From: Steve Dropkin
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Subject: Public comment on Flock cameras in Saint Paul
Date: Monday, August 24, 2026 8:54:23 AM

[You don't often get email from steve@dropkin.net. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

I cannot attend the special meeting on Wednesday so I would like to add a comment to the discussion of the use of Flock ALPRs in Saint Paul:

While Flock is the current poster child in the ALPR space, they are not alone in the service they sell. The City must extend Council Member Noecker's measure to not allow choosing any other ALPR company (the privacy policies for which may be even worse than Flock's). That level of data collection has no place in Saint Paul.

Thank you.

Steven Dropkin
489 Michigan Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55102

From: Eyes Off Saint Paul
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Subject: Comment for 8/26 Special City Council meeting
Date: Sunday, August 23, 2026 4:28:30 PM
Attachments: comment.pdf

Comment for the Special City Council meeting to hold a public hearing on police surveillance technology and data privacy, 2026-08-26

It is instructive to examine the Saint Paul Police Department's contract with Flock Safety, and the way the Flock system operates, in light of relevant Minnesota state laws. Such an examination turns up at least five ways that Flock hardware and software and law enforcement's use of it violate the letter and spirit of state law (Minn. Stat. § 13.824 and § 13.055).

1. Unauthorized data collection

Minn. Stat. § 13.824, Subd. 2(a) explicitly limits ALPR data collection to exactly three categories:

> *(1) license plate numbers; (2) date, time, and location data on vehicles; and (3) pictures of license plates, vehicles, and areas surrounding the vehicles... Collection of any data not authorized by this paragraph is prohibited.*

Flock's "Vehicle Fingerprint" technology collects and stores vehicle make, model, color, body style, and unique visual features such as roof racks, bumper stickers, dents, and damage — none of which is authorized under the above statute. This is not a minor technicality; it is a direct, ongoing violation of the statutory prohibition on collecting unauthorized data. The City's contract with Flock authorizes the use of a device that is by design collecting data that the legislature expressly banned, making every scan a statutory violation and rendering all data collected by the device unlawful from the moment of capture**.**

2. Unauthorized acquisition

Minn. Stat. § 13.055, Subd. 1(c) defines "unauthorized acquisition" as obtaining government data:

> *...without the informed consent of the individuals who are the subjects of the data or statutory authority and with the intent to use the data for nongovernmental purposes.*

The contract between Flock and SPPD, Section 9 "Anonymized Data," explicitly grants to Flock:

> *...a perpetual, worldwide, royalty-free right to use and distribute such Anonymized Data to improve and enhance the Services and for other development, diagnostic and corrective purposes, and other Contractor offerings.*

This is an explicit, contractual authorization for a private entity to use private data for nongovernmental, commercial purposes. By signing this contract, the City has pre-authorized the very "unauthorized acquisition" that § 13.055 is designed to prevent and penalize.

3. Violation of mandatory destruction

The law (Minn. Stat. § 13.824 Subd. 3a) requires:

> *...data collected by an automated license plate reader that are not related to an active criminal investigation must be destroyed no later than 60 days from the date of collection.*

The contract between Flock and the SPPD grants a perpetual license to Flock for AI training and storage, among many other purposes, including product development. Flock indefinitely retains this data, directly violating the statutory destruction mandate.

The statute is unequivocal: it commands destruction, not merely restricted access or anonymization. By retaining the data beyond this 60-day window to perform anonymization, Flock and the participating agencies are failing to execute the mandatory destruction required by law. The statutory text offers no exception for "anonymization" as a substitute for destruction.

4. Unlawful possession

Retention for anonymization violates the statutory limits on lawful purpose and sharing found in Minn. Stat. § 13.824 Subd. 2 and 4. The law strictly limits data collection and use to specific law enforcement functions, such as identifying stolen vehicles or suspects in active investigations. Retaining data indefinitely to build an anonymized historical database, as Flock is doing, is not a recognized lawful purpose under the statute. Additionally, if Flock retains this data on its servers, it effectively constitutes an unauthorized "sharing" or "dissemination" to a third-party entity (the vendor) for a purpose not explicitly authorized by Subd. 4(c).

Consequently, the anonymization process relies on an initial unlawful act (failure to destroy) and continues through an unlawful possession, rendering the entire practice non-compliant with Minn. Stat. § 13.824.

5. No centralized ALPR database

The ACLU of Minnesota testified before the Legislative Data Practices Commission in December 2025:

> *...the drafters of Minnesota's ALPR statute clearly contemplated the risks of a vast centralized database. Minn. Stat. 13.824, Subd. 2(c) expressly prohibits the creation of a central state repository of ALPR data. Instead, and circumventing the intent of that provision, law enforcement agencies are utilizing a private, third-party central repository of all ALPR data accessible by any Flock end-user.*

Minn. Statute § 13.055 imposes a duty to protect private data from "unauthorized acquisition" for "nongovernmental purposes." Law enforcement agencies that contribute to Flock's centralized ALPR database may believe they are exploiting a legislative gap, but a more dispassionate reading points to a straight violation of the spirit and letter of the law.

— KD, Ward 4, Saint Paul

From: Mark Klabunde
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward6; CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Public Comment in Support of Flock Safety Cameras - Special Hearing Aug 26
Date: Saturday, August 22, 2026 4:10:54 PM

You don't often get email from klabunde.mark@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Dear Saint Paul City Council and Councilmember Yang,

My name is Mark Klabunde, and I am a Ward 6 resident living at 799 Lake St, Saint Paul, MN 55119.

I am writing today to express my strong support for the resolution regarding the Flock Safety camera contracts, which will be discussed at the upcoming special hearing on Wednesday, August 26.

As a resident of the Greater East Side, community safety is a top priority for me. I believe implementing these cameras is a necessary step to help the Saint Paul Police Department solve crimes more efficiently, deter criminal activity, and keep our neighborhoods safe.

Please accept this email as my official public testimony in favor of the Flock cameras and enter it into the public record for the August 26 meeting.

