WILMINGTON NAACP • MAY 2026

SURVEILLANCE WITHOUT CONSENT

Flock AI Cameras in Wilmington, NC —
and the Fight to Remove Them

Presented by Mark Williams | DeFlockILM.org | change.org/DeFlockILM

WHAT IS FLOCK?

An AI Camera Network Built to Track You

Flock Safety manufactures Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras deployed by local police departments nationwide — including right here in Wilmington.

Every vehicle that passes a Flock camera is automatically recorded — **whether or not you are suspected of any crime.**

License Plate

Full plate read on every pass

Location + Time

Date, time, exact location logged

Vehicle Profile

Make, model, color captured

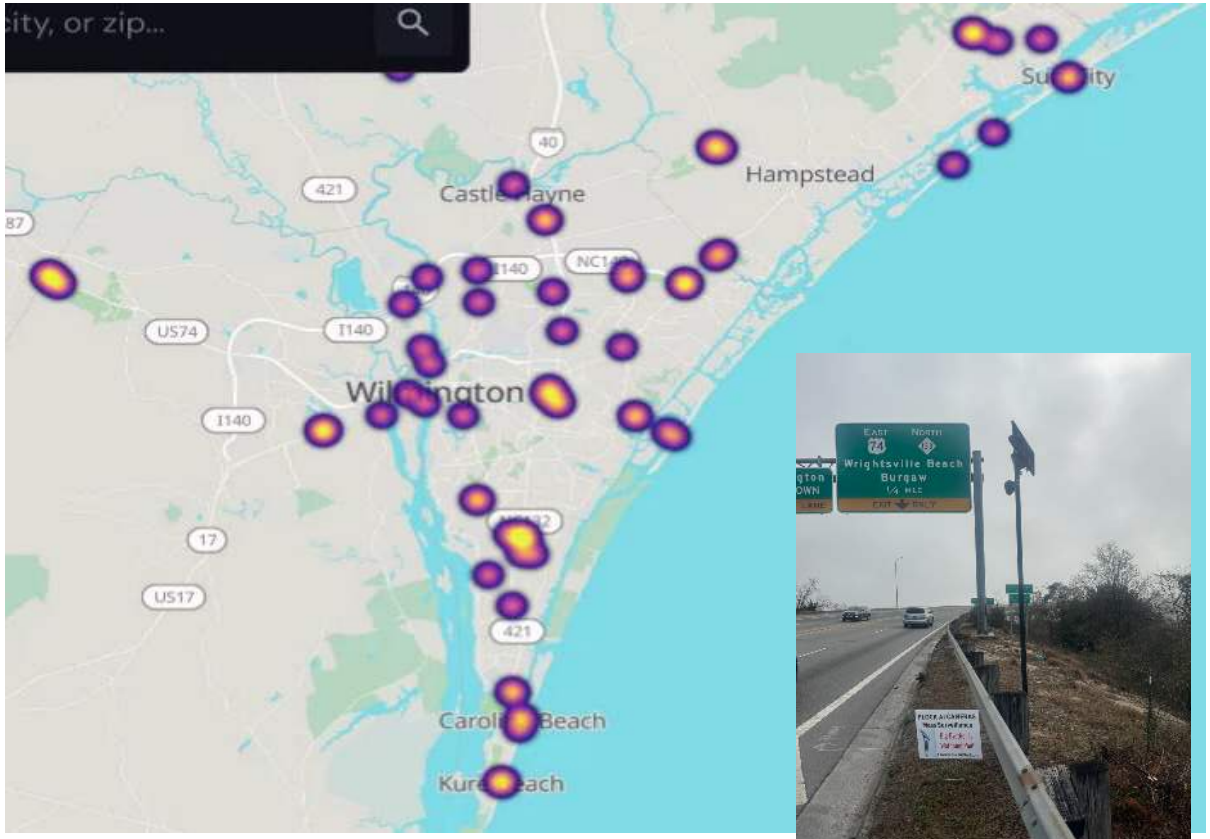
Distinctive Features

Dents, roof racks, bumper stickers

No opt-out. No notice. No warrant required. You are tracked every time you drive.

THE CAMERA GRID

Flock Cameras Across Wilmington & New Hanover County



Cameras span from Castle Hayne and Hampstead to Carolina Beach and Kure Beach

Every road in the city

Cameras on major arterials throughout Wilmington

Suburbs included

Castle Hayne, Hampstead, Surf City — not just downtown

Beach communities

Carolina Beach and Kure Beach are also tracked

Data leaves the county

Out-of-state agencies and federal authorities can access all of it

BEYOND THE LICENSE PLATE

Flock Builds an AI Profile of Your Life

Each camera reading isn't just a plate number — it feeds an AI system that maps your daily patterns.

Where You Worship

Religious attendance patterns are inferred from repeated location visits

Medical Appointments

Trips to clinics, hospitals, and specialists are tracked without consent

Political Activity

Attendance at rallies, protests, or meetings can be identified

Who You Associate With

Vehicles parked near yours are flagged and cross-referenced

Daily Routine

Leave time, lunch spots, arrival home — your pattern of life is mapped

Now: Microphones

Flock is rolling out audio capture in public spaces for 'human distress'

THE LEGAL GAP

No Warrant.
No Consent.
No Accountability.

> *“The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated.”*
>
> **— U.S. Constitution, 4th Amendment**

- Law enforcement can access your location data without a warrant — any time, for any 'law enforcement purpose'
- NC law requires a 'valid law enforcement purpose' — but sets no meaningful standard and requires no judicial review
- Once Flock collects data, it retains it to train its AI — even after a city's 'deletion' window expires
- Flock has backdoor access to all cameras and has been accused of overriding local data-sharing policies

DATA SHARING

Who Can Access Your Location History?

Local Police

Wilmington PD & New Hanover Sheriff access your data without a warrant

YOUR DATA

Out-of-State Agencies

Dozens of law enforcement agencies across the U.S. can search your data

Federal Agencies (ICE)

Federal immigration agents have accessed Flock networks to fuel deportations

Flock Safety Itself

Flock retains data to train its AI and sends footage overseas to gig workers

DOCUMENTED ABUSE

This Isn't Theoretical. It Has Already Happened.

Kansas: Police Chief Stalked His Ex-Wife

A Kansas police chief used ALPR data over 160 times to track his ex-wife without her knowledge. He accessed the system from the law enforcement database he controlled.

Source: Institute for Justice — 1 of 16+ documented stalking cases nationwide

Texas: Abortion Tracking Across State Lines

A Texas sheriff's office searched 83,000 ALPRs across 6,809 Flock networks in multiple states to track a woman suspected of self-managing an abortion — pursuing her into states where abortion is legal.

Source: 404 Media / EFF (2025)

Cleveland: 160 ICE Searches in One Month

Cleveland officials promised the city's Flock network wouldn't be used for immigration enforcement. Records show 160 immigration-related searches in a single month — feeding Trump's mass deportation campaign.

Source: Cleveland.com (May 2026)

DOCUMENTED ABUSE

This Isn't Theoretical. It’s Happening in North Carolina

Fayetteville, NC: Jacqueline McNeill Awarded $60,000.00

ALPR Cameras saw her car near the scene of a shooting, she was arrested and accused of a drive-by shooting. Four hours later, police let her go and apologized. But the wrongful arrest all stemmed from ALPR cameras like Flock and Law Enforcement Relying on them

Source: 27 April 2025 News & Observer

Charlotte, NC: Jasmine Horne Awarded $10,000.00

Police entered the wrong person’s license plate into the ALPR System creating a “hot list” for Jasmine Horne who was wrongfully arrested and paid $10,000



WHY WE SHOULD CARE

Mass Surveillance Is a Civil Rights Issue.

- **Disproportionate Impact:**
  ALPR systems are disproportionately deployed in and around communities of color, subjecting Black residents to heightened surveillance in their own neighborhoods.
- **History Repeats Itself:**
  COINTELPRO. Red-lining surveillance. Dragnet policing. The government has a documented history of using mass data collection to suppress Black communities and civil rights movements.
- **Reproductive Rights:**
  Flock data has already been weaponized to track women seeking reproductive healthcare. Black women face the highest maternal mortality rates — and the most to lose.
- **Immigration & ICE:**
  Data-sharing with ICE threatens immigrant families in our community. Flock data has been used in deportation operations across the country.
- **No Opt-Out Exists:**
  Unlike a stop-and-frisk, there is no moment you can invoke your rights. The system watches silently, automatically, permanently — unless we make it stop.

NATIONAL MOVEMENT

Communities Across America Are Fighting Back

68+
Cities have canceled Flock contracts

16+
Officers fired for stalking with ALPR data

Aug 16
DeFlock's nationwide week of action begins

Troy, NY

Mayor declared a 'state of emergency' to keep Flock cameras running. City council sued her. (May 2026)

Bandera, TX

Town voted 3-2 to end Flock contract after residents saw how the data was used. A pro-surveillance councilmember proposed banning the internet in retaliation.

Asheville, NC

Residents packed chambers, chanting 'Shame! Shame! Shame!' as the council voted 6-1 for a real-time surveillance center. Organizing continues.

