

## Background / Purpose

The ACLU of Oregon and immigrants rights and privacy organizations urge all Oregon Cities and Counties with Flock contracts to do the right thing and turn off their cameras. Our governments should be certain that constituents are informed about privacy impacts and that government technology does not violate our state sanctuary law or the constitutional rights of Oregonians. Flock's tech is designed in a way that poses too great a risk to everyone's privacy and opens a digital backdoor for federal law enforcement to come to Oregon and target vulnerable residents of all backgrounds.

The expansion of mass surveillance tactics by law enforcement raises serious questions about our state and federal constitutional rights to be free from unreasonable searches that invade our privacy and surveillance that collects such large volumes of data about us that it reveals intimate details about our personal lives. Mass surveillance also presents a dangerous threat to every Oregonian, especially at a time of extreme federal aggression towards immigrants, transgender people, Black people and other communities of color, and people exercising their First Amendment rights to fight for freedom, equality, and democracy.

Join us in learning about this dangerous technology and taking action through this toolkit.

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## What is Flock?

Flock Safety is a police technology company based in Atlanta, Georgia whose main product is an AI-powered search engine for a centralized, nationally-networked surveillance system. Flock has the largest network of surveillance cameras, and Flock's technology gives police anywhere the power to sit with unblinking eyes, 24/7 on any street corner where a Flock camera is hung. The software includes recording software, as well as analytics software that allow Flock's cameras to gather detailed information about our lives and make it potentially widely available to other state and federal law enforcement agencies. Flock's hardware products include solar-powered video cameras, mobile cameras, drones, and audio detection hardware.

Check out the [ACLU of Oregon's "Know Your Tech: Flock" Hub](#) for more information including an overview of Flock in action, community considerations, Flock presence in Oregon, and more.

## Flock and Immigration

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) want to use data from the nationwide Flock network so they can meet the Trump Administration's extreme mass deportation objectives. In recent federal court filings, ICE officials have admitted that they are running license plates through some type of technology prior to making arrests.

Flock raises serious questions about local police's ability to both use Flock and remain compliant with Oregon's sanctuary law. That law not only prohibits local police personnel from cooperating with ICE's immigration enforcement actions, but it also explicitly prohibits cities and counties from using public equipment and technology for the purpose of immigration enforcement, including investigating and detecting people for immigration enforcement.

In October, Woodburn saw one of the state's largest ICE raids when over 30 people were rounded up in a single early morning as farmworkers were heading to work. After advocacy led by Centro de Servicios Para Campesinos, Latinos Unidos Siempre, and the local Woodburn community, the [City of Woodburn decided to turn off their cameras for six months](#). The City of Eugene has also turned their cameras off due to public outcry.

## Messaging

**Turn off Flock.**

- Oregon Cities and Counties with Flock contracts must do the right thing and turn off their cameras. Our governments should be certain that constituents are informed about privacy impacts and that government technology does not violate our state sanctuary law or the constitutional rights of Oregonians.
- Flock’s tech is designed in a way that poses too great a risk to everyone’s privacy and opens a digital backdoor for federal law enforcement to come to Oregon and target vulnerable residents of all backgrounds.
- Flock raises serious questions about local police’s ability to both use Flock and remain compliant with Oregon’s sanctuary law. That law not only prohibits local police personnel from cooperating with ICE’s immigration enforcement actions, but it also explicitly prohibits cities and counties from using public equipment and technology for the purpose of immigration enforcement, including investigating and detecting people for immigration enforcement.

**ICE and other law enforcement agencies want to use Flock data so they can meet the Trump administration’s mass deportation objectives.**

- Immigrants’ rights organizations have noted a suspected pattern of ICE surveillance activities just days before ICE returns to a location and arrests our immigrant neighbors.
- In recent federal court filings, ICE officials have admitted that they are running license plates through some type of technology prior to making arrests.

**Flock’s design is ripe for abuse and opens a digital backdoor for federal law enforcement to come to Oregon and target vulnerable residents of all backgrounds.**

- Flock could be used to track people who attend disfavored events, including protests, community meetings, Know Your Rights trainings, and rallies.
- Flock can be used by out of state law enforcement to track people who come to Oregon seeking healthcare that is protected in Oregon. For example, a Texas law enforcement agency did a warrantless nationwide Flock search, logging the reason as “had an abortion, search for female.”
- Flock is not always right. In Denver, police relied on Flock data to accuse a woman of theft. She had to conduct her own investigation and prove her own innocence because the officer insisted he had “no doubt” she was guilty.

**Protect our privacy from government intrusion and mass surveillance.**

- The expansion of mass surveillance tactics by law enforcement raises serious questions about our state and federal constitutional rights to be free from unreasonable searches that invade our privacy and surveillance that collects such large volumes of data about us that it reveals intimate details about our personal lives.
- Mass surveillance also presents a dangerous threat to every Oregonian, especially at a time of extreme federal aggression towards immigrants, transgender people, Black people and other communities of color, and people exercising their First Amendment rights to fight for freedom, equality, and democracy.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** Is Flock in my neighborhood?

**A:** In Oregon, at least 15 police and sheriff departments have active contracts with Flock. In addition, there may be Flock cameras in parking lots at your local shopping area that are privately owned by companies. Flock also has an agreement with Ring cameras to facilitate law enforcement access to Ring and grow an even larger network of cameras and pooled data. Check out our [“Know Your Tech: Flock” hub](#) to see if we have identified that your city or county has an active contract.

