

February 12, 2026

Dear Mayor Thomson,

As local elected officials, we have many responsibilities, including to uphold the civil rights of all residents, hold criminals to account, and support an environment in which people feel secure. Meanwhile, we live in a country where Department of Homeland Security agents and agencies have both individually and systematically violated free speech rights, used violence to intimidate and kill protesters out of all proportion to threats to their own safety, ignored legal due process, and sown fear throughout hundreds of neighborhoods.

It is in this context that I write to you regarding the city's contracts with Flock Safety for Automatic License Plate Readers and other security camera systems. Collecting license plate data and/or other individually identifiable data puts our residents at risk, since there is no way we can guarantee that data collected by a third party will not be misused, nor can we guarantee that the security of this data won't be compromised. Flock Safety, in particular, has a poor record in these areas.

As you prepare to meet with Flock Safety representatives on Monday, please consider these points:

- Despite contract language to limit the sharing of local data collected by these cameras, Flock's systems have allowed data sharing on a broad scale. For example, in Mountain View, California, the company allowed outside agencies to search their data without local permission. The police chief lost confidence in the vendor, and the city had their cameras turned off.¹
- Flock has also installed or reactivated cameras in cities where the local government has not authorized such actions. The City of Cambridge, Massachusetts, terminated its contract with Flock after the company installed two cameras without authorization following a previously requested removal.² The City of Evanston, Illinois asked Flock to turn off their cameras but had to issue a cease and desist order when Flock tried to reactivate them without permission.³ Both cities have since canceled their contracts with Flock.

¹ [California city turns off Flock cameras after company shared data without authorization](#). Suzanne Smalley, The Record, Feb. 3, 2026

² [Statement on the Flock Safety ALPR Contract Termination](#), City of Cambridge (MA), Dec. 10, 2025

³ Personal communication between Bloomington City Councilmember Isabel Piedmont-Smith and Evanston City Councilmember Juan Geracaris, Jan. 15, 2026.

- Independent investigations have revealed that U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) obtained access to local Flock data, even in jurisdictions that had not authorized such sharing.⁴
- Search records show that law enforcement officers have used the Flock system for controversial searches, including tracking political protesters and tracking an individual from Texas for a self-managed abortion.⁵
- The internal security of Flock systems has been shown to be easily breached so that anyone could access personal data.⁶ In addition, an independent security researcher demonstrated that Flock cameras could be compromised in under 30 seconds with physical access.⁷
- In response to criticism and the cancellation of some local contracts, Flock did not recognize residents' rights to have oversight over their own policing and engage in a dialogue to improve their services. Instead, CEO Garrett Langley lashed out against Flock's critics, characterizing them as people who want to "weaken public safety and normalize lawlessness."⁸

In addition to my opinion as a City Council representative, hundreds of residents of Bloomington have expressed their concerns about the City's contract with Flock via two [Change.org](#) petitions⁹ (total signatures as of Feb. 12: 572) and a public demonstration at City Hall on Jan. 30 (approximately 700 people¹⁰), emphasizing past use of Flock data by ICE for immigration enforcement.

In conclusion, given the history of Flock Safety's interaction with various jurisdictions, I do not think it is wise for the City of Bloomington to trust the company to adhere to any limitations or restrictions we may require in any signed contracts. As Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon said in a letter to Langley following his office's own investigation into Flock, "I now believe that abuses of

⁴ [ICE using automated license-plate-reader cameras for immigration enforcement via state/local police](#), Immigration Policy Tracking Project, last updated Nov. 13, 2025 AND [Wyden Slams Surveillance Tech Company for Ineffective Protections for Oregonians Against Abuses by Federal Agencies and Out-of-State Law Enforcement](#), office of Oregon Senator Ron Wyden, Oct. 16, 2025

⁵ [EFF's Investigations Expose Flock Safety's Surveillance Abuses: 2025 in Review](#), Sarah Hamid, Electronic Frontier Foundation, Dec. 30, 2025

⁶ [Flock Exposed Its AI-Powered Cameras to the Internet. We Tracked Ourselves.](#), Jason Koebler, 404 Media, Dec. 22, 2025.

⁷ [We Hacked Flock Safety Cameras in under 30 Seconds.](#), Benn Jordan, YouTube, Nov. 16, 2025

⁸ [Flock CEO includes Charlottesville, Staunton in email blaming activists for cities dropping the company's services](#), Dori Zook, CVILLE Right Now, Dec. 30, 2025.

⁹ [Flock Cameras Out of Bloomington, Indiana Surveillance](#) and [Bloomington: Stop Flock Surveillance That Puts Immigrants at Risk](#)

¹⁰ [Protestors call for the end of Flock camera contract with city](#), Bloomington mayor says 'that is one of the options', Dave Askins, B Square Bulletin, Jan. 30, 2026

your product are not only likely but inevitable, and that Flock is unable and uninterested in preventing them.”¹¹

Please say NO to Flock and cancel the contracts.

Sincerely,

Isabel Piedmont-Smith
City Councilmember, District 1

¹¹ [Wyden Slams Surveillance Tech Company for Ineffective Protections for Oregonians Against Abuses by Federal Agencies and Out-of-State Law Enforcement](#), office of Oregon Senator Ron Wyden, Oct. 16, 2025