



Olympia Police Department:
Flock Safety Cameras

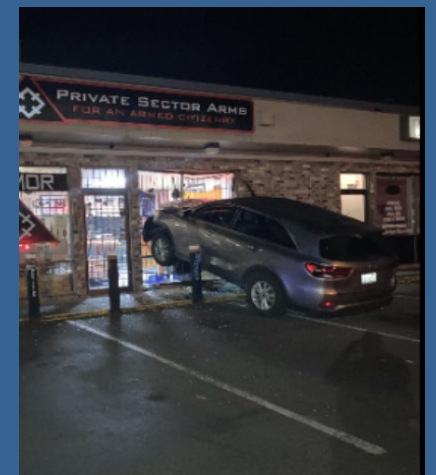
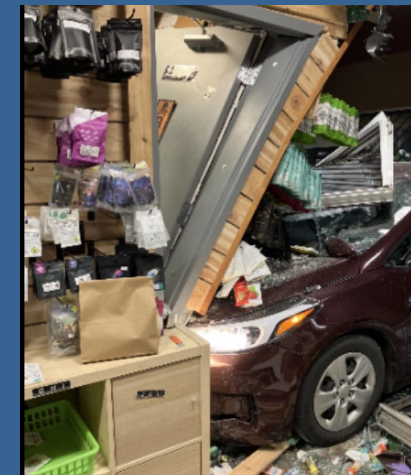
Olympia City Council

Shelby Parker, Interim Police Chief
Paul Frailey, Police Lieutenant

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Why OPD Piloted an ALPR Program

- Increased crimes with stolen vehicles
- Marijuana/commercial burglaries
- Armed robberies
- Organized retail theft

