

Sent: 2/4/2026 10:26:38 AM
From: Suzie Kaluza <SKaluza@ci.benicia.ca.us>
To: "Mark"
Cc: "Wendy Stratton"
Bcc:
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: Latest Flock security issue
Attachments [image001.png](#) , [image002.png](#) , [image003.png](#)
: , [image004.png](#) , [image005.png](#) , [image006.png](#)
, [image007.png](#) , [image008.png](#) , [image625986.png](#)
, [image501166.png](#) , [image523694.png](#) , [image581020.png](#)
, [image446186.png](#) , [image035306.png](#) , [- Flock Shared and sharing networks 1.20.26.pdf](#)

In reviewing our Flock settings, all auto approve settings are disabled and our network discoverability is set to a 50 mile radius. The statewide and nationwide discoverability settings are disabled. (screenshots are below).

I have also attached a list of all agencies we share with and agencies that share with us.

Wendy, if there is anything you have to add, please do...

[< Back To My Networks](#)

Benicia CA PD

Share settings & preferences

Auto Approve Requests by Radius

50 miles ▾

Enabling this preference will automatically accept any incoming request to share your camera data with Law Enforcement agencies, **excluding Federal organizations**, within the selected distance of your organization address.

These auto-accepted requests will not appear in your Requests Inbox, but they will appear in your Shared Networks table. This network-level preference can be overridden by other preferences.

Disabled ☐

Auto Approve Requests Within M

Enabling this preference will automatically accept any incoming request to share your camera data with Law Enforcement **organizations**, within your organization's

These auto-accepted requests will not appear in your Requests Inbox, but they will appear in your Shared Networks table. This network-level preference can be overridden by other preferences.

Network Discoverability

Enabling this preference will make this network discoverable to Law Enforcement agencies, **excluding Federal organizations**, based on the selected distance, so that other organizations can request access to your camera data.

Disabling this preference will hide this network, based on the selected distance, and other organizations will not be able to request access to your camera data.

Within 50 Miles ☒

Within My State ☐

Within Nationwide ☐

Permission Preferences

Select the permissions to show/hide and from external agencies. Outbound sharing

Permission

Search

Enables shared device access to the Search experience.

Hot List

Enables shared device access to the Alerts experience.

VMS Go-Live

Enables shared device access to view live video feed.

VMS Historical

Enables shared device access to view recorded video feed.

VMS Download

Enables shared device access to download recorded video feed.

VMS PTZ and Imaging permissions

Analytics

Enables shared device access to analytics in Traffic Analytics within Insights.



Suzie Kaluza
Police Records Supervisor

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From: Mark Simonson <MSimonson@ci.benicia.ca.us>

Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 9:01 AM

To: Suzie Kaluza <SKaluza@ci.benicia.ca.us>

Subject: FW: Latest Flock security issue



Mark Simonson
Police Sergeant - Administration/Traffic Sergeant
Police Department
O: [707-746-4253](tel:707-746-4253)

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From: Mark Menesini <MMenesini@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 8:43 AM
To: Jake Heinemeyer <JHeinemeyer@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Cc: Mark Simonson <MSimonson@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Subject: FW: Latest Flock security issue

Jake-Mark,
Can one of you confirm . thx



Mark Menesini
Police Chief
Police Department
O: [707-746-4262](tel:707-746-4262)

[MMenesini@ci.benicia.ca.u](mailto:MMenesini@ci.benicia.ca.us)
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From: Steve Young [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 8:41 AM
To: Mark Menesini <MMenesini@ci.benicia.ca.us>; Edward Criado <ECriado@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Cc: Mario Giuliani <MGiuliani@ci.benicia.ca.us>
Subject: Latest Flock security issue

Caution: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

You may be aware that the Mountain

View police chief suspended their use of Flock cameras due to Flock's settings allowing outside agencies to access the city's data without authorization

Can we check that the "nationwide" and "statewide" settings have not been used by Flock for any of our data?

One of the questions from a citizen [REDACTED] was

Can we get our settings verified with a log/dates for any changes, and by whom?

