



CHIEF OF POLICE  
THOMAS FIGLIA

# CITY OF BEACON POLICE DEPARTMENT

1 MUNICIPAL PLAZA, SUITE 3  
BEACON, NY 12508  
(845)831-4111  
FAX: (845)838-5092



NEW YORK STATE  
ACCREDITED AGENCY

Recently, it has come to the Police Department's attention that there are concerns from some in the community about the use of Flock Safety Automatic License Plate Readers ("ALPRs") throughout the City and in surrounding communities. The concerns raised have ranged from reasonable discussions about the appropriate balance between privacy rights and security in society, to false claims such as those stating that these devices have never been used to solve a violent crime. It is the goal of the City of Beacon Police Department to be transparent with the public about our operations to the maximum extent possible, without compromising our ability to safely and effectively carry out our public safety duties. As part of that commitment to transparency, we have prepared this explanation of how we do, and do not, utilize these devices, as well as how the data created by their usage is maintained.

## **What is "FLOCK"?**

The City of Beacon has a contract with Flock Safety to provide automatic license plate readers (ALPRs) in various locations in the City. These license plate readers capture still images (not video) of vehicles and their license plates as they pass the cameras on public streets. Two things then happen. First, if the license plate is on a hot list as a stolen vehicle or belonging to a wanted person, Flock will generate an alert which then has to be independently confirmed by running the plate in the New York DMV/National Criminal Information Center data base "EJustice" (which is used every day on every traffic stop by virtually every New York police agency) to confirm the accuracy of the "hit" before any police action is taken to stop the vehicle. Second, Flock creates a 30-day database of vehicles that passed the ALPR, which can be searched a number of ways such as by plate number, partial plate number, vehicle description, notable vehicle features or a combination of those fields. It cannot be searched by drivers or driver descriptions, such as gender or race. It does not have facial recognition capabilities.

## **Why is Flock better than regular video cameras?**

It is not necessarily "better" than regular video cameras but the ability to access a database that allows searching for combinations of partial information is critical in criminal investigations. Victims and witnesses often remember partial details of vehicles involved in crime and rarely remember accurate or full license plate numbers. These ALPRs provide vital

data which gives us the ability to quickly turn partial recollections into real evidence and usable information about a suspect's vehicle.

### **What does the Beacon Police Department use Flock cameras for?**

Our Department uses Flock data for official law enforcement investigations only. Use of any police department database for unofficial or unauthorized purposes is strictly prohibited by Department policy. The Department shares and, in turn, receives access to hotlists and 30-day data from other cooperating police agencies. The data resulting from the operation of these ALPRs belongs to us and is not sold by the Beacon Police Department or by Flock, who is prevented from doing so by our contract with the company.

### **What does the Beacon Police Department *not* use Flock for?**

The Beacon Police Department does not use Flock data for immigration enforcement and does not have access to data from, nor share its data with, Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"). The Beacon Police Department does not sell Flock data, nor is Flock permitted to sell data collected by Beacon's ALPRs. We do not have access to search any data that is more than 30-days old, which is automatically deleted. The only way for our Department to retain any older data is to download specific data prior to the 30-day deletion, which must be done as part of a specific investigation. As a practical matter, given the volume of vehicular traffic passing each camera daily, there is too much data to be able to download it all and circumvent the 30-day retention. Even if the Department requests longer retention, Flock will not retain any data from our cameras for longer than 30-days. Flock is not used to track any individual's movements, nor is it used to track individual vehicles unless that vehicle is related to a criminal investigation or if there is reasonable cause to believe that individual is a danger to themselves or others and such information is needed to confirm the individual's location at the time of a crime or apprehend them.

### **What happens to the Data?**

As noted, the Beacon Police Department owns our data generated by the operation of these cameras. It is automatically erased after 30 days unless individually downloaded by the Department as related to a specific law enforcement investigation.

## **What are some specific examples of Beacon Police Department's use of Flock cameras?**

Prior to Flock ALPRs being installed in Beacon, our detectives worked with Westchester County authorities to access data from their Flock ALPRs. The evidence gathered was crucial in proving a case where, on March 11, 2022, a taxi driver drove a woman back from NYC and sexually assaulted her inside her home in Beacon.

On June 2, 2023, after responding to a call that young men were seen displaying a handgun in a vehicle in Tompkin's Terrace, officers used a vehicle description and Flock ALPR data to determine that the vehicle had recently left the City on Rt. 9D. The vehicle was quickly located, an illegal handgun was recovered, and suspects were arrested.

On August 29, 2024, the Beacon Police Department received a hotlist hit for a vehicle entering the city. The driver was wanted in New Jersey for a serious domestic violence assault. The vehicle and the driver were located and he was arrested and turned over to authorities in New Jersey.

On September 21, 2024, a suspect spray-painted large graffiti on the side of two buildings on Main St. Video footage showed the suspect entering a getaway vehicle but did not reveal the vehicle's license plate. Flock ALPR data showed the same vehicle leaving the city and through that the getaway driver and the primary suspect were able to be identified and arrested.

On the same day, Flock ALPRs were used to identify the details of a vehicle that was operated by suspect who was using forged cash at a business on Main St. The vehicle was located by patrol and the suspect arrested.

On December 12, 2024, the Department received a hotlist hit for a stolen vehicle entering the city. Members then began checking for the vehicle and located it in the parking lot of Loft's on Leonard St. After a short foot pursuit, the driver of the stolen vehicle was arrested and the vehicle was recovered for the owner.

On February 17, 2025, after a victim was stabbed on Main St., officers used his description of the suspect's vehicle and Flock ALPR data to find that vehicle's license plate number, which led to the suspect's address and to his quick arrest for the crime.

On March 25, 2025, Flock ALPR data was used to determine that a murder suspect's vehicle tended to hit a certain camera every day at a certain time. This allowed the Beacon Police Department to peacefully arrest this individual on a planned traffic stop instead of needing to execute a high-risk arrest at his home, which would have created greater danger to both the officers, the suspect, and the suspect's family.

On April 9, 2025, an elderly male was assaulted inside Family Dollar. He was able to provide a vehicle description, but not license plate to responding officers. Using Flock ALPRs, officers were able to view an image of the vehicle fleeing the scene and obtain its plate number

therefore identifying its owner, who our investigation confirmed was the perpetrator of the assault.

On August 15, 2025, our detectives assisted City of Poughkeepsie Police with identifying shooting suspects using Flock. Using our ALPR data, they were able to locate surveillance camera footage and identify the occupants of a vehicle that fled from a Poughkeepsie shooting. During the course of that investigation, it was also revealed that while fleeing from the crime in Poughkeepsie, one of the suspects violated an order of protection in Beacon, for which he was separately charged.

On September 9, 2025, a bicyclist was struck and injured on Fishkill Ave. by a hit-and-run driver. Officers recovered vehicle parts and, utilizing Flock's vehicle description search function, were able to identify the vehicle leaving the city after the accident. The driver was then located, identified, and charged.

In September of 2025, the Department received a call from an individual who stated that his girlfriend was distraught and had threatened to jump off the bridge. A Flock hit confirmed the vehicle had been heading toward the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge and the vehicle was quickly located parked on Rock Hill Rd., a short distance from the bridge with the distraught woman still inside. She was transported for mental health assistance.

In December of 2025 the Department received a call from a father stating his son sent him a message telling him that he was going to kill himself. Investigation revealed that he had gone out on the bridge but turned around and Flock data confirmed that his vehicle was probably still in the city. Officers canvassed the area of the last Flock hit and found the vehicle, then located the male in the area, lying in a shed, still distraught. He was then transported for mental health assistance.

On December 24, 2025, a bicyclist was struck and injured on Rt. 9D by a hit-and-run driver. A partial vehicle description was given and the vehicle was able to be identified using the Flock ALPRs. The suspect was located and charged for the incident.

**Have City of Beacon Flock license plate readers ever been used to help prove someone *didn't* commit a crime?**

Yes. Recently, during a currently active investigation, the Department received a tip about an individual who may have been a suspect in a serious crime. The individual was interviewed and Flock ALPR data was used to help confirm an alibi and quickly clear that individual from further suspicion.

## Have the City of Beacon's Flock License Plate Readers been hacked?

Recently there was a news story about Flock Safety's Phantom Pan/Tilt/Zoom cameras being hacked, being controlled by unauthorized users and having data erased. While that issue was addressed, the City of Beacon has not ever deployed any Flock Phantom Cameras. We only use the Automatic License Plate Reader system. Our system does not pan, tilt, zoom or record video. The system is fixed and records only still photos.

## What do we see when we search for a plate or vehicle?

We can see an image of the vehicle and the immediate area around it, a larger image of the license plate and an estimated point on the map of where the photo was taken. They are not video cameras. They do not pan, tilt or zoom in. The resolution is not such that we can do things like read your cell phone. Below is an actual example of what we see. In this case the large truck with the trailer attached was the suspect vehicle.

flock safety

Report ID: fc1f99a8-3201-41a3-8ae8-744d0fa2e9ff

# Investigative Summary

License Plate Detection

License Plate Read

Organization name	Created by	Date created	Search reason
Beacon City NY PD	Brian Lawrence	[REDACTED]	HIT N RUN



## License Plate Detection Details

License plate	[REDACTED]
Body, Make, Color	licensePlate
Local Date/time captured	[REDACTED]
Organization name	Beacon City NY PD