

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shaker Heights Council Member Orlando L. Alvarez Jr. Issues Statement on Flock

May 7, 2026

Shaker Heights, Ohio

As a Hispanic immigrant and a member of City Council in Shaker Heights, I am concerned about the potential use of Flock data in ways that could contribute to identifying, apprehending, or deporting individuals in our community. This is an issue that carries real implications for residents and for the trust placed in local government.

I have requested, with urgency, that the Administration provide City Council with the relevant information and data related to the use of Flock in Shaker Heights so that we can better understand how the system has been used, particularly with respect to any immigration related activity.

In the interim, the City has taken actions to address the concerns expressed by members of the community. These include re-evaluating the language in the Flock contract, conducting a data analysis on the effectiveness of Flock data in supporting law enforcement efforts, and opting in to a newly available system feature that prohibits searches for immigration related purposes. The City has also indicated that it will require outside agencies to adhere to Shaker Heights policies and will conduct ongoing reviews of system use.

Once City Council has had the opportunity to review the information, we will be in a position to consider the appropriate path forward with respect to the Flock agreement. As representatives of the community, it is important that we take a balanced approach, weighing both the benefits of the technology and the concerns that have been expressed.

While the number of immigration related searches may be small in comparison to overall system use, even a single instance that results in harm to a resident or family is concerning. The issue is not only about scale, but about ensuring that the system is used in a manner consistent with our community values.

Our goal should be to ensure that we are both supporting public safety and maintaining the trust and confidence of all residents.

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