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August 24, 2026

Mayor Allen Oliver and the Town Council
Town of Kure Beach
117 Settlers Lane
Kure Beach, NC 28449

Re: Ending Kure Beach's automated license-plate-reader (Flock) program

Dear Mayor Oliver and Members of the Town Council:

We write on behalf of DeFlockILM and the 3,400 residents who have signed the petition to remove Flock automated license-plate-reader (ALPR) cameras from Wilmington and the Cape Fear region. Of those signers, 2,485 — three in every four — live in New Hanover, Brunswick, and Pender counties, and 1,984 live in New Hanover County alone. They are your constituents, and they are asking you to end your support for mass government surveillance.

In Kure Beach, the Town's Flock law-enforcement agreement was signed by the Police Chief, and the Council funded it through the department's budget — again, with no stand-alone public vote. As the governing board that controls the Town's contracts and its budget, you can direct that the program end.

These cameras were deployed without public notice and without any meaningful opportunity for residents to be heard. Most people learned they were being tracked only after the network was already watching them. That is not how a free community consents to being surveilled, and our neighbors experience it as exactly what it is — a breach of trust.

They also believe it violates their constitutional rights. A network that photographs and logs every passing vehicle — every driver, every day, with no warrant and no suspicion of wrongdoing — is a general search of the innocent. The Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States protects against unreasonable searches, and Article I, Section 20 of the Constitution of North Carolina declares that general warrants "are dangerous to liberty and shall not be granted." A permanent, searchable record of where free people travel is the modern general warrant our State Constitution was written to forbid.

Our neighbors keep returning to one plain question: if we are not doing anything wrong, why are you watching us? These systems turn the presumption of innocence on its head. They treat every resident as a suspect to be logged first and cleared later — the opposite of the individualized suspicion that law enforcement is meant to require. A community is not a lineup.

This approach betrays the very trust that law enforcement is sworn to uphold — and the oath you took, as an elected official, to support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of North Carolina. Public safety and constitutional liberty are not opposed. A government that watches everyone in order to catch anyone forfeits the consent it depends upon.

We ask you to discontinue the Town's automated license-plate-reader program, to cancel or decline to renew the Flock contract, and to require a recorded public vote before the Town acquires any surveillance technology in the future.

The residents on our petition — and the neighbors still adding their names every day — are not asking for a promise that these cameras will be used carefully. They are asking you to reclaim a simple principle: free people are not a database to be searched. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss it.

Respectfully,

DeFlockILM
On behalf of 3,400 petition signers
info@DeFlockILM.org · DeFlockILM.org