**Q:** How do I find out whether my city and/or county has an active Flock contract and where can I get more information?

**A:** You have the right to file a public records request to obtain records related to surveillance and cameras in your neighborhood. You may inquire about a contract first– if there is one confirmed, you may request additional records on the total number of cameras and the location of cameras in the area. You can submit a public records request through your city or county’s website. Some cities and counties are more transparent about Flock records than others. The [Public Records Advocate](#) provides guidance and advice about Oregon’s Public Records Laws and can facilitate resolving disputes over records requests, including denials, delays, and fee waivers. If you are denied access to public records, you can reach out to our legal team at <https://intake.aclu-or.org/> for resources.

**Q:** How do cities and counties pay for Flock cameras?

**A:** Flock contracts are typically funded through tax-payer dollars. Multiple Flock contracts in Oregon are paid for through a relatively new [Organized Retail Theft Grant Program](#) of more than \$4M that the Criminal Justice Commission administers. Cities and counties have the choice to apply for the funding. For further reading on ORT grant use in Oregon and why the program does not actually fix retail theft, check out [Eyes Off Eugene’s reporting](#).

**Q:** My local government and police department says that Flock data is deleted within 30 days and that they do not share information with ICE. Should I still be concerned?

**A:** Yes. Although local governments will often say that they "control" the data and how it is shared, Flock still holds a license to use the data and can share it with other law enforcement, including ICE. Additionally, depending on their settings, they may give access to other agencies that have fewer restrictions or oversights than your government may claim to have. Because of the design and nature of Flock, local governments cannot fully control their own data. Flock data is also stored on Flock’s cloud, not on local servers, allowing the company to freely access and use the data without local oversight. Your local government may not even know all of the ways that its data gets used.

## Take Action

### **I have FIVE minutes!**

1. Fill out [action alert!](#)
2. Share the action alert on social media
  - a. Repost and share to your Instagram stories from the [ACLU of Oregon's account](#).

### **I have TEN minutes!**

1. Post the action alert on your social media and invite three partners to collaborate to extend the reach. Download the graphics below!
2. Forward this toolkit to your friends, family, and colleagues and ask them to join you in learning and taking action.

### **I have more time and energy!**

#### **1. Letters to the Editor**

Letters to the Editor are a powerful method to influence public narrative, media and decision makers on key issue areas that impact your community. They are also an easy and quick way to make an impact, just from your computer!

- a. Submit a Letter to the Editor [letters@oregonian.com](mailto:letters@oregonian.com)
- b. Respond to [this article](#) using information from the toolkit and the [“Know Your Tech: Flock” hub](#)
- c. Make sure to include the call to action: *“I strongly urge all Cities and Counties with Flock contracts to do the right thing and turn off their cameras. Our governments should be certain that constituents are informed about privacy impacts and that government technology does not violate our state sanctuary law or the constitutional rights of Oregonians.*

#### **2. Public records requests**

Protect your rights against unlawful surveillance by filing a public records request to obtain records related to the surveillance. Follow these step by step instructions [here](#).

## **Social Media and Action Alert**

### **Action Alert:**

1. Download the social media graphic [here](#).



2. Caption:

🔥 TAKE ACTION NOW!

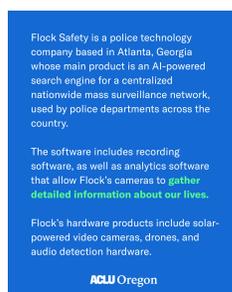
📱 Flock is a threat to Oregon’s sanctuary law and pro-abortion policies. Our tax dollars should NOT be used to buy cameras that can be weaponized against our immigrant neighbors or people seeking abortions in our state.

👉 Send a message to Oregon Cities and Counties with existing contracts and tell them TURN OFF FLOCK NOW at the link in our bio!

3. Action alert link : <https://action.aclu.org/send-message/or-turn-off-flock>

### “Know Your Tech: Flock” Hub:

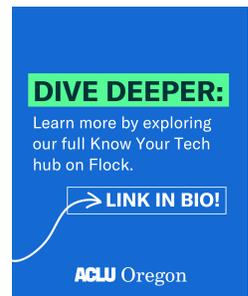
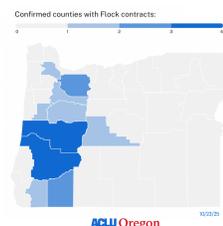
1. Download social media graphics [here](#).



### Flock by the numbers:



### Is Flock in your neighborhood?



2. Caption:

📱 Know your Tech: What is Flock?

👉 Swipe to learn more or visit our full Know Your Tech hub page on Flock at the LINK in our bio!

3. Action alert link: <https://www.aclu-or.org/know-your-tech-flock/>

## Resources

- [“Know Your Tech: Flock” Hub](#) (ACLU of Oregon)
- [Press Statement](#) (ACLU of Oregon)  
Immigrants rights and privacy organizations applaud the City of Woodburn for turning off Flock cameras and urges other cities to follow suit
- [Eugene Public Records Litigation](#)
- [Emails Reveal the Casual Surveillance Alliance Between ICE and Local Police](#) (404 Media)
- [How to Pump the Brakes on Your Police Department’s Use of Flock’s Mass Surveillance License Plate Readers](#) (ACLU National)
- [ALPR Legal Status and Policy Recommendations](#) (Brennan Center)
- Questions? Contact [info@aclu-or.org](mailto:info@aclu-or.org)!