Mark Klabunde

From: LAURA BATEMAN
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Subject: PER FLOCK-CAMERAS FOR POLICE USE AUG 26TH UNABLE TO ATTEND
Date: Monday, August 24, 2026 1:56:09 PM

You don't often get email from allmostanything@comcast.net. Learn why this is important

COUNCIL MEMBERS,
Please rethink and talk to actual people that use the flock system to find stolen cars and felons. This system has worked suburb for most police agencies and there is NO reason not to keep using it. They keep it private and also check on that privacy so it is NOT abused..
Thanks for listening,
Laura

All-MostAnything Promos
Laura Bateman
2239 Matterhorn Lane
St. Paul, MN 55119
651-731-8200
allmostanything.com

From: Keira Jende
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council; CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul)
Subject: St Paul resident, very concerned about Flock and other surveillance
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 8:12:37 AM

You don't often get email from keirajende@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Dear St Paul City Council,

I really appreciate you holding a public hearing on surveillance technology tomorrow. I will unfortunately not be able to make it in person, but wanted to make my strong stance known.

I am passionately opposed to the use of Flock cameras and other surveillance technology, by police or any state or private actor. In fact I am deeply disturbed to have learned that St Paul has contracts with Axon, Flock, and Skydio and am calling for a **complete ban on AI-informed mass surveillance**. There is a wealth of documented evidence that AI-based technology can and has made mistakes that have directly harmed people, including by perpetuating racial stereotypes, for one example.

Thank you very much for
seriously considering my perspective.

In community,
Keira Jende
Highland Park resident

From: Dale Nielsen
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Subject: Public Statement Submission
Date: Monday, August 24, 2026 9:44:53 PM

You don't often get email from dalenielsenii@comcast.net. Learn why this is important

I am writing in regards to the special session of the City Council regarding Flock cameras this coming Wednesday. I am out of town this week and am unable to attend in person. I am the contact for my neighborhood for NNO, the Community Outreach quarterly meetings, etc. I am the "liaison" between us and the SPPD, as well. Commander Jeremy Ellison is very familiar with me.

We live on the east side of 35E. Our concern is with the intersection of 35E southbound and West 7th Street. This pedestrian crossing is a death trap and that is not an exaggeration. Parents no longer allow their children to ride their bikes to the Highland Pool or to the local baseball fields throughout the summer. Neighbors are not safe walking to the post office. I, personally, have a family member living at Lexington Landing and need to go over there on my bike several times a week. I am unable to drive a car; walking or riding my bike are my only options. There isn't a Flock camera at that intersection currently, but we had hopes. Without video surveillance of the pedestrian crossing, we'd like the City Council to advise us on the best way to increase the safety of pedestrians at that intersection. Please understand that I do not exaggerate when I say that I have been almost hit by vehicles over 50% of the time that I use that pedestrian crossing - I did start tracking it. Several neighbors have actually been hit on their bikes and have been told by 911 operators that without photographic evidence, there is nothing that can be done. Squad cars aren't even called to the scene. It would sadly seem that until someone is killed, little will be done to help us and that is very sad.

I recently observed a Stop For Me event that included this area. Please ask for the statistics that were collected by Joshua Moore and his group handling those events. Those stats were staggering. The fear is that because Stop For Me is based on a special grant, it's not something that can continue on a regular basis. MNDOT recently tracked the traffic in this area, in turn causing an increase of patrol by the SPPD. Once again, not a long term solution. Let me be perfectly clear that we are 110% impressed by the work done by the SPPD, but we do think that it is unrealistic to expect normal patrol officers (who are running on 911 calls throughout their shifts) to also maintain the safety that can be provided by a camera.

I happen to be in Portand, OR this week. Here, there are cross walks that are clearly marked with signs and lights that are run on solar power that come on when a pedestrian press the button to signal that they want to cross the street. I am a firm believer in helping look for a solution when pointing out a negative issue. It would seem that there are low-cost ways to increase safety for Saint Paul pedestrians throughout the city until such time that MN allows red light violation cameras at these very dangerous crossings.

We look forward to hearing back from the Council. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Dale Nielsen
1597 Race Street

651-592-2101

From: Joe Soo
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council; CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul)
Cc: #CI-StPaul_Ward4
Subject: Regarding City Use of ALPR Technology
Date: Monday, August 24, 2026 9:00:24 PM

You don't often get email from edosphinx1600@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Good afternoon members of the Council and the gathered public,

I am writing today to express support for the city of St. Paul to end all contracts with all ALPR companies and to put in place a legal framework to prevent this technology from being used again within city limits in the future.

For too long we the people have sold our privacy and dignity for the promise of safety and security. But no more. Private corporations now own too much of our lives, and it's time we draw a line in the sand. The people of Minnesota have spoken, and the people of St. Paul are speaking now, and to you the city council as our representatives, we ask you to take this small stand against the corporate surveillance state that this county has become. And while I recognize that a single city ending it's contracts with all ALPR companies (not just Flock) will not make make a great difference, single drops can fill a bucket. Let's be a drop in that bucket.

Thank you.
-Sawyer O.
St Paul, Ward 4
This message was composed without the use of AI technology and is solely the product of the human mind and spirit

From: info@forumforconstitutionalrights.com
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Subject: Matt Ehling written testimony Wed. ALPR hearing (pertains to PH 26-16 and RES 26-1421)
Date: Monday, August 24, 2026 10:46:09 PM
Attachments: Matt_Ehling_Written_Testimony_ALPR_082626.pdf

[You don't often get email from info@forumforconstitutionalrights.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

Greetings,

Please find attached written comments related to Wednesday's ALPR agenda items. I will be available to provide an oral summary during the public comment period at 4:30pm.

Thank you,

Matt Ehling
1465 Fairmount Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55105

Written Testimony of Matt Ehling
1465 Fairmount Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105

I am here today on my own behalf as a Saint Paul resident, to discuss background information about automated license plate readers (ALPRs), as well as the statute that regulates their use in Minnesota.

Minnesota Statute 13.824 has been on the books for over a decade, and was the result of two years of negotiations between law enforcement associations and a broad group of other stakeholders, including data activist Rich Neumeister, representatives of gun rights groups, Republican lawmakers, and Minnesotans for Open Government — a non-partisan group on whose board I serve. My comments today are in my personal capacity.

