleton and Douglas County Carjacking/Officer Involved Shooting**

January 2026, 43-year-old man arrested following a carjacking in Highlands Ranch. Deputies located stolen vehicle with assistance of Flock ALPRs, suspect fled, opened fire on deputies, rammed a patrol vehicle, & was shot by a deputy. Suspect held on multiple felonies.

- **Boulder Antisemitic Attack**

June 2025, City of Boulder: Flock ALPRs helped to quickly locate suspect vehicle in antisemitic terror attack that injured 15 people.

- **Parker Homicide Arrest**

Parker police responded to a shooting where they found a man dead after an argument. Within hours, investigators identified and arrested a 27-year-old man on suspicion of second-degree murder using witness descriptions and data from Flock APLRs.

# FCPS Call Types Where Flock Used (2025)

VEHICLE THEFT

HIT AND RUN

HIT AND RUN - COLD

THEFT - COLD

TRAFFIC STOP

MISSING ADULT

SHOPLIFTING

SUSPICIOUS CIRC - IN PROGRESS

ASSAULT

WEAPONS COMPLAINT

VEHICLE THEFT IN PROGRESS

WELFARE CHECK

PHYSICAL DISTURBANCE

SUICIDE THREAT

HARASSMENT

MVA INJURY/NON-INJURY

THEFT IN PROGRESS

TRAFFIC PURSUIT

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

BURGLARY IN PROGRESS - COLD

RESTRAINING ORDER VIOLATION

DISTURBANCE

FRAUD

DUI/DUID/REDDI REPORT

- WARRANT ATTEMPT
- DEATH INVESTIGATION
- TRAFFIC RELATED
- SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE - COLD
- FAMILY PROBLEMS
- ROBBERY
- WARRANT ARREST
- SEX OFFENSE
- WEAPONS - COLD
- SHOOTING
- DISTURBANCE - COLD

- Flock is a significant public safety and crime-solving tool utilizing data gathered from public spaces to act as pointer-system for police officer.
- Data belongs to FCPS, is housed securely, is only shared with Colorado law enforcement agencies, and only for documented investigative needs.
- We make certain officers use this information in strict compliance with law, policy, and ethics. FCPS' success is based upon the public's trust.



**Thank you!**



- **What was the public process for approving or entering into the agreement with Flock?**
  - The agreement with Flock was an operational and investigation-based decision. Much like other investigative tools, the agreement was reviewed by city leadership, legal, and finance.
- **Have there been any incidents of false positives, data errors, or misidentifications, and what corrective actions were taken?**
  - FCPS has no incidents of false positives, data errors, or misidentifications with the Flock system. FCPS only provides account access to internal, CJIS-compliant employees, solely for the purposes of legal investigations.
  - FCPS policy and training instruct officers that a Flock hit alone is not enough to detain, summons, or arrest – additional verification must take place.
- **What are the City's costs for installation, subscription, and maintenance of Flock cameras?**
  - The cost for the first year and ongoing annual subscription is \$48,000 each year. We currently have a 2-year subscription that began in September 2024.
- **How often are audit logs reviewed, by whom, and are those results accessible to the public or City Council?**
  - A supervisor audits our use at the end of each month. The audit logs are subject to release under the Colorado Criminal Justice Records Act.

- **How long is vehicle and plate data retained?**
  - 30 days unless an officer applies it to a case as evidence. Specific data is retained per FCPS' evidence policy.
- **Given that other agencies may receive “hits” from our Flock cameras, what measures ensure that these agencies do not retain, copy, or misuse Fort Collins data?**
  - Our data can only be released to Colorado law enforcement agencies that we individually authorize. They may copy for criminal cases, as we do.
  - Flock has settings denying use of the system for immigration and reproductive laws.
  - The filter applies to all searches performed, whether by our users or other agencies we share with.
- **How does the City ensure that Flock cannot share, sell, or otherwise provide Fort Collins data to entities (including out-of-state or private actors) without explicit City authorization?**
  - This protection is written into our contract with Flock.
- **What provisions or technical safeguards exist to prevent data access by law enforcement agencies outside Fort Collins—particularly from states pursuing enforcement actions contrary to Colorado law?**
  - We only grant access to our Flock camera system to other Colorado law enforcement agencies, and it is done manually by an authorized FCPS administrator.

- **What performance indicators are used to evaluate the effectiveness of Flock cameras?**
  - Flock cameras are used daily to help solve crimes. It has proven to be an invaluable asset to our investigators, allowing them to use technology in a legal, ethical, cost-saving fashion to solve multiple crimes.
  - Officers must document Flock hits in their case reports.
  - As the time of use expands, FCPS will be able to conduct efficacy comparisons.
- **Are there other cameras out there being used for similar purposes?**
  - Yes, there are many cameras used both in law enforcement and by the resident population. Individuals and businesses have system such as Ring, Arlo, Blink, or Nest cameras.
  - Flock is also used by non-police organizations and businesses in Fort Collins.
- **Can individuals or businesses in Fort Collins view our cameras? Can we see theirs?**
  - Many businesses in Fort Collins have granted us access to view their cameras.
  - We do not grant access to our Flock cameras to anyone other than Colorado law enforcement agencies who comply with laws related to search and seizure and evidence collection.
- **Who makes the decision on camera placement?**
  - FCPS worked with Flock to identify high-traffic areas of ingress, transit, egress for our city. Flock selected the exact placements based upon suitable mounting positions and roadway angle of view.

- **Do Flock cameras collect personal identifying information?**
  - Flock has no access to law enforcement databases for driver information or vehicle registration.
  - Flock cameras focus on license plates and vehicles, not occupants.
  - Fort Collins Police Services uses this technology strictly in accordance with Colorado law and internal policy.
- **Who has access to Fort Collins Flock cameras and data?**
  - Only authorized and trained members of FCPS have direct access to our Flock system. No external agencies or federal entities are granted user access to our cameras.
  - Flock does not provide "back-door access" to any entity.
    - Specifically, Flock does not work with any sub-agency of the Department of Homeland Security, including U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.
- **Is it accurate that Flock Safety was successfully hacked releasing data?**
  - No, Flock Safety demonstrated that information recently posted online was gathered from legally-obtained public records released in Washington state.
  - Further, Flock Safety conducts on-going system testing to learn of any vulnerabilities:  
<https://www.flocksafety.com/blog/flock-security-testing-bishop-fox-privacy>

- **Is Flock Safety's SOC 2 security review outdated and the company at a security risk?**
  - Flock maintains a continuous and robust security program, validated by multiple, up-to-date, independent third-party attestations. These include SOC 2 Type II, SOC 3, and ISO 27001 certifications.
  - Security posture is aligned with leading frameworks, including NIST Cybersecurity and the Cloud Security Alliance's CAIQ framework, ensuring practices meet rigorous industry standards.
  - Data is encrypted end-to-end: on the device, in transit, and at rest in the AWS GovCloud, designed for sensitive US government workloads.
- **Are Flock cameras unsecured and easily hacked, both physically and wirelessly?**
  - Flock Safety has multiple layers of security to protect against hacking and physical tampering.
  - Flock cameras do not have a public IP address and are not addressable remotely, preventing unauthorized access over the internet. Data stored on the camera is protected with AES-256 encryption.
- **Is dual-authentication mandatory to avoid compromised credentials being sold online?**
  - Flock Safety has MFA by default and adds a critical layer of user verification for system access.
  - This directly mitigates the risk of compromised credentials being used to access the system.
  - Access is further controlled by Role-Based Access Controls, which ensure that users can only access the data that is explicitly necessary for their designated roles.