

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Jeff Swoboda, Chief of Police
Adam McCambridge, Assistant Chief of Police

SUBJECT

Flock Retention and Data Sharing.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is a follow up from the Council Work Session on May 12, 2026 to present options for Council to consider related to the retention of Fort Collins Police Services (FCPS) Flock data and restrictions on data sharing of Flock information with outside agencies. If desired, Council may make a motion directing staff of next steps they would like to see occur. The form of two motions for that purpose are provided at the end of the Background/Discussion section.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

At the Council Work Session on May 12, 2026, Fort Collins Police Services (FCPS) presented Council with four options related to the City's contract with Flock Safety (Flock) which provides FCPS with Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras. Based on feedback from the Work Session, efforts to expand the scope of the Citizen Review Board to include additional oversight and to create a surveillance policy are underway. During other business at the Council meeting on May 19, 2026, Council requested additional follow-up from FCPS related to options it could consider regarding the retention timeframe for the Flock data as well as which Colorado entities have access to our system.

Data Retention

Pursuant to the current contract, the retention period is 30 days. At the end of the retention period, the data is completely deleted by the cloud storage provider. There are several options Council could consider related to the retention period of the data: (1) 30 days, (2) 21 days, (3) 14 days, (4) 7 days, or (5) any other timeframe Council would like. The retention period is set by contract, and any changes would require a contract amendment with Flock.

Several things can impact the search timelines by FCPS employees. Delayed reporting of crimes, victim follow-up, work schedules, case developments such as leads, evidence, interviews, and intelligence gathering develop over time and can extend the timeline for accessing Flock. In order to understand the potential impacts of a shorter data retention period, staff conducted a 30-day look back period from April 20-May 20, 2026: 51% of Flock searches were conducted in the first 7 days of the case investigation, 6% of the searches were within 8-14 days, 3% within 15-21- days, and 38.7% within 22-30 days.

The attached presentation distinguishes the use of the Flock system by use of Patrol and Investigations. Patrol officers most often utilize Flock during calls of services to search for “in the moment” crime. Detectives in the Investigation division utilize the Flock system for longer periods of time because the nature of their work involves crimes that have already happened days or weeks ago. This is why there is a significant number of searches completed in investigations over the 21-day timeframe. Reducing the retention schedule requires the data to be deleted and no longer accessible to anyone, even with a warrant.

Access by other Colorado law enforcement agencies

In addition to the retention period, Council requested that FCPS provide options for Council to consider regarding FCPS’s restriction of access to Flock data. Currently, FCPS shares Flock data only with law enforcement agencies in Colorado. All agencies in Colorado are required to follow the state law that does not allow sharing Personally Identifiable Information (PII) data for immigration enforcement or reproductive health care purposes. Additionally, access to the Flock system is limited for legitimate law enforcement purposes only. FCPS has the ability to stop sharing access to outside agencies at any time through an administrative setting within the Flock system and no contract amendment is needed.

When responding to recent crimes, officers often limit their initial Flock searches to Fort Collins. However, if time permits—or as the investigation progresses—the search area can be expanded to include regional, state, or nationwide agencies. The Flock system is not required to be reciprocal to work, and although FCPS does not share their data with agencies outside Colorado, many agencies in other states still share their information with us.

Council could consider further limiting the geographic areas with which we share Flock data. However, the system is optimized through collaborative networks that share real-time information.

Key operational benefits of maintaining regional sharing include:

- Allows FCPS to receive 'hot list' alerts and solve crimes for local residents even after a suspect leaves Fort Collins.
- Assists in time-sensitive cases involving missing or at-risk individuals, homicide suspects, and fugitives.
- Enhances the ability to disrupt mobile criminal activity, such as motor vehicle theft and statewide felony theft rings.

Information sharing functions as a mutual safety resource; it protects Fort Collins residents from threats while assisting regional partners in the same manner.

FCPS could also update current policy to state that outside agency access will be immediately removed if they share Flock data in violation of:

- State Law (e.g. Immigration, Reproductive/ Healthcare purposes), and
- Other unauthorized searches

Other information

Additionally, a question from Council was asked regarding current Flock contract terms and conditions. There has been some questions about Flock updating their terms and conditions and how those changes have impacted current contract language. While Flock may be updating their standard terms and conditions with some of their other clients, including Commerce City, the City’s contract has not changed. All terms and conditions remain the same and were specially negotiated and agreed to in September 2024. An addendum to the contract was completed in March 2026. The addendum added a PII Certification required by state law. No other changes to the original contract were made and the addendum does not grant additional rights to Flock. The contract and PII certification are attached.

The Commerce City contract is attached as well and staff is working on a comparative analysis between their contract and ours. This information will be provided in the June 16 Tuesday read before Council packet.

Suggested motions for this item if Council would like to direct changes are:

"I move that City Council direct staff to negotiate a change to the City's contract with Flock Safety to delete all of the City's data after ___ days, rather than after 30 days."

"I move that City Council direct staff to restrict sharing of Flock data as follows:_____."

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

None.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS / LINKS

1. City of Fort Collins Flock Contract and Order Form
2. City of Fort Collins PII Certification Addendum
3. Commerce City Flock Contract and amendments
4. Presentation