I was part of the final negotiations of the ALPR statute, and the resulting compromise turned on several key points. Namely:

1. That the statute would prohibit the creation of a statewide repository of ALPR images and data;

2. The statute would only allow ALPR use related to active criminal investigations;

3. Law enforcement entities could only check ALPR images against the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's "hot list" of license plate numbers, unless there was an ongoing criminal investigation that warranted additional checks;

4. Minnesota police departments could only share ALPR images and data subject to the monitoring, auditing, and sharing provisions of the statute, and;

5. ALPR data not related to an ongoing criminal investigation would be destroyed within a specified time frame.

§ 13.824 was passed with the intention of comprehensively regulating ALPR use in our state. Any law enforcement entity that uses ALPR cameras in the State of Minnesota must comply with these, and the statute's other, requirements. Taking actions outside of those requirements violates Minnesota law.

In the years since § 13.824 was passed, several commercial ALPR vendors —

including Flock — have emerged, which provide access to nationwide networks of license plate reader data. Through these vendors, a user can share its own ALPR data, and conduct searches of statewide or nationwide collections of ALPR data from other network users. Doing so in Minnesota, however, violates § 13.824, and its prohibition on compiling a statewide ALPR database. No such database can be created, even if it is maintained through an outsourced commercial vendor and subsequently provided to a law enforcement agency, as the statute makes clear.*

Likewise, press reports have noted that certain Minnesota law enforcement agencies allowed federal entities to access ALPR data as part of Operation Metro Surge. In Minnesota, while data related to ongoing criminal investigations can be shared with other law enforcement entities, such data cannot be shared for unrelated purposes — including for immigration enforcement that is purely civil in nature. To the extent that any ALPR data was shared for civil immigration enforcement purposes, such sharing would violate § 13.824.**

§ 13.824 includes robust auditing and reporting requirements, with the intention of facilitating local oversight over the use of ALPR technology, as we are seeing here today. The idea was that if local governments found evidence of ALPR use that violated the statute, such programs could be modified or ended.

Thank you for your attention, and I am available for questions if members of the council have any.

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*The requirements of § 13.824 relate to the use of "automated license plate readers" which are defined to include "a device that is owned or operated by a person who is not a government entity to the extent that the data collected by the reader are shared with a law enforcement entity." (*See* § 13.824 subd. 1(b)).

**"Automated license plate data that are not related to an active criminal investigation may not be shared with, disseminated to, sold to, or traded with any other individual or entity unless explicitly authorized by this subdivision or other law." (*See* § 13.824, subd. 4(c)).

From: Charles Allhands
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Subject: Public Comments for City Council Meeting - 2026-08-26
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 9:36:12 AM
Attachments: PublicComment_20260826.pdf

[You don't often get email from cra@resistentialist.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

Members of the Saint Paul City Council,

I am writing to you as a resident of St. Paul in strong support of banning the City's use of Flock Safety cameras and similarly invasive surveillance technology, such as Skydio drones.

I recently attended a presentation given by Commander Murphy regarding the SPPD's Real Time Information Center. What struck me most was not the misleading pitch for these surveillance tools, but rather how much SPPD is willing to spend and risk to bypass the hard work of building genuine community trust and engagement.

In his presentation, Commander Murphy extolled the use of drone technology, deployed until recently only in war zones, to help find two missing children. Contrast that with a recent incident where community members, organized via messaging apps, found a missing child before local law enforcement could. Previously, I might have been skeptical of relying on ordinary citizens for such tasks, but having seen it work firsthand during the recent Federal occupation, I have no doubts about the power of community-led networks.

Imagine a world where, instead of treating residents like enemy combatants to be monitored, the police force enjoyed deep community trust and engagement. Neighbors could readily help locate a missing child or identify a stolen vehicle without invasive tech. We do not need dystopian surveillance; we need a trustworthy, accountable police force. AI powered surveillance technology, like that sold by Flock, Axon, and Skydio, actively erodes community trust, especially given that current oversight is handled internally by the SPPD itself.

SPPD often highlights its unique approach, doing things "the Saint Paul way." Perhaps instead of relying on that mantra, the City and SPPD could do things the right way instead and follow the lead of the many other municipalities banning this technology. The vast majority of residents agree: mass surveillance has no place in our community.

Sincerely,

Charles Allhands

Saint Paul, Resident of Ward 3

From: Ken Marsh
To: CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul)
Subject: No flock cameras in St Paul
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 8:05:02 AM

You don't often get email from kdmarsh@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

I am against St Paul using flock cameras or any other mass surveillance devices on the public.

Please end the flock contract and do not replace it with some other mass surveillance system.

Thank you.

Ken Marsh
1437 Hartford Ave
St Paul, MN 55116

From: Lindsay Claire
To: CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul)
Subject: St. Paul ALPR Ban
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 11:05:12 AM

You don't often get email from lindsay.shimizu@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Hi there,

Wanted to write in support of the Automated License Plate Reader ban. All ALPR, not just Flock, use unconstitutional access to track locations of all citizens regardless of their suspicion in having committed any crime. This kind of surveillance requires a warrant when performed using other forms of tracking, like cellphone data. They also have poor data security standards (allowing for misuse of the data) and have a proven track record of being abused to stalk women sharing data with federal law enforcement without a warrant.

Very much in favor of keeping our streets safe, but this network of insecure, unconstitutional surveillance is not the way to do it. Add in general biases built into all AI systems, it's just a recipe for disaster in our diverse and vibrant city.

Thank you for your consideration,
Lindsay Shimizu and John Schroeder
1745 Beechwood Ave
St. Paul, MN 55116

From: Meredith Hart
To: CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul)
Subject: End contracts with Flock, Axon and Skydio
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 11:01:00 AM

You don't often get email from mdeaton28@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Good morning,

I am a community member in Saint Paul with high concerns over the continuing contracts with Flock, Axon and Skydio.

End the Flock, Axon and Skydio contracts and enact ordinances and regulations that ban the use of AI surveillance tools in Saint Paul!!!

STOP Now, it's what the community wants!

Thanks you,
Meredith

From: Pamela Schmid
To: CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Comment on police surveillance technology and data privacy
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 10:56:02 AM

You don't often get email from pbschmid1@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Esteemed St. Paul City Council Members:

While I am unable to attend Wednesday's City Council meeting, I want to strongly urge your adoption of the resolution co-sponsored by Rebecca Noecker and Saura Jost requiring St. Paul and Ramsey county to end all Flock camera contracts.

