

MEMORANDUM



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

FROM: STEVE SNELL, DETECTIVE SERGEANT

SUBJECT: FLOCK CAMERAS

DATE: JULY 13, 2026

In May 2023, Novi City Council approved the purchase and installation of Flock license plate reader cameras to help improve public safety, support criminal investigations, and strengthen information sharing with other law enforcement agencies. The Novi Police Department currently operates 10 Flock cameras located at key roadway entrances, exits, and high-traffic areas throughout the city.

These cameras capture information about vehicles traveling on public roads, including:

- License plate number
- Vehicle make, model, and color
- Distinguishing features, such as decals or roof racks
- Direction of travel
- Date and time
- Camera location

Agencies that use FLOCK can choose to share data access with other participating agencies through mutual agreements. This collaboration allows investigators to search a broader network of FLOCK camera data, enhancing investigative capabilities. When two agencies establish a data-sharing agreement, each becomes part of the other's extended FLOCK network. Data sharing through FLOCK is a common practice among law enforcement agencies.

When searching FLOCK, agencies can select an option to search their entire network of shared agencies' data or just specific agencies they share data with. This option is left up to the specific user when searching data. If an agency selects to search its entire network, all agencies tied to that network will be automatically checked for any corresponding data to the original search criteria. Many agencies choose to search their entire network when conducting FLOCK queries.

The data in FLOCK network is consistently purged. Users can only review data for the last 30 days. The audit data on who queried the network, from which agency, the reason, etc.,

is kept indefinitely (treated as evidence). It's been requested to provide a review of FLOCK data for the past 30 days, which revealed the following:

- Novi personnel searched FLOCK data 549 times
- Outside agency, network-wide queries, which include Novi as just one of many agencies in someone else's network, totaled 783,645 searches
- When adjusting for duplicate agencies represented in the 783,645 number, it dwindles to 1,075 different agencies
- Out of those 1,075 only 5 were outside agency searches (all Michigan-based, metro Detroit agencies) of Novi Flock data specifically

FLOCK data continues to prove itself an invaluable investigative tool for the Novi Police Department and has helped our staff develop investigative leads and solve crimes.