San Jose, CA / Norfolk, VA

Federal lawsuits argue Flock's network violates the 4th Amendment. The first Flock challenge is now in the federal appeals system.

NORTH CAROLINA

NC Communities Are Already Canceling Flock

Hillsborough / Orange County, NC

CANCELED FLOCK CONTRACT

Discovered that Flock can override local data-sharing policies and independently share resident data with third parties — without town approval. The town voted to end the contract immediately to protect residents.

Buncombe County, NC (Asheville area)

STATE AUDIT REVEALS DATA SHARING WHICH MAY BE ILLEGAL

A 2026 audit showed Buncombe County's Flock data was being searched by law enforcement agencies outside North Carolina — a potential violation of state law. The audit exposed the fiction of 'local control' over Flock data.

NC State Bureau of Investigation (SBI)

WANTS CAMERAS ON EVERY ROAD ENTERING NC

The SBI is seeking to install Flock cameras at every entrance road into North Carolina. The surveillance state is not just local — it is being built statewide, with or without community input.

News & Observer Investigation

'5 THINGS NC LICENSE PLATE CAMERA RECORDS REVEALED'

A major investigative series uncovered widespread misuse, lack of oversight, and troubling patterns of access across North Carolina's growing ALPR networks.

THE LEGAL FIGHT

The Constitution Already Protects You — If Courts Enforce It

United States v. Jones (2012)

U.S. Supreme Court

Attaching a GPS tracker to a vehicle requires a warrant. The government cannot secretly monitor your movements without judicial approval.

Impact: Flock creates the exact same real-time tracking grid — without any warrant at all.

Carpenter v. United States (2018)

U.S. Supreme Court

Obtaining cell site location records without a warrant is unconstitutional. The Court acknowledged that modern technology creates 'an intimate window into a person's life.'

Impact: Flock data reveals the same patterns — where you go, when you go, who you're with.

San Jose ALPR Lawsuit (Active)

Federal District Court, California

Residents are suing San Jose over its 500-camera Flock network under the 4th Amendment. Police can track any individual's movement for 30 days without a warrant.

Impact: First major federal challenge to an ALPR network of this scale.

Norfolk, VA ALPR Case (On Appeal)

4th Circuit Court of Appeals

Federal judge warned that ALPRs could cross the constitutional threshold as the technology advances. The Institute for Justice is appealing on behalf of Norfolk residents.

Impact: First Flock challenge in the federal appeals system — setting national precedent.

RIGHT HERE. RIGHT NOW.

The New Hanover County Situation

Flock cameras are operating throughout Wilmington and New Hanover County today — right now, as you read this.

The contract with Flock Safety was entered into by local government without meaningful public debate, without a privacy impact assessment, and without community consent.

New Hanover County Commissioners have the power to change course — and they need to hear from this community.

What We're Asking of New Hanover County:

- Cancel the Flock Safety contract
- Conduct a public privacy impact assessment
- Adopt a community oversight policy for any future surveillance technology
- Hold a public hearing on ALPR use in New Hanover County

OUR INITIATIVE

DeFlockILM: Get the Flock Out of Wilmington

DeFlockILM.org

DeFlockILM was founded by Wilmington residents committed to protecting privacy in our community. We are a nonpartisan coalition standing against warrantless mass surveillance.

Petition

change.org/DeFlockILM
Over 1,000 signatures and growing

Email Leaders

One-click tool at DeFlockILM.org to contact commissioners directly

Public Records

We've pulled contracts & SOPs and published them for public review

Education

Talking points, flyers, media coverage — all at DeFlockILM.org

TONIGHT'S ASK

Two Things We're Asking

ASK 1

Sign the Petition Tonight

change.org/DeFlockILM

Pull up change.org/DeFlockILM and add your name. Every signature sends a message to New Hanover County Commissioners.

ASK 2

Formally Endorses DeFlockILM

DeFlockILM.org

We are asking organizations to consider a formal endorsement of DeFlockILM — putting your name and moral authority behind the effort to remove Flock cameras from Wilmington.

Take Action Now

Privacy Is Not a Luxury.
It Is a Right.

Sign the Petition

change.org/DeFlockILM

Sign on your phone right now

Visit Our Site

DeFlockILM.org

Talking points, flyers, news, records

Email Commissioners

DeFlockILM.org/ email-your-leaders

One-click email tool

Contact Mark Williams

mwilliams@ricefamilylaw.com

Questions or to get more involved

"Whatever you allow your government to do to others, they will eventually do to you." — Protest sign, Troy, NY, April 2026