Please end the Flock, Axon and Skydio contracts and enact ordinances and regulations that ban the use of AI surveillance tools in St. Paul.

Please do everything in your power to end the use of dystopian Flock Safety license plate cameras in our community. ALPRs bolster abusive policing by giving ICE, CBP and local police the ability to track people and repress dissent. Please join the leaders of more than two dozen cities and towns nationwide that have already ended Flock contracts or turned their cameras off. Take a stand against invasive surveillance technology now.

Sincerely,
Pam Schmid
1687 Lincoln Ave, St Paul, MN 55105

From: jimmer.33.RR@proton.me
To: CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Mass surveillance ordinance
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 10:37:52 AM

You don't often get email from jimmer.33.rr@proton.me. Learn why this is important

As a citizen of Ward 1, I am deeply concerned about St Paul's complicity in mass surveillance.
The technology itself is not the problem.

Contracts with Flock, Axon and Skydio give private information to data aggregators to use and pass along to other public and private entities.

Body cameras are valuable tools. But that is because confidentiality is regulated. The same MUST happen with every new technology.

Drones have proven their utility in search & rescue, critical incident planning, and traffic safety. Similar systems like Flock are helpful in decreasing high speed chases. But that can only benefit the citizens when the City Council and Mayor require transparency when these tools are requested and/or implemented.

Private companies' business plans rely on huge quantities of
data flowing to them. Your responsibility is protecting the electors from those plans.

Sincerely,
James Levi

Sent from Proton Mail for Android.

From: Jake Gale
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Subject: Public Comment for 8/26 Meeting
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 10:14:27 AM
Attachments: Comment.docx

You don't often get email from jacob_gale@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

Please find attached a public comment for tomorrow's city council meeting, re: the resolution asking the city to terminate its Flock contract. Thank you!

Jake Gale

Sent from my iPhone

TO: St. Paul City Council
15 Kellogg BLVD W
Saint Paul, MN 55102

SUBJECT: Written Comments Regarding Saint Paul's Flock Contract

Dear Council President Noecker and Members of the Saint Paul City Council:

My name is Jake Gale, and I am a Saint Paul resident living in Ward 3. I am also the father of a young child who is growing up in Saint Paul, attending Saint Paul public schools, and whose life will be impacted by this and like matters before the council.

While I appreciate that the council is contemplating action on its Flock contract, it does not go far enough to meet the moment.

- Flock and other massive surveillance platforms including Axon and Skydio threaten constitutional protections against searches and seizures without due process of law.
- Massive surveillance tools like those offered by Flock were used to target our community during Operation Metro Surge. Flock's recent changes will not prevent that from happening again.
- Massive surveillance tools are often concentrated in and perpetuate our legacy of over-policing communities of color. Their distribution and use is inherently inequitable.
- These platforms are rapidly incorporating artificial intelligence capabilities without regulation or oversight, and it is beyond the city's capabilities, and very likely that of the platforms themselves, to understand the implications of what they're producing.
- Even if Saint Paul can account fully for the way massive surveillance platforms are used, and can prevent constitutional violations, other municipalities using these tools are not and are using them in ways that run contrary to Saint Paul's values. Continuing to deploy these tools is a moral choice, and a moral hazard.

There is no safe level of massive surveillance, and no individual community is capable of fully controlling these technologies. The window of opportunity for preventing the effective creation of an artificial intelligence-powered surveillance state is closing. We demand legislation rather than a resolution, and an end to Saint Paul's use of massive surveillance tools. Thank you.

Jake Gale

From: JessS
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council; CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul); #CI-StPaul_Ward3
Subject: Public Comment on ALPRs for Special Council Meeting 08-26-26
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 11:29:36 AM
Attachments: Public Safety Comment 08-26-26__No Mass Surveillance.pdf

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from claralemlich@proton.me. Learn why this is important

Sent from Proton Mail for Android.

ALPR technology has consistently been a tool of abuse by immigration enforcement from its earliest instances of use in the US. The CBP has been building out a secretive mass surveillance network since 2017 using both its own resources and those of local police departments (1).These technologies allow federal agencies to go well beyond a single capture of a license plate at a given moment of time, but are being used to build out "pattern of life" data for any given private vehicle. "Abnormal routes" are algorithmically flagged follow up by federal agents and/or or local law enforcement. This means that if you deviate from your normal work commute to go to a dentist appointment, it could trigger an aggressive encounter by a federal agent. This program is in operation not only along the border but within inland metro areas such as Detroit and along highways to Midwest cities like Chicago and Gary.

Federal immigration agencies are making this surveillance of US communities a priority to the tune of an additional investment of at least $2.7 billion dollars. They really want this data and have proven that they are willing to take extensive work-arounds to get it (2). Meanwhile, the Saint Paul Police Department has proven during Operation Metro Surge that they cannot or will not protect the people of Saint Paul from local, state, or constitutional violation by federal agents. It's clear that if this data exists, it will end up being used against us by a federal government intent on bringing harm to Minnesota residents.

There is no level of safeguards on civilian surveillance that will protect us from its abuse. I call on the Saint Paul City Council to not only remove Flock cameras, but cancel its contracts with Axon, SkyDio, and any other technology that enabled warrantless surveillance.

(1) Border Patrol is monitoring US drivers and detaining those with ‘suspicious’ travel patterns. 20 November 2025. https://apnews.com/article/immigration-border-patrol-surveillance-drivers-ice-trump-9f5d05469ce8c629d6fecf32d32098cd

(2) Wildlife Conservation Police Are Searching Thousands of Flock Cameras for ICE. 6 April 2026. https://www.404media.co/floridas-wildlife-cops-are-searching-thousands-of-flock-cameras-for-ice/

From: Matthew Glover
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council; CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul)
Subject: End all AI surveillance contracts and tools
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 12:12:38 PM

You don't often get email from matthewglover2022@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

To whom it may concern:

I am a resident of Saint Paul (Ward 2) and am writing to express my support for city council to end contracts with companies that conduct AI-powered surveillance. This includes Flock, Axon and Skydio, but isn't limited to these companies. The council must take measures to protect the rights and safety of the people and community of St Paul. All across the nation these AI powered tools are abusing power, stripping citizens of rights, and making critical mistakes. This doesn't begin to mention the impact of AI data centers on the environment that these companies and technologies rely on. Saint Paul has been through enough this year with Metro Surge (when Flock data was accessed by federal agents), so please end the Flock, Axon and Skydio contracts and enact ordinances and regulations that ban the use of AI-powered surveillance tools in Saint Paul (even the skydio docked drone program that SPPD is using).

