

MEMORANDUM



TO: ERICK W. ZINSER
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY/CHIEF OF POLICE

FROM: STEVEN D. SNELL – DETECTIVE SERGEANT

SUBJECT: FLOCK / ALPR CAMERAS

DATE: MAY 28, 2026

On May 8, 2023, the Novi City Council approved the purchase and installation of ten (10) Flock license plate readers as part of an effort to enhance public safety, assist criminal investigations, and improve regional information sharing among law enforcement agencies. The Novi Police Department currently operates ten (10) Flock Safety Cameras that are positioned at strategic roadway locations throughout the city.

Current Camera Deployment Locations

The City's current Flock camera deployment locations are as follows:

1. Novi Road / I-96 Northbound
2. Novi Road / I-96 East Off Ramp Southbound
3. Novi Road / Crescent Boulevard Northbound
4. Beck Road / I-96 Southbound
5. Beck Road / I-96 Northbound
6. Twelve Mile Road / M-5 Westbound
7. Twelve Mile Road / M-5 Eastbound
8. Haggerty Road / Eight Mile Road Southbound
9. Eight Mile Road / Haggerty Road Westbound
10. Novi Road / West Oaks Drive Southbound

These locations were selected based on traffic flow, ingress and egress corridors, major commercial areas, and routes commonly utilized for regional travel.

Regional Law Enforcement Participation

The effectiveness of the Flock Safety System is enhanced through regional cooperation and information sharing among participating law enforcement agencies. The following agencies currently deploy Flock Cameras (these are only a sample of agencies in Michigan):

1. Auburn Hills Police Department
2. Beverly Hills Police Department
3. Birmingham Police Department
4. Bloomfield Township Police Department
5. Brownstown Police Department
6. Charlotte Police Department
7. Chesterfield Police Department
8. Clawson Police Department
9. Dearborn Heights Police Department

10. Dearborn Police Department
11. Farmington Police Department
12. Farmington Hills Police Department
13. Ferndale Police Department
14. Grand Blanc Township Police Department
15. Lansing Police Department
16. Lathrup Village Police Department
17. Michigan State Police
18. Oakland County Sheriff's Office
19. Milford Police Department
20. Northville Township Police Department
21. Plymouth Township Police Department
22. Royal Oak Police Department
23. Shelby Township Police Department
24. Sterling Heights Police Department
25. Walled Lake Police Department
26. Wolverine Lake Police Department
27. Wixom Police Department
28. West Bloomfield Police Department
29. Livonia Police Department
30. South Lyon Police Department (currently in the process of acquiring and implementing Flock cameras).

This regional network allows participating agencies to share relevant investigative information across jurisdictional boundaries when authorized and when appropriate for law enforcement purposes.

Overview of How Flock Cameras Operate

Flock Safety Cameras are specifically designed to capture vehicle information in public roadway environments. The cameras are mounted on poles or existing infrastructure and operate continuously. When a vehicle passes the camera, the system records and analyzes several data points, including:

1. License plate number
2. Vehicle make
3. Vehicle model
4. Vehicle color
5. Distinguishing characteristics (such as decals, roof racks, bumper damage, etc.)
6. Direction of travel
7. Date and time stamp
8. GPS location of the camera

The cameras are not designed for general live surveillance or facial recognition. The primary purpose of the system is vehicle identification and investigative support. Each time a member of the Novi Police Department conducts a query through the Flock System, a valid reason and supporting Case Report Number is required to conduct the search. The information provided through each search allows investigators to search

historical vehicle information associated with criminal investigations, missing persons, stolen vehicles, wanted subjects, and public safety incidents.

Investigative and Operational Uses

Flock Safety Camera Systems are commonly utilized for:

1. Locating stolen vehicles
2. Identifying suspect vehicles associated with criminal activity
3. Locating missing or endangered persons
4. Investigating violent crimes and property crimes

Access to Information and Data Security

Authorized law enforcement personnel access Flock Safety data through a secure, cloud-based software platform provided by Flock Safety. Access is controlled through individualized user accounts, password protection, multi-factor authorization, and permission-based authorization protocols.

Users can search by full license plate number, a partial license plate number or a generic search with such parameters as make/model/color of the target vehicle.

The system maintains audit logs documenting user access and search activity to ensure accountability and compliance with departmental policies and applicable laws. Participating agencies may share data with one another through the Flock network when permitted by agency policy and applicable legal standards. Access is restricted to legitimate law enforcement and public safety purposes.

Other Jurisdictions Operating Flock Cameras in Novi

Jurisdictions all around the City of Novi are operating Flock cameras in their own jurisdictions. There is no other jurisdiction deploying Flock cameras in the City of Novi except for The Oakland County-Commerce Township Sub-Station. Commerce Township recently approved the purchase of Flock cameras. One camera is being installed on the M-5 median, just south of Fourteen Mile Road. Because M-5 is a state highway, they do not need authorization from the City of Novi. If another jurisdiction wanted to install a Flock camera in Novi (not along a state highway), they would have to seek City of Novi approval prior to obtaining any other permits.

Data Retention and Privacy Considerations

Flock Safety Systems are intended to capture vehicle-related information occurring in public view on roadways. The cameras do not record audio and are not intended for continuous monitoring of individuals. Access to stored information is limited to authorized personnel conducting official investigations or public safety functions. Generally, the Flock software stores vehicle information for thirty (30) days within the software program.

The Flock Safety Cameras do not directly integrate into the Michigan Secretary of State Database. When a license plate or vehicle make/model/color is searched, the results do not indicate the registered owner of the vehicle. If an investigator or an officer locates the target vehicle, a separate search will have to be conducted through the

Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) and Secretary of State to determine the registered owner and registration details of the vehicle. The only information that a Flock search will generate is the license plate number along with generic vehicle descriptors.