



**flock safety**

*What it is*

*and*

*What it isn't*

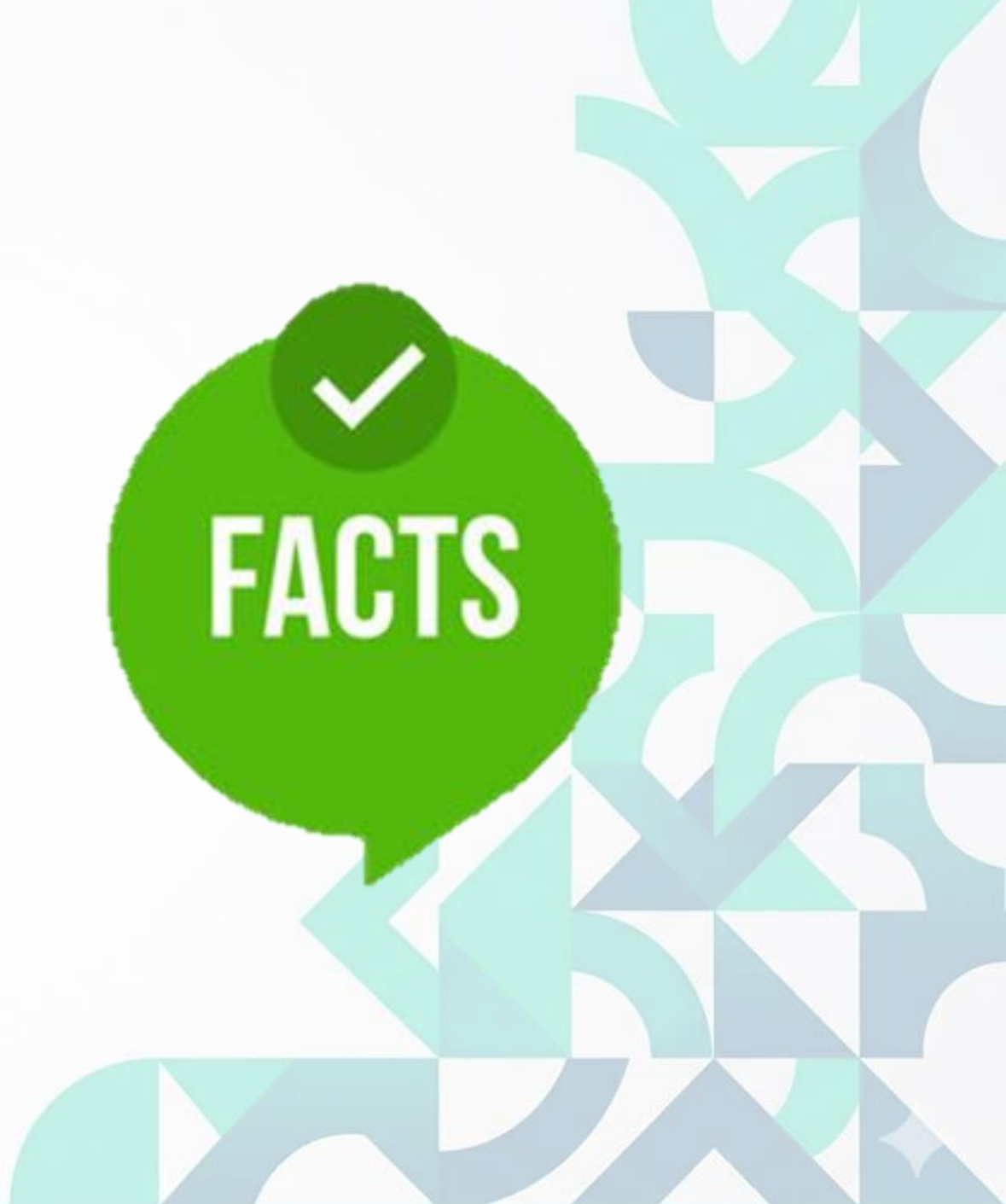
# Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR or LPR)

- High-speed, computer controlled cameras that capture images of vehicles and license plates, converting the license plate image into text using optical character recognition





**VS**





VS



- **Myth:**

- ALPRs can track people and show police everywhere they go.

- **Fact:**

- ALPRs take a point-in-time image of the rear of vehicles on public roadways.

- **Myth:**

- ALPRs violate the Fourth Amendment and Article 14 in Massachusetts

- **Fact:**

- Appellate and federal district courts in at least fourteen states, including Massachusetts, and the 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Circuits, have upheld using evidence from license plate readers as constitutional without requiring a warrant.



VS



- **Myth:**

- Flock's ALPR cameras use facial recognition

- **Fact:**

- Flock's ALPR cameras **do not use facial recognition** and the Flock ALPR system **cannot be searched for human characteristics** such as race or gender.

- **Myth:**

- ALPRs collect Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

- **Fact:**

- Flock's ALPR system **contains no PII** such as names, addresses, SSNs or DMV records. It only contains images of license plates which every state requires to be publicly displayed on public ways.