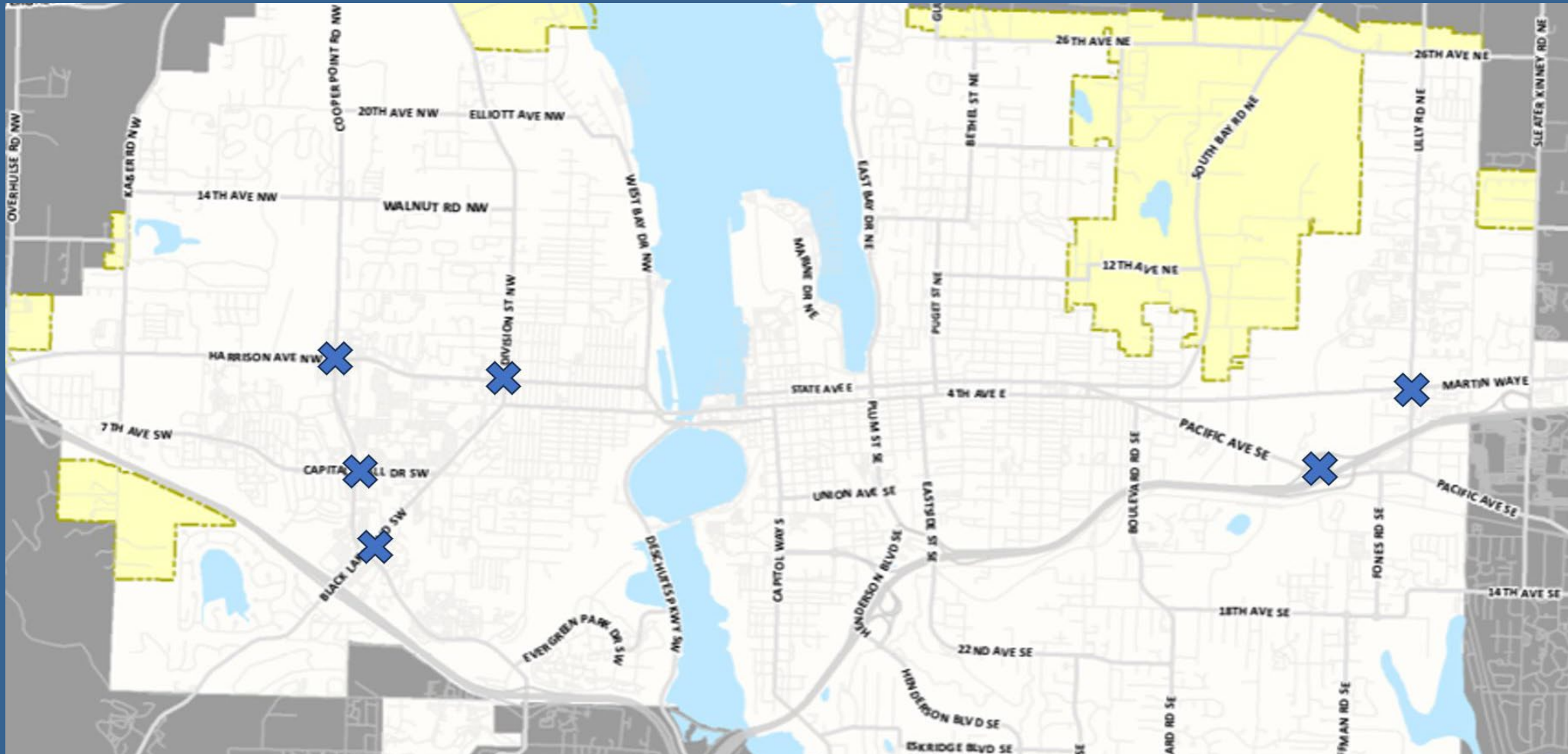


OPD's Approach

- Goals: Recover stolen vehicles and apprehend retail thieves
- Obtained a grant from the Department of Commerce
- Presented information to CLPS on Feb. 28, 2024, and Council on March 19, 2024
- Contracted with Flock Safety on March 29, 2024
- Activated Flock cameras on July 26, 2024
 - Two-year program
 - Current subscription expires July 2026
 - Cost: \$98,820 for two years after sales tax



Camera Placement



Flock

- Recognizes license plates
- Gathers objective evidence and facts about vehicles, not people
- Alerts police of wanted vehicles
- Helps solve crime
- Adheres to all state laws

Flock Is NOT

- Facial recognition software
- Linked to Personal Identifiable Information
- Used for traffic enforcement
- Used for Immigration Enforcement
- Shared with federal or out of state law enforcement

Protecting Privacy

- Footage is owned by OPD and will never be sold or shared by Flock without legal authorization
- 30-day data retention, then deleted
- Short retention period ensures that all data not associated with a crime is automatically deleted & unrecoverable
- All data is stored securely in secured cloud storage with end-to-end encryption
- Search reason is required for audit trail
- NOT predictive policing
- Not connected to registration data or 3rd party databases (Carfax, DMV)
- Transparency Portal available on OPD website

Amended Contract/Policy

- Contract amended May 15, 2025, to limit disclosure of data
 - Flock may only access, use, preserve and/or disclose footage if legally required to do so or as authorized by OPD
 - If disclosure is legally required, Flock shall notify OPD prior to disclosure, if possible, or as soon as notification can be reasonably provided
 - Except as necessary to address security, privacy, fraud, or technical issues of Flock's operating system, Flock shall not access, use, or preserve data without written consent from OPD
- OPD amended Policy 428, Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs)
 - ALPRs shall not be used for:
 - Immigration enforcement
 - Surveillance based on a protected class
 - Monitoring First Amendment-protected activity
 - Tracking travel to or from health care facilities

Ownership and Control of Data

- The City of Olympia is the sole owner of all its Flock data
- Flock cannot access, use, or sell Olympia's data
- Automatic data sharing does not occur
- Agencies wishing to view Olympia data must submit a request that is reviewed and approved by an authorized Olympia administrator
- Olympia does not participate in Flock's National Lookup feature and does not share data with agencies outside of the State of Washington



Safeguards & Audit Protections

Olympia implemented every available Flock safeguard to prevent unauthorized use:

1. Keyword-Based Immigration and Reproductive Health Filter

- Mandatory search filter that automatically excludes Olympia's cameras from any search appearing connected to immigration enforcement and reproductive health

2. Manual Review of Data Sharing Requests

- An OPD Flock Administrator must explicitly approve all data-sharing requests
- Federal agencies are clearly marked within the Flock system and cannot be automatically granted access, nor will OPD approve such access

Safeguards & Audit Protections - Continued

3. Comprehensive Audits

- Every search performed is permanently logged with a reason for the search
- The Flock system maintains organizational and network audits, allowing OPD to review any access, internal or external
- OPD's Flock Administrator conducts regular internal audits to ensure full compliance with state law, department policy, and the City's contractual protections

4. Private Camera Integration

- Private businesses with Flock cameras can grant OPD permission to view their camera data; however, they maintain ownership of the data, and that data can only be accessed with explicit consent
- Entities cannot access or search Olympia's law enforcement data, ensuring municipal data remains fully segregated and secure



Flock Report: August 2025

Hits This Month

Stolen Vehicle	68
Stolen Plate	144
Protection Order	25
Warrants	18
Violent Person	50

Assisted in 8 Arrests/Case Referrals to Prosecutors

Top Case Assists

Aggravated Assault	2
Auto Theft/Recovery	14
Burglary	2
Counterfeit/Fraud	3
DUI	2
DV/DV Order	2
Hit & Run	5
Missing Person	7
Narcotics	6
Simple Assault	10
Vehicle Prowl/Theft	5

August Case Highlight

On August 14, officers responded to a report of a sex offense against a five year old child. Detectives investigated and developed probable cause to arrest a known male suspect. Using Flock, officers and detectives obtained a photo of the suspects vehicle and the last area it was detected. This information was used to locate the suspect, who was found asleep in his vehicle and arrested.