Thank you,
Matthew Glover

From: sampalim
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council; CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul)
Subject: NO FLOCK AND OTHER AI SURVRELLIANCE
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 12:09:13 PM

You don't often get email from sampalim1@proton.me. Learn why this is important

Dear Saint Paul City Council,

I live in Summit Hill and I am writing to express my belief that the city council should end any existing contracts with Flock cameras and any other companies that use AI Surveillance and pass ordinances and regulations that prohibit the use of AI surveillance in the city of Saint Paul.

Thank you,
Sam Palim

Sent from Proton Mail for iOS.

From: S H
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Subject: Ending surveillance cameras in St. Paul
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 12:00:21 PM

You don't often get email from sadieharmon@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Hello,

I am a resident of St. Paul, ward 2. I am writing to ask you to end contracts with all surveillance companies, including Flock, Axon, and Skydio. These AI powered devices make us less safe and will do nothing to improve St. Paul. I love living in St. Paul and I respectfully ask that the council vote against these wasteful, intrusive, and authoritarian technologies in our city.

Sincerely,
Sadie Harmon

From: Tender Fart
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Subject: Comments for city council meeting
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 11:52:35 AM

You don't often get email from codyofrench@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

My name is Cody I'm a resident of st paul

End the Flock, Axon and Skydio contracts and enact ordinances and regulations that ban the use of AI-powered surveillance tools in Saint Paul

Thank you
-cody

From: easymacs
To: CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul); *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Subject: Comment on police surveillance technology
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 11:48:35 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from easymacs@proton.me. Learn why this is important

I am a resident in St. Paul, Ward 2 (55102) and strongly oppose the use of AI surveillance technology, including Flock, Axon, and Skydio, in St. Paul.

There is nationwide opposition to these for many reasons, and it would be a severe oversight on the City Council's part to not listen to their consistuents on this matter. No one likes them, no wants them, and no one asked for our tax dollars to be spent on technology that can be used to stalk us.

The police do not need even more technology that gives them more power to infringe upon the rights of law-abiding citizens in St. Paul.

We have already seen how harmful AI surveillance is. Police officers across the country have been arrested on felony charges because they used ALPR systems to stalk people, ALPR systems have been routinely hacked, and inaccurate reading of ALPR data has led to police tracking and arresting innocent people.

The potential for abuse, which has become reality nationwide, is severe enough that these should be permanently banned. They don't help the police do their actual jobs, they can and have been used by police and hackers to stalk and harm people, and the data privacy and security around ALPRs is ridiculously insecure and vulnerable to bad actors.

End St. Paul's contracts with Flock, Skydio, and Axon, and pass ordiances banning AI surveillance technology. We don't want it. Get rid of it.

From: Peter Mitchell
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Subject: End unwarranted surveillance
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 11:42:25 AM

[You don't often get email from ptmitchell049@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

Dear Ms. Jost and colleagues,

I must write urging you to end Flock, Axon, and Skydio contracts and enact ordinances and regulations that ban the use of "artificial intelligence" surveillance tools in Saint Paul.

We do not need that dystopian world.

Thank you for your representation.

Yours truly,

Peter Mitchell
1448 Berkeley Avenue

From: Eyes Off Saint Paul
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council; CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Public Comment for 8/26 Meeting - Police Surveillance Technology
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 11:33:55 AM

You don't often get email from eyesoffsaintpaul@proton.me. Learn why this is important

I am appreciative of the council holding this public meeting on police surveillance technology. However, it is premature. Not only has the city failed to provide copies of the Axon and Skydio contracts, we do not know what other police surveillance technology SPPD has. We cannot make informed, meaningful and impactful public statements if we don't have all of the information.

Additionally, the city must be more effective and transparent about how this information is shared. Giving the public one week to make public statements on this topic is not enough time. The city also must make significant efforts to quickly improve how important information gets in front of the public. We are now in the position of trying to catch up to all of the relevant facts about police surveillance technology after contracts have been signed and programs discussed with city leadership without our knowledge.

From what we know today, there is no amount of AI-powered mass surveillance that is safe for our communities. Community control over it will not prevent it from causing serious harm and continued violations of our basic civil liberties.

Ending the Axon, Flock and Skydio contracts are the first step. Flock is a small part of the problem of the wider issue of mass surveillance technology. Cancelling only Flock allows Axon, or another competitor to take its place.

I'm asking that city council enact ordinances and regulations that prevent AI-powered mass surveillance technology from being used in the city. Once contracts are in place, the city can and has expanded them to include additional technology without oversight (e.g. SPPD Docked Drone Program). If private or non-profit entities are allowed to have mass surveillance, they can sell it or share it with law enforcement (e.g. Project NOLA).

Below is a summary of relevant information the public has been able to collect to date:

- The city has contracts with Flock, Axon and Skydio – from our research, the equipment used is AI-powered, or AI-capable. If SPPD claims they "don't use AI", the equipment and software are capable of using it.
- Earlier this year, SPPD quietly rolled out an Axon service called "Community Connect", which allows the city to connect to privately owned surveillance systems. This program is part of the wider "Axon Fusus" surveillance program which connects surveillance data collected from different systems under "one single pane of glass". To date, we have not been able to locate any oversight, approval, or press/media about the city using this program. The only information we can locate is a link to the program on the SPPD website.
- As discussed at the June 24, 2026 Public Safety Committee Meeting, SPPD's data was accessed during Operation Metro Surge. ACLU-MN was able to identify this by matching searches from other cities with the reason "Immigration (civil/administrative)". If Saint Paul is a sanctuary city, why is our data being used for immigration purposes?
- The expansion of the drone program was done without public knowledge or input. From what we understand to date, this was also done without informing city council.
- On August 5, 2026, Mayor Her posted a photo on social media of her sitting in a room, surrounded by monitors, while under her direction, the city worked to forcibly displace members of our community using what the city described as "active monitoring", i.e. surveillance. While drones and ALPRs surveilled our neighbors, Mayor Her and staff sat in a room watching homes being destroyed on a screen. This is an example of how this technology is not only dehumanizing, but it removes layers of accountability and

exacerbates systems of harm. The Mayor can destroy your home from behind the comfort of a screen without having to look you in the eyes while doing it.

