



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

September 17, 2026

The Honorable Brooke Pinto
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Councilmember Pinto:

Thank you for this opportunity to answer additional questions regarding the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) use of Flock Safety automated license plate readers (LPRs) or "Flock." Since becoming Interim Police Chief in January, I've worked with my team to enhance internal controls regarding the use of technology at MPD and been responsive to Council inquiries about how Flock is supporting our efforts in reducing crime.

As shared with Council in February 2026, government, and especially law enforcement, must use technology responsibly, being deliberate in its protection of constitutional rights and mindful of community concerns and questions. That's why earlier this year, the Department eliminated access to MPD's LPR data by outside agencies, revised and strengthen agency policy, and launched an internal audit regarding Flock use. The audit is underway and the result will be available later this year.

I recognize some community members still have questions and hope you agree MPD has been responsive to Council's questions and concerns. Please see below responses to your letter of September 14, 2026, with new questions related to Flock technology.

1. How was Flock initially brought to the District of Columbia and for how long has MPD had a contract with Flock?

While MPD has maintained an LPR program for more than a decade, Flock was deployed in the District in 2025 as part of a multiyear effort launched by Mayor Bowser to increase both CCTV and LPR coverage in the District. These efforts were a part of a host of crime fighting strategies implemented by the District aimed at driving down crime, particularly in light of the historic lows in MPD force strength.

MPD does not have any contracts directly with Flock. Flock is available are through a reseller, Insight Public Safety. The procurement information is available in the table below.

Purchase Order and/or Contract	Effective Date	Purpose	Amount
PO711233	7/29/2024	Collaborative Workstream Software and Equipment: 12-month Flock Safety software licenses including implementation, installation, configuration, deployment and technical support and maintenance. (Set up and support services)	\$19,150
PO720453 / CW123005	12/31/2024	LPR Software as a Service Solution: The software is used to identify vehicles and their associated information in real time. It helps with vehicle theft recovery, Amber Alerts, and crime investigations via interaction with the NCIC (National Crime Information Center) database. (67 LPRs)	\$336,047
PO723302	3/10/2025	CCTV Software as a Service Solution: The solution is used to expand CCTV coverage in DC. (7 CCTVs)	\$44,137
PO735688 / CW123005	12/31/2025	LPR Software as a Service Solution: The software is used to identify vehicles and their associated information in real time. It helps with vehicle theft recovery, Amber Alerts, and crime investigations via interaction with the NCIC (National Crime Information Center) database. (Exercise of option year one for the 67 LPRs)	\$201,000
PO741462	6/17/2026	CCTV Software as a Service Solution: The solution is used to expand CCTV coverage in DC. (Renewal of subscription as service for the 7 CCTVs)	\$28,500

2. ***In early August of 2026, Flock stated that it updated its software to automatically review all “abnormal activity” by law enforcement agencies using its system. As of August, how many instances of misuse has Flock flagged for MPD through its “Audit Assistance” program?***

The Flock system does not flag misuse but rather types of activity for additional review. This includes a user running a license plate multiple times or for longer than 30 days. This is not necessarily cases of misuse. For instance, a license plate may be run repeatedly for longer than 30 days because of it is linked to an unsolved missing person case. Internal Affairs is currently investigating two cases of potential misuse, one of which was first identified by the Flock auditing tool.

3. ***Flock has stated that it will require case codes for all law enforcement searches. How often was MPD using this lookup tool without case codes? What would be the reasoning behind using this technology without an active case associated?***

This information is part of MPD’s audit. In some scenarios, report numbers would already be drawn before an LPR inquiry is made. However, in exigent circumstances, this may not be the case. For example, in a critical missing person or a shooting investigation with a look out for a vehicle, one officer may already be pursuing leads before another is writing an initial report. Regardless, all requests require a reason to be provided.

4. *The Department has previously stated to the Committee that it initiated a new routine audit of license plate readers (“LPRs”) pursuant to a new policy issued on April 30th that will cover May through July of 2026. What are the results of this audit? If there has been any misuse found, what has MPD done in response?*

MPD’s audit is underway and will be available later this year. If any misconduct is identified, an investigation will be opened. Internal Affairs is currently investigating two cases of potential misuse.

5. *Is it within MPD policy to use Flock camera data for internal investigations? If so, what are the specific parameters for its use in these cases?*

The new LPR policy issued on April 30, 2026, provides that LPR information inquiries are permitted only if there is a legal basis requiring the inquiry or there is reasonable articulable suspicion that an individual or enterprise is involved in criminal conduct or activity, the LPR information is relevant, and the requestor has an official law enforcement purpose for requesting it.