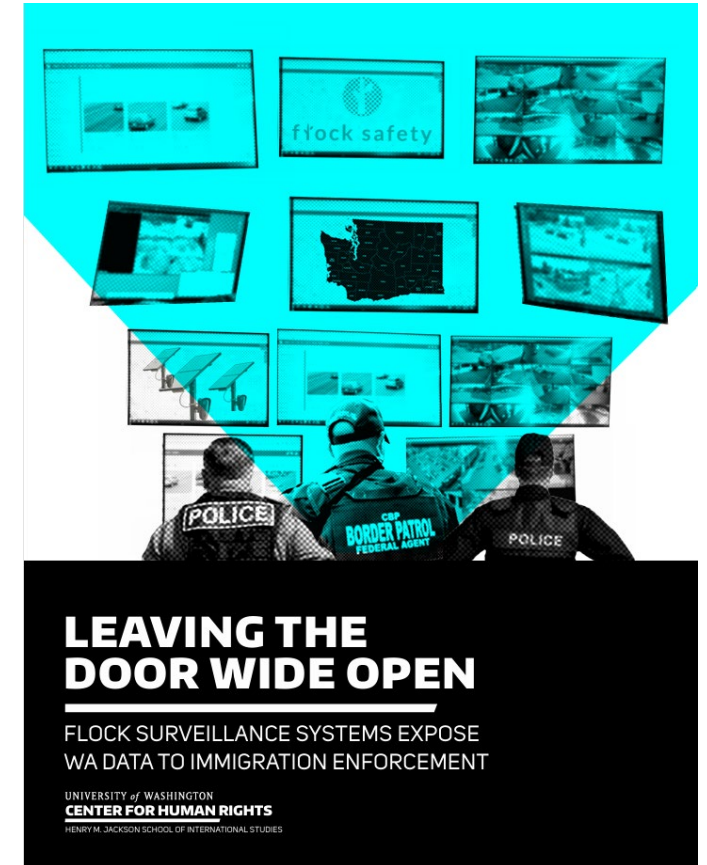
Note: this data corresponds to license plate 'reads' that are reported as belonging to/associated with the listed categories by information provided by the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). All information must be verified prior to law enforcement action.

Transparency

- OPD's website contains:
 - Transparency Portal
 - General information about Flock
 - Agencies that have access to OPD data
 - Public search audit
 - Statistics
 - OPD's ALPR Policy
 - Monthly Reports
 - Hits
 - Arrests
 - Assists
 - Case highlight

Findings of the UW Report

- The University of Washington’s “Leaving the Door Wide Open” report acknowledges Olympia’s strong compliance and careful approach to data sharing
- This finding confirms that Olympia’s restrictive system configuration is functioning as intended, protecting community data while maintaining excellent investigative capabilities



Source: [Leaving-the-Door-Wide-Open-Flock-WA.pdf](#)

Public Disclosure

- Flock camera records fall under Washington State's Public Records Act
- Following the UW report, the volume of records requests has increased
- Several factors make Flock camera record disclosures an ineffective tool for anyone seeking to misuse or exploit the system:
 - Volume of records
 - Flock cameras generate approximately 4 million images every 30 days in Olympia
 - No personally identifiable information
 - Flock data is not tied to individuals
 - The system captures license plates, not names or driver information
 - No one can request records associated with a specific person, only plate number(s) or broad time ranges

Key Points - Continued

- Key points about Flock camera records and public disclosure:
 - Cost structure
 - The City's electronic records policy applies
 - Costs 5 cents per four images
 - A full 30-day release of OPD's Flock records would cost approximately \$50,000
 - Community members may view records at no cost, provided they are not requesting copies
 - Limited image content
 - The system is designed to capture vehicles and plates, not people
 - Occupants are rarely visible
 - The system cannot search for or identify individuals inside vehicles
 - Data is not real-time
 - By the time Flock records are released through a public records request, the information is dated

Key Points - Continued

- Key points about Flock camera records and public disclosure:
 - Public access is consistent with other police records
 - Flock data falls under the same disclosure requirements as many other police records
 - Reports, digital evidence, in-car video
 - Availability through the Public Records Act is not unique but part of the standard transparency framework that applies across Washington State
 - Any license plate or vehicle tied to an active investigation is exempt from disclosure
 - OPD may engage in safety planning with DV survivors
 - Records staff can check requested license plates against OPD's records system
 - If a plate belongs to a survivor, officers and victim advocates may follow up with them
 - OPD will investigate if a survivor believes a request may be linked to stalking