The other question was about the frequency of audits and whether we can do them more frequently,

thanks

Mountain View police say feds accessed license-plate data without permission

Chief Mike Canfield says cameras will be disabled pending further direction from the City Council

By [JASON GREEN](#) | jason.green@bayareanewsgroup.com | Bay Area News Group and [JAKOB RODGERS](#) | jrodgers@bayareanewsgroup.com | Bay Area News Group

PUBLISHED: February 2, 2026 at 5:55 PM PST | UPDATED: February 3, 2026 at 3:32 PM PST

Get

MOUNTAIN VIEW – Federal agencies in 2024 accessed data from a camera in this city’s Flock Safety automated license plate reader system – something that the Mountain View Police Department says was done without its “permission or knowledge.”

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As a result, Chief Mike Canfield has decided to turn off the cameras pending further direction from the City Council.

“I made this decision after careful consideration and deliberation,” Canfield said in a statement Monday. “While the Flock Safety pilot program demonstrated clear value in enhancing our ability to protect our community and help us solve crimes, I personally no longer have confidence in this particular vendor.

“Like many of you,” Canfield continued, “I was deeply disappointed to learn that Flock Safety did not meet the city’s requirements regarding our data access control and transparency.”

Privacy rights advocates voiced alarm Tuesday at the disclosures by Mountain View officials, while suggesting that automated license plate readers were a liability to communities using them, rather than an asset.

“A central lesson is, if your community builds a surveillance system that tracks people’s information, you should expect federal authorities today to potentially exploit that for their own ends,” said Matt Cagle, a senior staff attorney with the ACLU of Northern California.

Flock Safety did not respond to a message from this news organization seeking comment on the situation.

The police department said in a statement Friday that it made the discovery through a self-initiated audit. From August to November 2024, federal agencies accessed the city’s system for one camera via a “nationwide” search setting that was turned on by Flock Safety.

“This setting was enabled without MVPD’s permission or knowledge,” the police department said.

Federal agencies that accessed the data included Department of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives offices in Kentucky and Tennessee; Langley Air Force Base in Virginia; the U.S. GSA Office of Inspector General; Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Nevada and an Air Force base in Ohio, according to the police department.

The police department said Flock Safety did not retain records for the four-month period, meaning the company cannot determine whether searches of the city's data resulted in license plate information being shared.

The audit also revealed a "statewide" search function was not operating within the system controls the police department established. This function allowed Flock Safety to enable access to California law enforcement agencies that had not been approved by MVPD for 29 of the city's 30 automated license-plate reader cameras, known as ALDRs, according to the police department. The agency said it disabled the setting on Jan. 5, immediately after the issue was identified.

"This is a system failure on Flock Safety's part," the police department said, adding that it "worked closely with Flock Safety during the outset of the program to design a model that strictly prohibited out-of-state data sharing and ensured that any agency receiving access to Mountain View's data was approved by the police chief or his designee."

"We are upset and disappointed with how our data was accessed, and we are sorry that this occurred," the police department said.

The announcement is deeply troubling, said Brian Hofer, a prominent anti-surveillance advocate who sued the city of Oakland late last year, claiming its police department improperly shared a trove of license-plate reader information with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

He stressed the disclosure by Mountain View's police chief highlights the need for municipalities to audit their systems more frequently.

"We push stuff out into the wild, we don't understand how it works, nobody's paying attention, police don't care about data privacy and this is what happens," Hofer said.

The situation is all the more distressing, he added, given how so many more license plates are read on a daily basis now compared to just a decade ago, and that artificial intelligence is often used to comb through that data.

"The scale of harm is significantly larger, and it's happening faster," Hofer said."

According to Mountain View police, Flock Safety has assured the agency that its systems have been improved and that it no longer enables any access sharing outside of California.

But it remains unclear if the city will continue its relationship with the company. In the coming weeks, the police department plans to bring a review of the program to the City Council. The agency said it is "assessing alternative vendors that offer similar capabilities and a stronger track record of data protection, oversight and transparency."

The city's first ALPR camera went live on Aug. 14, 2024, and the final camera was installed earlier this month, according to the police department. The agency says the system has helped officers investigate burglaries, home break-ins and a reported kidnapping.

"Community trust is more important than any individual tool," Canfield said. "We know that the most vital asset in public safety is not technology; it is the relationship we have with you, the people we are here to

serve and protect. I share your anger and frustration regarding how Flock Safety's system enabled out-of-state agencies to search our license plate data, and I am sorry that such searches occurred."

Public Records Exemptions

Enclosed please find a copy of the response documents for your public records request. The following information is provided to explain the process employed to review and produce the response documents.

Reason	Description	Pages
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