6. *Last week, the DC Police Union stated that there was “improper use by management of Flock data” to conduct inquiries on MPD’s own officers. Is this claim true? If so, what was MPD’s justification for using this technology in this way?*

No, the claim is not true. The DC Police Union has filed a grievance against MPD about the use of LPR in an Internal Affairs investigation into the misconduct of a union member. The Department’s position is that the use of LPR in the misconduct investigation was appropriate because the alleged misconduct was potentially criminal in nature. This grievance involves a union matter, and it will be resolved through arbitration between MPD and the DC Police Union.

7. *Given that MPD already owns its own CCTV cameras and LPRs, why does MPD view a contract with Flock as necessary for public safety in the District?*

Closed-circuit television cameras (CCTVs) and LPRs are a force multiplier for public safety, allowing MPD to provide real-time information to responding officers. Cameras also support better investigations and prosecutions, and deter crime.

LPRs, in general, are critical tools to support public safety, and this expansion of the LPR system has netted critical public safety gains for District residents. Flock differs from the prior LPRs in that each agency purchases an LPR service and can join a national network to support investigations outside their jurisdiction. In situations where individuals with outstanding warrants do not reside within DC, and their LPR activity is detected in surrounding jurisdictions, MPD coordinates joint operations with partner agencies. Using the same methodology, these collaborative efforts have resulted in safe, efficient apprehensions across jurisdictional lines. The LPR network, of which Flock is one service, is strengthening regional public safety through shared data, coordinated operations, and trusted partnerships.

MPD has leveraged a new way to procure and use CCTV cameras and LPRs, through Software as a Service (SaaS). This allows MPD to rent the equipment through the operating budget, instead of purchasing with capital funding. A SaaS contract has a number of benefits over owning hardware. For example, the vendor is responsible for keeping up with the latest technology. LPR technology evolves quickly—cameras, processors, analytics, firmware, cybersecurity, and AI capabilities all change. Under SaaS, the vendor can refresh the technology without the agency having to run a new hardware-replacement program every few years. There have been concerns in the past about replacing MPD's older CCTV cameras because better quality recording equipment was available. This model is also similar to MPD's contract for body-worn cameras, where technology upgrades are part of the contract. The SaaS model also requires no upfront capital investment, and is less dependent on MPD employees. It makes the maintenance costs more predictable and allows faster expansion.

- 8. *Please specify exactly which aspects of the Flock technology MPD uses (for example, the lookup tool, interjurisdictional connectivity, etc.).***

MPD uses both the search tool and the Flock "hotlist." Flock facilitates critical information sharing (e.g., stolen vehicle, missing person, or active investigation) with a nationwide "Hotlist" of the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), a Department of Justice index of missing persons and criminal information. The Flock system provides alerts when there is a match against the hotlist. In addition, Internal Affairs is monitoring the new Flock auditing tool.

- 9. *Flock has made the data retention period automatically set at 7 days, rather than the original 30 days. How long does MPD choose to keep data and what is the Department's reasoning for this choice?***

The Flock system allows the retention period to be set by the agency. Consistent with MPD's policy across video systems, the initial retention period for video is set to 90 days. Metadata on requests is maintained for four years. However, any information relevant to a case will be retained pursuant to the records retention required by the case type. Although initial policy related to body-worn camera systems was shorter, stakeholder feedback encouraged a longer time frame so that video would be retained longer in case there was a complaint. This 90-day period became the standard across video platforms.

- 10. *Is MPD aware of any other law enforcement agency within the District with its own contract with Flock (i.e. on federal land)? If so, is MPD given access to the data from those cameras? Can those jurisdictions access the cameras that are contracted to MPD?***

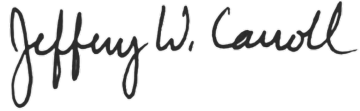
MPD is unable to speak to contract agreements between Flock and other law enforcement agencies.

On January 30, 2026, I directed MPD's participation in Flock's National Look Up program be suspended so that no agency has direct access to MPD's data. MPD personnel authorized to conduct searches through Flock do still have access to information from jurisdictions still participating in the National Look Up program. In addition, similar to any other law

enforcement request for relevant evidence in a criminal investigation, other jurisdictions can request information or footage from MPD. The MPD Real Time Crime Center handles these requests consistent with MPD policy and DC law.

I hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffery W. Carroll". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffery W. Carroll
Interim Chief of Police

cc: Muriel Bowser, Mayor
Lindsey Appiah, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice