

ERIC H. WESSAN  
SOLICITOR GENERAL



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IOWA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

City of Coralville City Council  
Coralville City Hall  
1512 7th St.  
Coralville, IA 52241

Kevin Olson  
City Attorney  
1512 7th St.  
Coralville, IA 52241

*Sent by email*  
December 16, 2025

Dear City of Coralville City Council:

The Iowa Attorney General's Office has received a formal complaint from Hendrik van Pelt under Iowa Code section 27A.8. Iowa Code chapter 27A explains your obligations under State law to cooperate with federal authorities regarding immigration law. Intentionally violating chapter 27A can lead a city, including the City of Coralville, to be ineligible for State funds.

The complaint points to public meetings held in August and September 2025 in which the City of Coralville City Council held hearings on cooperating with federal immigration authorities relating to a two-year agreement with Flock Group, Inc. Coralville Police Chief Kyle Nicholson stated that "if ICE requests our data, it's no." Below is the exchange between Chief Nicholson and City Council Member Mike Knudson as recorded in Coralville's minutes. Mr. Knudson in the exchange was characterized as saying "ICE is not abiding by due process."

purposes, and he believes anyone in this country is susceptible to this. ICE is Knudson's biggest concern because even if they own the data and have a policy to protect it in place a subpoena trumps anything. Even if it goes to court the courts are not quite what they used to be. Knudson believes that we're to the point where they must be concerned that the data will be abused, especially for minorities. Knudson stated he is leaning towards voting no but looks forward to further discussion. Knudson asked Nicholson to talk about the immigration piece. Nicholson agreed if immigration was to offer a subpoena they would be required by court order to comply. Outside of that our policy states that Flock data will not be used on the sole basis to enforce immigration. So, if ICE requests our data, it's no. If an individual commits a crime and we are using ICE to locate them but they're also a subject of ICE. We're using Flock for a criminal matter and ICE might be assisting us with deportation after the fact. Knudson stated this is a tricky thing because ICE is not abiding by due process so we need to be very clear about how this data will be used and he wants to revisit that part of the policy. Foster noted they have heard a lot of feedback about some

At the September meeting, the Council voted to formally adopt a policy titled “Use of Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR)” which prohibits use of the system for “Solely immigration purposes.”

The City’s website includes a page explaining the License Plate Reader policy. *See License Plate Readers, The City of Coralville Iowa*, at <https://bit.ly/49UGorQ> (accessed December 16, 2025). The page extols the virtues of the license plate reader system, noting that it is “an important safety tool to keep you safe, without invading your privacy.” At the bottom of the page is an insert that specifically carves out cooperation with federal law enforcement from using the system under the title “Strict Access.”

#### **Strict Access**

It is against the Coralville Police Department’s policy, and against our contract, for Flock data to be used for immigration. Only trained officers with specific and valid reasons can access the data.

Iowa Code section 27A.4 explains that a “local entity shall not adopt or enforce a policy or take any other action under which the local entity prohibits or discourages the enforcement of immigration laws” nor shall such an entity “prohibit or discourage a person who is a law enforcement officer” from taking a set of prescribed actions consistent with assisting federal law enforcement in this context.

The Attorney General’s Office has, under Iowa Code section 27A.8, received a complaint including evidence that you have stated an intent to intentionally violate this chapter. The Attorney General has determined, under Iowa Code section 27A.8(4) that the complaint is valid. If needed, the Attorney General is authorized to file a civil action in district court to enforce any ongoing or continuing violations of this chapter.

To determine whether such action is needed, the Iowa Attorney General’s Office requests the following information within the next thirty days to ensure that you have complied with State law in accord with Chapter 27A:

- A copy of your formal written policies relating to enforcement of immigration laws.
- A copy of your contract with Flock, including any limitations on cooperation with federal or other State law enforcement.

- A copy of each request for cooperation from federal immigration authorities with any local entity or sub-entity in the City of Coralville, including the Coralville Police Department.
- A copy of any immigration detainer request received by the City of Coralville since 2018, should any exist. Alternatively, please provide confirmation that the City of Coralville has not received any immigration detainer requests in that timeframe.
- A copy of each response sent by you or your office to an immigration detainer request described in the above request.
- A detailed description of all actions you and your office have taken or will take to correct any violations of this chapter.
- Any other documents or responsive material to your office's compliance with Iowa Code chapter 27A.

We will be confirming the above information and will reach out with any further requests. Your response may be directed to the Attorney General's Office care of Solicitor General Eric Wessan ([eric.wessan@ag.iowa.gov](mailto:eric.wessan@ag.iowa.gov)). We look forward to your cooperation in ensuring that Iowa's immigration laws are followed.

Sincerely,

*Eric H. Wessan*

Eric H. Wessan  
Solicitor General



January 15, 2026

**Via E-Mail Transmission**

Mr. Eric H. Wessan, Solicitor General  
Iowa Department of Justice  
Office of the Attorney General  
1305 E. Walnut Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

RE: Chapter 27A of the Code of Iowa  
Letter of December 17, 2025

Mr. Wessan:

I have reviewed your letter dated December 17, 2025 and have discussed this matter with Coralville Police Chief Kyle Nicholson and reviewed relevant documents that you have requested, and I am writing in response thereto.

I have also included the following documents in response to your request:

1. The Agreement between Flock Group, Inc. and the City of Coralville.
2. Policy 320 of the Coralville Police Department entitled "Standards of Conduct."
3. Policy 414 of the Coralville Police Department entitled "Immigration Violations."
4. Policy 427 of the Coralville Police Department entitled "Automated License Plate Readers."

Coralville Police Chief Nicholson searched the department's records for any records of immigration detainer requests. Because Chief Nicholson was appointed to his position in 2024, Chief Nicholson also contacted the two previous chiefs, Barry Bedford and Shane Kron and asked if they had any recollection of any immigration detainer requests. As of the date of this response, the City of Coralville does not have any present or past immigration detainer requests. Even though the Department has not received any detainer requests, Section 414.6.1 of the Department Policy Manual states that "Members shall honor an immigration detainer request issued by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement

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and comply with any related instructions.” The City believes this policy complies with Chapter 27A of the Code of Iowa.

In addition, Section 414.6 also states the following:

“No member of this department will prohibit, or in any way restrict, any other member from doing any of the following regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual:

- (a) Sending information to, or requesting or receiving such information from federal immigration officials;
- (b) Maintaining such information in department records;
- (c) Exchanging information with any other federal, state or local government entity; or
- (d) Permitting federal immigration officials to enter a jail and conduct enforcement activities.”

The City believes that Chapter 414 of the Coralville Police Department Manual complies with the requirements of Chapter 27A.

The City of Coralville and Coralville Police Department are committed to compliance with all Iowa statutes, including specifically Chapter 27A. The City believes that Coralville Policy No. 414 complies with the requirements of Chapter 27A of the Code of Iowa. To further support the Department’s compliance, I have enclosed Coralville Police Department Policy No. 320. As you can see from Section 320.5, Department personnel can be disciplined from “violation of federal, state, local or administrative laws, rules and regulations (See Section 320.5.1(c)); and “all members shall comply with the provisions of Chapter 27A of the Iowa Statutes and no member shall prevent any other member from fully complying with any state or federal laws (See Section 320.5.1(d)).

I have also enclosed a copy of the agreement between the City of Coralville and Flock Group, Inc. I have reviewed the agreement and cannot find any information that states that the use for solely immigration purposes is prohibited. In fact, Section 11.1 requires that both parties to the agreement (Flock Group, Inc. and the City of Coralville) must comply with all federal, state and local laws.

Finally, as you pointed out in your letter of December 17, 2025, your office believes that the statement does not comply with Chapter 27A: “Strict Access. It is against the Coralville Police Department’s policy, and against our contract, for Flock data to be used for immigration. Only trained officers with specific and valid reasons can access the data.” I have reviewed this statement with the Chief of Police we have removed that statement from the City’s website. In addition, I have recommended that Section 427.4.1(d) from Policy 427 (“Automated License Plate Readers”) be removed from the policy altogether. I would request that your office review our proposed remedial measures outlined

above and I would request your opinion as to whether these remedial measures will close this complaint.

As stated earlier, the City of Coralville intends as always to comply with all statutes. I believe that this response and proposed remedial measures would satisfy the requirements of Chapter 27A.

Please be advised that I am certainly willing to discuss this matter further with you to resolve this matter. In the meantime, should you have questions, I can be reached at 319-248-1700 or via e-mail at [kolson@coralville.org](mailto:kolson@coralville.org).

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin D. Olson  
Coralville City Attorney

ERIC H. WESSAN  
SOLICITOR GENERAL



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*Sent by email*  
January 20, 2025

Kevin Olson  
City Attorney  
1512 7th St.  
Coralville, IA 52241

Dear City of Coralville City Council:

The Iowa Attorney General's Office has reviewed your response and proposed remedial measures. *First*, the Attorney General recognizes that your official City policies reflect and conform with Iowa Code Chapter 27A. *Second*, we appreciate your confirming compliance with all immigration detainer requests made by the federal government.

As relevant to the City's contract mentioned in the Complaint, we have reviewed Section 1.11 and agree that it requires both parties to the agreement to comply with all federal, state, and local laws. That includes both State and federal immigration laws. We agree that removing the challenged statement relating to "Strict Access" from the City website and removing Section 427.4.1(d) from Policy 427 will resolve the pending complaint in full.

When the City Council notifies the Attorney General's Office that the policy amendment is complete, the complaint will be closed and considered resolved with no need for further action. We respectfully request that you change the policy in the next 30 days.

We look forward to your confirmation and to prompt resolution of this matter. Your response may be directed to the Attorney General's Office care of Solicitor General Eric Wessan ([eric.wessan@ag.iowa.gov](mailto:eric.wessan@ag.iowa.gov)).

Sincerely,

*Eric H. Wessan*

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