- On August 18, 2026 members of the public attended a community meeting with SPPD:
    - SPPD told community members their drones do not use AI. A review of the manual, website and online literature from Skydio states that their drones use AI.
    - SPPD explained that the drones are not used for surveillance. During the discussion, they commented that the drones were used for surveillance during the “No Kings” protest on March 28, 2026.
    - SPPD repeatedly said that these drones “look to the horizon” with the camera facing up until they reach their destination. Video of SPPD using these drones during this meeting contradicted that statement. When pressed for clarification, they explained that the exception to that rule is for “training”. SPPD also agreed that the current policies and required audits would not prevent someone from using the drones for surveillance during “training”.

Law enforcement and regulators will tell you that we have nothing to worry about because “they do things the right way” or that “Minnesota has the strongest protections”.

There is no “right way” to conduct mass surveillance.

Legislation or regulation that allows public or private entities to continue using mass surveillance with more regulation, training polices, reporting, etc. is still mass surveillance.

You must act with the urgency and clarity this moment calls for - we demand no mass surveillance - not in the hands of the state, and not in the hands of any entity that can collect it on behalf of the state. We need laws and regulations that protect our constitutional rights as AI-powered technology continues to advance.

We must end the contracts with Flock, Axon and Skydio and we must ban all AI-powered mass surveillance.

AM

Ward 4

From: Nanette Echols
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Subject: Stop surveillance in St. Paul
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 11:24:08 AM

[You don't often get email from nanettechols@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

This is for the public record.

End the Flock, Axon and Skydio contracts and enact ordinances and regulations that ban the use of AI surveillance tools in Saint Paul.

Also, remove the cameras so they can no longer collect data.

Thank you,
Nanette Echols
St. Paul, MN 55105

From: Ashley Cobain
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Subject: (No Subject)
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 11:22:22 AM

You don't often get email from ashleyc5@protonmail.com. Learn why this is important

Hello,

I appreciate the follow up regarding a concern I submitted about Flock cameras. I am stating once again for public comment for the meeting today that I, as a constituent, wholeheartedly do NOT support any kind of surveillance, AI or otherwise. I do not support my tax dollars being used without oversight by the SPPD to continue investing in drone and technology projects they choose not to honestly inform the public about.

There is no right way to conduct mass surveillance. This violates our constitutional rights and there are many instances of cameras being misused.

End the Flock, Axon and Skydio contracts and enact ordinances and regulations that ban the use of AI-powered surveillance tools in Saint Paul.

Thank you,
Ashley Cobain
Ward 2 constituent

From: Michelle Blaeser
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Subject: End Flock!
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 10:33:16 AM

[You don't often get email from mmblaeser@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

Dear City Council,
I urge you to end the Flock, Axon, and Skydio contracts, and enact ordinances and regulations that ban the use of AI surveillance tools in Saint Paul. These devices are a threat to our privacy and we don’t want them here!
Thank you for your consideration,
Michelle Blaeser

From: hollyfrei@proton.me
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Cc: #CI-StPaul_Ward3
Subject: Public Comment: End AI Surveillance Contracts (Flock, Axon, Skydio)
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 10:18:18 AM

You don't often get email from hollyfrei@proton.me. Learn why this is important

Dear Mayor Her and Councilmember Jost,

My name is Holly Frei, and I am a resident of Saint Paul living in Ward 3 / Macalester-Groveland.

The City of Saint Paul has an obligation to protect public privacy, civil liberties, and fiscal responsibility. Terminate all contracts with Flock, Axon, and Skydio immediately, and pass strict ordinances banning the use of AI-powered surveillance technologies.

Why are we continually channeling public dollars into recurring tech contracts when those resources are urgently needed for core city services and basic infrastructure? Automated license plate readers and autonomous drones do not address the root causes of safety in our neighborhoods. True community stability comes from investing directly in our local services, street maintenance, housing, and public health, not expanding corporate surveillance networks.

I urge you to put this issue on the upcoming council agenda, vote to reject AI surveillance, and prioritize budget choices that invest directly in core city services for Saint Paul residents.

Sincerely,

Holly Frei

Sent from Proton Mail for iOS.

From:	Brian Snyder
To:	CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul); *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Cc:	#CI-StPaul_Ward1; #CI-StPaul_Ward2; #CI-StPaul_Ward3; #CI-StPaul_Ward4; #CI-StPaul_Ward5; #CI-StPaul_Ward6; #CI-StPaul_Ward7
Subject:	Comments for August 26th hearing regarding police surveillance technology
Date:	Tuesday, August 25, 2026 10:04:57 AM

You don't often get email from brianjsnyder@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Dear Members of the Saint Paul City Council,

I am writing to add my comments to the public record regarding Automatic License Plate Readers, or ALPR's. Arguably the most well known of these devices belongs to a company called Flock, though there are others, e.g. Axon and Skydio, who sell Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered surveillance platforms to city and county agencies under the guise of public safety.

As a citizen of Saint Paul, I am calling upon the members of the council to do more than just support a resolution ending contracts with Flock branded ALPR's. **The Council needs to adopt an ordinance immediately ending all current AI-powered surveillance in the City of Saint Paul.** An ordinance that requires any future mass surveillance "public safety" operations to be conducted according to state and constitutional law, and implemented *only after approval by a popular referendum.*

If there is one thing that the citizens of Saint Paul and Minneapolis have proven over the past year, it is that we know how to keep us safe. Did Flock cameras and ALPR's keep us safe from a masked occupation hell bent on terrorizing our neighbors and violating our rights? Did AI-powered surveillance from Axon record the assaults and abuses inflicted on our neighbors with pepper spray and tear gas, while they were "armed" with only whistles and zines? Did Skydio drones record the murders of Renee Good and Alex Pretti and help authorities to bring those responsible to justice? No, they did none of those things and those who violated our laws were allowed to do so and justice has been denied.

It was our fellow citizens who kept us safe, with cell phones in hand to record atrocities performed in the name of law and order. And where were our "public safety" officers while these crimes were committed *against* the very citizens they pledge to "serve and protect"? They were there the whole time, with backs to the perpetrators and a blind eye towards the victims.

