

June 24, 2026

# THE STATE OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS IN MINNESOTA



# Overview

- I. State regulations on ALPR use
- II. Use and Misuse of ALPRs in Minnesota
- III. Possible Reforms
- IV. Drone First Responders

# ALPR use under Minnesota law

## Governed by Minn. Stat. [13.824](#)

- Resides in the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act chapter of law
- Requires disclosure to the [Bureau of Criminal Apprehension](#) within 10 days  
Saint Paul has 1 location with 2 cameras listed
- May only be used when “based on reasonable suspicion that the data are pertinent to an active ***criminal*** investigation...”
- Sharing among law enforcement agencies requires that the other agency follow the exact same data restrictions under this act – access, classification, security, destruction, etc.

# How Flock works

**Flock acts as a data company serving as the central repository for all data collected by the cameras which can be queried by any other Flock user *unless restricted by the Flock user***

- The appeal of Flock is the breadth of the network. There are over 100,000 cameras in the network.
- Each client can use the backend of the system to manage their system to control access from other law enforcement agencies
- Flock maintains that they do not have a contract with DHS however they do not need to – any of the over 2,000 agencies participating in the federal 287g program (10 of which are in MN) will run searches and share the data with DHS

Per national reporting, these license plate readers have been used improperly around the country to: (1) conduct civil immigration enforcement; (2) [Surveil](#) protestors and activists; (3) [Surveil](#) schools for families, students, and teachers for immigration purposes; (4) [investigate](#) women seeking reproductive care; (5) [verify](#) residency for public school purposes; (6) [give](#) traffic tickets; and (7) by local law enforcement to [track](#) ex-girlfriends (updated [here](#)); and (8) wrongfully [imprison](#) people.

## Findings in Minnesota

In-state and out-of-state law enforcement have been using ALPRs for immigration enforcement since 2025 and through Operation Metro Surge

- Those include searches in Saint Paul
- Saint Paul Police Department maintains that the “reason” for the search is investigative data and not subject to public records requests
- At this point, they are the only law enforcement agency of the 40+ requested that have redacted that information
- Unique search identifiers provided by other cities tagged as “Immigration (civil/administrative)” match searches run in Saint Paul during Metro Surge

## Actions by other cities

### ***71 cities have rejected or removed their ALPRs***

- Including Columbia Heights – mayor's [op-ed](#) on their reasoning

### ***Utilizing transparency portals***

- [Roseville](#) and [St. Louis Park](#) use Flock's optional transparency portals
- An open-source [website](#) tracks and aggregates transparency portal data
- Residents can use this [website](#) to see whether they have been tracked by Flock cameras

### ***Prohibit access from out-of-state and collaborating agencies***

- Utilize the BCA hotlist to aid important out-of-state work
- Restrict access from any agency participating in a 287g program

# Drones as First Responders programs

## Questions to Ask on these programs

- Deployment standards – which calls will receive drone deployments; how does the agency avoid mission creep; what technological and physical capabilities will the drones have
- Data retention – where is the data stored; who has access; what can the third-party company do with the data
- Accountability – what is the vendor's data security standard; how are complaints filed; what is the public access and oversight; will there be ongoing public engagement; how do we ensure that this does not contribute to over-policing and excessive surveillance in minority neighborhoods

# Thank you

Any questions or concerns please contact  
[jboehler@aclu-mn.org](mailto:jboehler@aclu-mn.org) or  
[mmohamed@aclu-mn.org](mailto:mmohamed@aclu-mn.org)