

August 13, 2026

Open Letter to Municipalities Reported to Use Flock Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) Cameras

Dear City Leaders:

We write you because local reporting has indicated that you currently operate Flock ALPR cameras in your municipality. Recently, the city of Wilmington decided to decommission its four Flock ALPR cameras after significant privacy issues were identified with this technology. The ACLU-DE commends the actions of Wilmington leaders, and we encourage you to consider doing the same.

Flock ALPR operates by digitally scanning and uploading the license plate number of cars that pass by the camera. The technology can be used to track any vehicle in real time and can be easily abused if there is not regulation. Across the country, there have been multiple instances of Flock ALPR cameras being misused, including:

- Immigration and Customs Enforcement has used Flock to go after immigrants without warrants.
- Kansas officers used ALPRs to pursue a man who wrote a critical op-ed about the police department.
- A Colorado police officer wrongfully accused a woman of theft based on a Flock hit – and then refused to look at evidence proving her innocence.

These are only a few examples of where this new technology has been misused, and it has the potential to further violate Delawareans' privacy rights and create a web of surveillance that makes our state fundamentally less free.

While we recommend that your communities follow Wilmington's example and abandon the use of Flock ALPR cameras altogether, you may also choose to significantly regularly regulate their use by passing legislation that does the following:

- Limiting data retention to hours or days, not weeks or a month or more
- Limiting data sharing by prohibiting local law enforcement from providing access to any other government entity unless they have a warrant for a felony crime that is recognized under local/state law
- Limiting usage to felony investigations, missing persons cases, identifying unregistered/uninsured vehicles, and certain limited non-enforcement scenarios, like electronic toll collection
- Requiring annual usage reporting and placing limits on the



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availability of ALPR data via open records requests so it cannot be used for troublesome purposes like stalking or embarrassing a person for entertainment value

Each day that these cameras remain active in our Delaware communities, they collect sensitive information that can be used to violate our rights. Please act now.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike B.", followed by a horizontal line.

Mike Brickner
Executive Director



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