There are no studies proving AI-powered mass surveillance keeps us safe; there is only fear mongering and an ever-growing mountain of examples of how this technology is flawed and rife with abuse. But mass surveillance is not intended to keep us safe, it is intended to keep us in line. How much information was gathered at the peaceful protests? Hundreds of thousands of people in the streets demanding justice and accountability while no crimes were committed. Under previous fascist regimes the state relied on neighbors spying on one another to enforce authoritarian rule. Now there is the threat of automating these tools, all the while allowing corporations to profit.

How much data is stolen without consent sold back to our city and county agencies? Imagine coming to my yard and cutting down my tree to make a bat you then sell me to keep me safe. A bat that just as likely may be used against me. This is ludicrous and we have the power to

stop it.

There are a multitude of studies that identify socioeconomic causes of crime—and mass surveillance is never listed as a solution. Shouldn't we work to address those issues, *the real issues*? Our public resources need to be used to fund solutions that have been proven to work. There are many questions we can ask when it comes to making life better for all Saint Paul residents and mass surveillance is never the answer.

Mass surveillance supercharged with artificial intelligence is not inevitable. It is not the way of the future. It is not the city I want to live in and pay taxes in. We have the power to stand up to these corporations and special interests and put a stop to it starting today. **Support an ordinance to end these contracts in Saint Paul.**

Respectfully,

Brian J. Snyder, OD, FAAO
Saint Paul Ward 3 resident

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From: Chantelle Kley
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Subject: Ban Flock and other surveillance cams!
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 12:42:45 PM

You don't often get email from chantelle.kley@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Hello,

I'm a St. Paul resident in HwaJeong Kim's ward (is that 4? Idk) in North End and feel VERY STRONGLY that the city council should vote to ban all ALPRs and cameras used to surveil our communities. I do not want to and will not live in a surveillance state. There is absolutely no justification for surveilling citizens going about their daily lives. As we have seen right here in Minnesota, flock and similar cameras are inaccurate in capturing data, leading to innocent citizens being followed and harassed due to misidentification. Business Insider reports that 71% of alerts sent to local police are inaccurate (https://www.businessinsider.com/flock-camera-misread-license-plate-reader-california-roseville-police-2026-7). This is completely unacceptable, and even if the accuracy were higher, it is a violation of our privacy as citizens to be surveilled in this way. Data companies do not need to be tracking me as I run errands or take my kids to play dates. It's lazy policing to rely on AI to do police work, and SPPD needs to be better than that. I urge the entire city council to ban Flock, Axon, and all other contracts with companies profiting off of surveilling communities. Full stop.

Thank you,
Chantelle Kley

From: K2S0no
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Subject: RE: End AI-enabled mass-surveilance
Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 1:32:56 PM

You don't often get email from k2s0no@pm.me. Learn why this is important

Today we stand on the precipice of a new era. Thousands of disjointed, isolated systems are rapidly-coalescing into a single, massive, omnipresent and omniscient surveillance network directed at all of us. With the convergence of technologies like AI, drones, massive online databases with real-time search capabilities, what once existed only dystopian science-fiction is quickly becoming our reality.

If you didn't already have "predictive policing," "precrime," and "panopticon" on your 2027 bingo card 2027, you should.

We've already seen law enforcement agencies abuse these systems to undermine the constitutional rights of American citizens in the form of hundreds of warrantless searches related to protests –for example:

- In Michigan the Grand Rapids Police Department ran five searches across 650 networks, with the reason logged as "protest"

Quick reminder that protesting is not a crime in America.

The truth is cops and the government don't even need to provide a reason to search these ALPR-enabled databases. One cop just typed "hehehe" into the reason field. And they're not just using these systems to spy on protestors –they're hunting people who've had abortions or stalking romantic partners too.

What is emerging is a vast, interconnected network of cameras on every intersection, every squad car, every officer, every drone that tracks everyone's movements all the time. Our city is looking less and less like a free society and more and more like an open-air prison.

End the contracts with Flock, Axon, Skydio and ban AI-powered mass surveillance now.

Sincerely,
–Concerned citizen of Ward 3

From: Sonia Romero
To: Greg Weiner
Subject: FW: Flock cameras
Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 10:42:51 AM
Attachments: image001.png

Public Comment.
Best,

Sonia Romero
She/Hers
Executive Assistant
Council Member Nelsie Yang
City of Saint Paul
Direct:651.266.8663
Office: 651.266.8660

From: Dave Doffing <dldoffing@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 9:58 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_CC-Ward6 <CC-Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Flock cameras

My family has been at 1673 Rose Ave E, St Paul, MN 55106 for 53 years, and I think that we are much safer because of the cameras. PLEASE keep them!

David Doffing

From: Sonia Romero
To: Greg Weiner
Subject: FW: Tonight"s City Council Meeting: Flock Camera
Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 10:07:26 AM
Attachments: image001.png

Sonia Romero
She/Hers
Executive Assistant
Council Member Nelsie Yang
City of Saint Paul
Direct:651.266.8663
Office: 651.266.8660

From: Daria Mcgucken <dmcgucken@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 8:58 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward6 <Ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Tonight's City Council Meeting: Flock Camera

Some people who received this message don't often get email from dmcgucken@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important

Think Before You Click: This email originated **outside** our organization.

Good morning,

I understand that the St. Paul City Council will be discussing Flock cameras at their meeting tonight. I wanted to voice my concerns about ALPRs in my community.

I do not want to live in a city where my neighbors and I cannot go to the grocery store or park without being watched. Other cities have shown that we do not always know who is accessing Flock data. St. Paul only very recently restricted its data sharing to the seven metro area - this was simply a response to backlash against Flock. Just because the information has not been misused in St. Paul to date does not mean that it won't be misused in the future.

I do not believe that Flock cameras make St. Paul's citizens safer. There are no studies that show communities using Flock are more safe. These cameras are not placed in upper class St. Paul neighborhoods. They are overwhelmingly placed in East side neighborhoods like mine, as well as Frogtown or downtown locations. Just because I live on the East side does not mean that I should be watched every time I run errands.

I appreciate your time in reading this. I hope you choose to protect St. Paul against ALPRs.

