Flock Cameras Still Up - Please Remove

From Mark Williams <mark@deflockilm.org>

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Date Friday, October 30th, 2026 at 10:39 AM

Commissioners,

On **September 8, 2026**, you voted **4–0** to cancel the Sheriff's Office contract for the stationary Flock automated license-plate readers. Residents understood that to mean the cameras would come down. Flock, which owns the hardware and controls removal, estimated roughly **60 days** — about two months — and the County relayed that the process "could take some time."

It is now **October 30**. Fifty-two days have passed, and as far as residents can see, **the cameras are still up.** We are writing to ask the Board to secure three simple things: a **firm removal date in writing and written confirmation once each camera is actually down so that this is** not left to the vendor's schedule or good faith.

We ask because, across the country, a cancellation vote has repeatedly turned out to be only as strong as the follow-through and the vendor, not the local government, controls the equipment:

- In Brunswick County, North Carolina, Flock installed eight cameras that the County does not pay for and has never been removed.
- In **Plymouth, Minnesota**, Flock did not act on the city's cancellation, so the **police chief personally unplugged and removed the cameras and poles himself** — and a month later Flock still would not say when it would retrieve the hardware.
- In **Dayton, Minnesota**, Flock acknowledged the cancellation, quoted 60 days — and then **reinstalled cameras** after the city had ended the contract.
- In **Grass Valley, California**, the city canceled and removed its cameras, only to discover **two had been reinstalled**.
- In **Lebanon, Ohio**, Flock **removed six cameras without the city's knowledge**, later calling it an error.
- In **North Liberty, Iowa**, the city attorney advised that under Flock's contract the city **is not even permitted to remove the cameras itself.**

There is a better model. **Go ahead and bag the cameras until they are removed.**

New Hanover County should do the same. Specifically, we respectfully ask the Board, through the County Manager, to:

1. Obtain and share the **date Flock will complete removal** of every camera under the canceled contract;
2. **Confirm in writing when removal is complete**, camera by camera, and that stored plate data has been deleted;
3. Bag the cameras until removal;
4. Address the **eight Flock "Condor" PTZ cameras in county parks** that the September 8 vote did not reach — and tell residents whether the Board intends to take those down as well.

The vote was the right call, and we commend it. The cameras being physically gone — and staying gone — is what makes it real. Residents are paying attention to that last step.

Thank you for your service and your attention to this.

Respectfully,
Mark Spencer Williams
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