



OPEN LETTER

November 13, 2025

RE: Ordinance No. 1367-2025 Authorizing the Director of Public Safety to enter into contract with Flock Group, Inc. dba Flock Safety

Dear Mayor Bibb, Council President Griffin and Councilman Polensek:

We write as Cleveland residents to express our significant concern with Flock Safety as the city contemplates expanding the reach of the company's offering.

Across the country, municipalities are beginning to hit the brakes on these systems, recognizing that mass surveillance introduces new safety issues, undermines democratic control of public infrastructure, and does more harm than good.

In our view, we should take seriously [U.S. Senator Ron Wyden's recent letter to Flock CEO, Garret Langley](#) where he provided that **"In my view, local elected officials can best protect their constituents from the inevitable abuses of Flock cameras by removing Flock from their communities."** (emphasis added) Senator Wyden pointed specifically to the failure of Flock to protect Oregonians from immigration and abortion-related searches by law enforcement agencies in other states. Perhaps even more alarmingly, Wyden details that Flock deceived state and local law enforcement customers about its sharing of their data with the Department of Homeland Security and other federal agencies.

We are witnessing authoritarian overreach in the federal government and increasingly unchecked power particularly in the tech sector. Given these challenges, we must exercise extreme care before deploying monopolistic surveillance tools that are ripe for misuse by state or federal law enforcement partners.

This letter isn't meant to outline our comprehensive concerns with Flock, but instead is an initial call for a comprehensive vetting of the company and tools offered. To that end, we respectfully request the following:

1. Independent expert testimony on Flock and similar surveillance tools at a safety committee hearing prior to considering Ordinance No. 1367-2025 for passage out of committee AND a dedicated public comment period during this committee hearing;

2. Assurances that former Councilman Kerry McCormack will formally recuse himself from lobbying or engaging with the administration or City Council on any Flock related business moving forward. Specifically, we want to understand the timeline of negotiations between McCormack and Flock up until the point of his job offer/hiring. Similarly, we'd like to understand the timeline for former Commander Kutz's hiring by Shotspotter.
3. Finally, we'd like answers to the following questions:
 - Which agencies are currently sharing their ALPR feed with the Cleveland Police Department (CPD)? Does the City and/or CPD have explicit guarantees that data collected in Cleveland will never be provided in any capacity (including via searches by other Flock customers) to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)?
 - Which agencies is CPD sharing its ALPR feed with?
 - Who is CPD sharing its hotlist with?
 - Who is sharing their hotlist with CPD?
 - Can you provide a log of all instances when data has been shared, including timestamps and recipient agency?
 - Please provide a complete history of all searches conducted by outside agencies since ALPR cameras were installed — not limited to the past 30 days. We're especially interested in:
 - i. The reason entered in the "reason for search" field
 - ii. Name of the agency
 - iii. Available details about the searching officer (e.g., job title)
 - iv. Number of hits returned
 - v. Any available details about the matched images (excluding license plate numbers)
 - Please share any instance in which Cleveland camera data matched an item on a national hotlist, along with where that data was sent.
 - Where can we view the contents or criteria of the national hotlist?
 - Please list all ongoing automatic alert lists currently in use (e.g., NCIS,, etc.).
 - Please provide a log of all users who have searched the system, including timestamps and user information.
 - Please list all searches performed by CPD officers on behalf of outside agencies since the start of the pilot, or instances where outside agencies were granted one-time access to perform a search.
 - Please share a log of all user email addresses with access to the system.

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