



MAYOR JUSTIN M. BIBB
City of Cleveland, Ohio

Monday, May 18, 2026

Dear Council President Griffin and Chairman Polensek:

I am writing to update you on the administration's approach to the renewal of our contract with Flock Safety for Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology. After carefully considering feedback received from residents and members of City Council, the administration has decided not to proceed through the Board of Control for a one-year contract extension at this time as provided in the ordinance.

Instead, the administration will introduce legislation for Council's consideration to authorize a one-year contract to continue the Flock Safety ALPR program. We believe this approach appropriately honors the oversight role of Council and ensures the community has a meaningful opportunity to weigh in on this public safety tool and concerns about privacy and civil liberties.

I want to be transparent about the urgency of required action to prevent operational impact of any gap in ALPR coverage. If the program lapses before legislation is enacted, the City will face significant consequences, including:

- Reduced investigative capacity for violent crimes. Cleveland Police have relied on ALPR data to rapidly identify and locate vehicles connected to homicides, carjackings, and other serious offenses. Loss of this capability will slow active investigations and may impede prosecutions that depend on corroborating location data.
- Elimination of real-time stolen vehicle recovery. The Flock system currently alerts officers to stolen vehicles as they move through the city, enabling rapid recoveries that would otherwise not occur. Without it,



stolen vehicle clearance rates are expected to decline materially, directly harming Cleveland residents.

- Loss of a critical tool for locating missing and endangered persons. ALPR data has been used to locate abducted children, missing adults with cognitive impairments, and individuals involved in human trafficking investigations. A lapse in service creates a real and immediate gap in the City's ability to respond to these time-sensitive emergencies.
- It is challenging to recruit and retain police officers in Cleveland. This regression in the availability of widely used technology will impact our ability to attract new recruits.
- Creates a regional enforcement blind spot. Offenders fleeing crimes in the surrounding suburbs will exploit Cleveland's borders as an ALPR dead zone, drawing more dangerous outside-agency pursuits through our neighborhoods.

The administration looks forward to working with Council on a path forward that reflects both our shared commitment to public safety and the community's expectation of transparency and accountability. We are prepared to provide any additional briefings or materials that would assist Committee consideration of the legislation.

Respectfully,



Justin M. Bibb

Mayor, City of Cleveland