Cybersecurity Practices & Protections

- The City of Olympia utilizes two-factor authentication to access all City computers
- OPD also utilizes two-factor authentication for all Department Mobile Computer Terminals
- Flock has pledged to Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) Secure By Design principles
- Flock submitted the internet reports about vulnerabilities within their systems to Mitre for inclusion in the National Institute of Standards and Technology's National Vulnerability Database
- Flock secures data in accordance with industry requirements, including encryption using AES-256, as validated by the company's ISO 27001 compliance certification

From Safeguards to Outcomes

- We have shown how the system is restricted, audited, and monitored
- We have talked about privacy, data control, and security
- Let's turn to the outcomes we've seen from using this system
- These examples demonstrate what Flock can do within those limits



Flock-Assisted Arrests

112 Flock-Assisted Arrests since August 2024. 29 Stolen Vehicles Recovered

Crime	Total Arrests
Assault/DV	39
Bomb Threat	1
Burglary	14
DUI	1
Fraud	4
Homicide/Att Homicide	6
Human Trafficking	1
Kidnapping	1

Crime	Total Arrests
Missing Person	1
Narcotics	14
Robbery	7
Sex Offense	2
Theft/ORT/Shoplifting	10
Vandalism	1
Warrants	7
Weapons Violation	3



Success Stories

Residential Burglary with Sexual Motivation

- Olympia officers responded to a residential burglary in which a woman awoke to find a man in her apartment
- Detectives linked this case to multiple similar incidents across Olympia and Lacey
- Surveillance footage and Flock camera data revealed a suspect vehicle, a black Volkswagen sedan, which led investigators to a residence in Lacey
- The suspect was charged with Residential Burglary with Sexual Motivation, Voyeurism, Stalking, and Attempted Burglary

Success Stories - Continued

Homicide in Thurston County

- This year, TCSO investigated the kidnapping and homicide of a Thurston County resident
- The suspect, then a person of interest, claimed they had remained at home during the time of the crime
- TCSO searched the Flock database for the person of interest's vehicle
- OPD cameras documented the vehicle in motion during the same timeframe the suspect claimed it never left their property
- Investigators used this evidence to disprove the suspect's alibi
- Investigators credit Olympia's Flock Safety cameras as a key factor in solving the case
- The suspect was subsequently charged with kidnapping and homicide

Success Stories - Continued

Stolen Vehicle and Possession of Narcotics

- Officers received a Flock alert for a vehicle stolen in Columbia County
- Officers quickly located the vehicle and confirmed it was stolen
- The driver was placed under arrest and was also found to be in possession of approximately 28 grams of fentanyl

Road Rage and Felony Assault

- Officers responded to a minor collision, where one driver exited his vehicle and attacked the other vehicle with an axe
- A short time later, Lacey PD received a report of the same individual attacking a vehicle with an axe and obtained a license plate
- A few days later, officers received a Flock alert for the vehicle and arrested the suspect for both violent attacks

Success Stores - Continued

Possession of a Stolen Vehicle and Felony Warrant

- An officer and their trainee received a Flock alert about a stolen vehicle entering Olympia
- Officers quickly located the vehicle in a westside parking lot and conducted surveillance
- As more officers arrived, a coordinated effort was made to safely recover the vehicle
- Inside the vehicle, officers recovered:
 - Stolen firearm
 - Over \$7,300 in cash
 - Large quantity of narcotics
 - Scales, packaging, and other narcotics distribution tools.

Consequences of Discontinuing Flock Safety Cameras

Discontinuing Olympia's Flock Safety program would impact the efficiency with which we conduct certain investigations. These include:

- Decreased ability to promptly identify and apprehend suspects in crimes against persons, property crimes, and missing-person investigations
- Reduction in local and regional collaboration that supports information sharing and joint investigations
- Increased investigative time and reduced operational efficiency, delaying case resolutions and increasing demands on limited resources
- Fewer opportunities to recover stolen vehicles, assist vulnerable individuals, and address cross-jurisdictional criminal activity

Recommendation

- The Olympia Police Department is firmly committed to protecting community privacy and public safety
- Community concerns about privacy and immigration enforcement are legitimate
- Reimagining Public Safety calls on us to build trust, evaluate emerging risks, and center equity in our decisions
- The federal landscape around data access is shifting, creating uncertainties that we cannot ignore
- We must assess whether broader ALPR vulnerabilities exist
- The most responsible step is to **suspend the system**
- Suspending the system allows us to fully evaluate risks and monitor developments at the federal and state levels



Questions?