Daria McGucken, Hazel Park resident

From: Lindsey Johnson
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Subject: End Flock
Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 9:35:15 AM

You don't often get email from auroralaj@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

I am writing to voice that I do not want flock or any AI surveillance in St. Paul. It has been proven to create more risk of harm than being a helpful and accurate tool for public safety. Despite their claim of high accuracy, there is data of high false flag readings for license plates. From employees using flock inappropriately to people being wrongfully stopped or treated like a criminal before having done anything. It is a waste of our resources and a dangerous tool that could only increase the racial and socioeconomic discrimination that already exists in our police system and society. Please enact ordinances and regulations that ban the use of AI surveillance in St. Paul.

From: lgstrand
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Subject: Flock cameras
Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 10:16:44 AM

You don't often get email from lgstrand@comcast.net. Learn why this is important

Dear Council,

I live on the Upper Landing and am passionate about my community. Rather than curtail the Flock camera contract and remove security cameras, I encourage the City Council to support the proposed state legislation to carefully restrict the use of the data.

The cameras are an important tool for security. The legislation should properly restrict its use.

Thank you.

Lindsay Strand
312 Spring Street, Unit 310

Lindsay Strand

612-961-7511

From:	Jenna Sadjadi
To:	info@forumforconstitutionalrights.com; *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Cc:	#CI-StPaul_Ward2
Subject:	RE: ALPR written testimony Matt Ehling
Date:	Tuesday, August 25, 2026 4:57:00 PM
Attachments:	Matt_Ehling_Written_Testimony_ALPR_082626.pdf

Hello Matt - Thank you for contacting the Ward 2 office with your statement. I am forwarding it to Contact-Council@stpaul.gov so that it can be added to the public record for tomorrow's public hearing and shared with the Council.

Thank you,

Jenna Sadjadi (she/they)
Executive Assistant to Council President Noecker
Saint Paul City Council - Ward 2
15 W Kellogg Blvd, Room 310B
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-266-8620 | www.stpaul.gov/ward2

-----Original Message-----
From: info@forumforconstitutionalrights.com <info@forumforconstitutionalrights.com>
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2026 10:41 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward2 <Ward2@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: ALPR written testimony Matt Ehling

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Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Good speaking with you at the library earlier today.

Attached is what I am submitting as written testimony. I'll delivered a 2-minute version on Wednesday.

Thanks,

Matt Ehling
651-335-2037

Written Testimony of Matt Ehling
1465 Fairmount Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105

I am here today on my own behalf as a Saint Paul resident, to discuss background information about automated license plate readers (ALPRs), as well as the statute that regulates their use in Minnesota.

Minnesota Statute 13.824 has been on the books for over a decade, and was the result of two years of negotiations between law enforcement associations and a broad group of other stakeholders, including data activist Rich Neumeister, representatives of gun rights groups, Republican lawmakers, and Minnesotans for Open Government — a non-partisan group on whose board I serve. My comments today are in my personal capacity.

I was part of the final negotiations of the ALPR statute, and the resulting compromise turned on several key points. Namely:

1. That the statute would prohibit the creation of a statewide repository of ALPR images and data;

2. The statute would only allow ALPR use related to active criminal investigations;

3. Law enforcement entities could only check ALPR images against the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's "hot list" of license plate numbers, unless there was an ongoing criminal investigation that warranted additional checks;

4. Minnesota police departments could only share ALPR images and data subject to the monitoring, auditing, and sharing provisions of the statute, and;

5. ALPR data not related to an ongoing criminal investigation would be destroyed within a specified time frame.

§ 13.824 was passed with the intention of comprehensively regulating ALPR use in our state. Any law enforcement entity that uses ALPR cameras in the State of Minnesota must comply with these, and the statute's other, requirements. Taking actions outside of those requirements violates Minnesota law.

In the years since § 13.824 was passed, several commercial ALPR vendors —

including Flock — have emerged, which provide access to nationwide networks of license plate reader data. Through these vendors, a user can share its own ALPR data, and conduct searches of statewide or nationwide collections of ALPR data from other network users. Doing so in Minnesota, however, violates § 13.824, and its prohibition on compiling a statewide ALPR database. No such database can be created, even if it is maintained through an outsourced commercial vendor and subsequently provided to a law enforcement agency, as the statute makes clear.*

Likewise, press reports have noted that certain Minnesota law enforcement agencies allowed federal entities to access ALPR data as part of Operation Metro Surge. In Minnesota, while data related to ongoing criminal investigations can be shared with other law enforcement entities, such data cannot be shared for unrelated purposes — including for immigration enforcement that is purely civil in nature. To the extent that any ALPR data was shared for civil immigration enforcement purposes, such sharing would violate § 13.824.**

§ 13.824 includes robust auditing and reporting requirements, with the intention of facilitating local oversight over the use of ALPR technology, as we are seeing here today. The idea was that if local governments found evidence of ALPR use that violated the statute, such programs could be modified or ended.

Thank you for your attention, and I am available for questions if members of the council have any.

---

*The requirements of § 13.824 relate to the use of "automated license plate readers" which are defined to include "a device that is owned or operated by a person who is not a government entity to the extent that the data collected by the reader are shared with a law enforcement entity." (*See* § 13.824 subd. 1(b)).

**"Automated license plate data that are not related to an active criminal investigation may not be shared with, disseminated to, sold to, or traded with any other individual or entity unless explicitly authorized by this subdivision or other law." (*See* § 13.824, subd. 4(c)).

From: Ariel James
To: CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul)
Subject: No to mass surveillance
Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 9:34:18 AM

You don't often get email from ariel.n.james@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Dear council,

I don't want the city of Saint Paul to participate in mass surveillance via AI-powered recording devices from Axon, Flock, Skydio, or anyone else.

Surveillance sounds like it will make everyone safe, but it is not safe to infringe on citizens' privacy. Whatever safeguards and regulations may be in place today, once the data are collected, we cannot control how they might be used in the future. Regimes change, laws change. The safe thing to do is to stop video surveillance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ariel James
Saint Paul resident
Ward 3

From: stork_digits0i@icloud.com
To: CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Flock cameras and similar
Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 9:34:19 AM

[You don't often get email from stork_digits0i@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

End the Flock, Axon and Skydio contracts and enact ordinances and regulations that ban the use of AI surveillance tools in Saint Paul.

Thanks.
Constituent in Mac-Groveland