- Privacy advocates “blanket surveillance”
  - Court rulings, including Massachusetts SJC have ruled it is NOT
- Don’t know how data is stored
  - Department owns data, retained for 30 days
- Where data is going
  - Only to departments we authorize to look at it (No Federal Agencies)
- Where cameras are
  - 4 Flock plate readers for 450 miles of road
  - All overt and on main roads into/through town

# What do Flock plate readers look like?



# What do Officers see?



#04 Falmouth Rd @ Santuit-Newtown Rd EB  
Barnstable MA PD Barnstable MA PD

Flock Safety

3/8/2026 12:48:09 EDT  
CI214



# What it is

- Motion-Activated cameras built specifically for public safety and security
- Specific Information:
  - License plate number
  - Vehicle make, model, color, and body type
  - Date, time, and general location of detection
- Data is owned by agency, NOT Flock:
  - It is never sold
  - It is never shared without agency approval
- Data that strengthens active and past investigations

# Most Frequent Uses

- Narcotics Trafficking Investigations
- Property Crimes
- Violent Crimes
- Child Predator Crimes
- Motor Vehicle Crash Investigations
- Missing/Endangered Persons
- Individuals in mental health crisis



Narcotics Trafficking



Violent Wanted Criminal



Stolen Motor Vehicle



June 7, 2024

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express our support for the partnership between the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) and Flock Safety.

Since its founding in 1984, NCMEC has been dedicated to protecting children and providing critical assistance to families in crisis. The partnership with Flock Safety, established in May 2021, has been instrumental in enhancing our capabilities. By utilizing technology like Flock's License Plate Recognition (LPR) camera system, we have seen remarkable results. Over 100 missing children cases have been resolved thanks to the swift action enabled by this technology.

Statistics show that 74% of AMBER Alert cases are resolved within six hours, and 93% within 24 hours. These numbers highlight the critical importance of timely intervention. The LPR cameras deployed by Flock Safety help provide law enforcement with the tools necessary to act quickly and efficiently. The successful recoveries, such as the safe return of two children in Wichita, KS, and a 14-year-old girl in Casper, WY, underscore the life-saving impact of this technology and our partnership.

NCMEC remains steadfast in our mission to assist law enforcement to recover missing children. We are grateful for the collaboration with Flock Safety and are confident that together, we will continue to make our communities safer and reunite children with their families.

Thank you for your continued support of our efforts. Together, we can make sure that every child has a safe childhood.

Sincerely,  
John E. Bischoff III  
VP, Missing Children Division  
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children





NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
**MISSING &  
EXPLOITED**  
C H I L D R E N<sup>®</sup>

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# Reads vs. Searches .005% searched in last 30 days





# Franklin MA PD

Transparency Portal

Last Updated: Tue Apr 21 2026

## Overview

The Franklin Police Department utilizes Flock Safety technology to capture objective evidence without compromising individual privacy. The Franklin Police Department employs retroactive search capabilities to investigate crimes after they have occurred. Additionally, the Franklin Police Department utilizes Flock's real-time alerting to notify officers when a vehicle associated with a missing person, kidnapping, amber alert, silver alert, wanted criminal, or criminal investigation passes a flock license plate reader. In addition to implementing a department policy which addresses proper procedure and prohibited conduct, the Franklin Police Department has made the below usage statistics available to the public.

## Policies



### What's Detected

License Plates, Vehicles



### What's Not Detected

Facial recognition, People, Gender, Race



### Acceptable Use Policy

Data is used for law enforcement purposes only. Data is owned by Franklin MA PD and is never sold to 3rd parties.



### Prohibited Uses

Immigration enforcement, traffic enforcement, harassment or intimidation, usage based solely on a protected class (i.e. race, sex, religion), Personal use.



### Access Policy

All system access requires a valid reason and is stored indefinitely.



### Hotlist Policy

Hotlist hits are required to be human verified prior to action.

## Usage



### Data retention (in days)

30 days



### Number of LPR and other cameras

2



### Hotlists Alerted On

NCIC, NCMC Amber Alert



### Vehicles detected in the last 30 days

139,844



### Searches in the last 30 days

38

## Additional Info

### Recent Success Story

Flock plate readers operated by the Franklin Police were able to identify a vehicle involved with numerous business break-ins. The vehicle was located through the use of the Flock information search network and recovered in Rhode Island. After recovery, the vehicle was determined to be a stolen vehicle from the Boston area. Through the use of the Franklin license plate reader and Flock plate reader network; valuable information was provided to the investigation that was used to subsequently identify suspects.

### Additional Info - Agency LPR Policy Link

<https://public.powerdms.com/FranklinPD/tree>

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# Constraints on Public Safety Tools

- Traffic Cameras (Speed and Red Light Violations)\*1 of 11 states
  - Ch. 90 § 17 requires human officer identification for violations
- Facial Recognition \*1 of 7 states
  - Ch. 6 § 220 Court Order or exigent circumstance to use facial recognition
- Surveillance Cameras \*1 of 5 states
  - Comm v. Mora, Warrant required for surveillance of private property
- Real Time Tracking Cellphone (Ping) \*1 of 7 states
  - Comm v. Frederiq, Warrant required to ping a cellphone

# What other states are doing

- **Washington:**

- Warrant for business or homeowners ALPR's
- Live "hot lists" allowed, Historical searches Warrant

- **New Hampshire**

- 3 minute retention of non-associated reads
- Warrant or specific investigative authorization to access

- **Montana**

- Warrant for historical searches, allow 90 day retention

- **Virginia**

- 21 day retention period
- Court order or subpoena to share with out of state agencies or access data beyond 21 days

- **Massachusetts**

- "Legitimate law enforcement purpose" related to active investigation
- Audit trail and documented reason for search

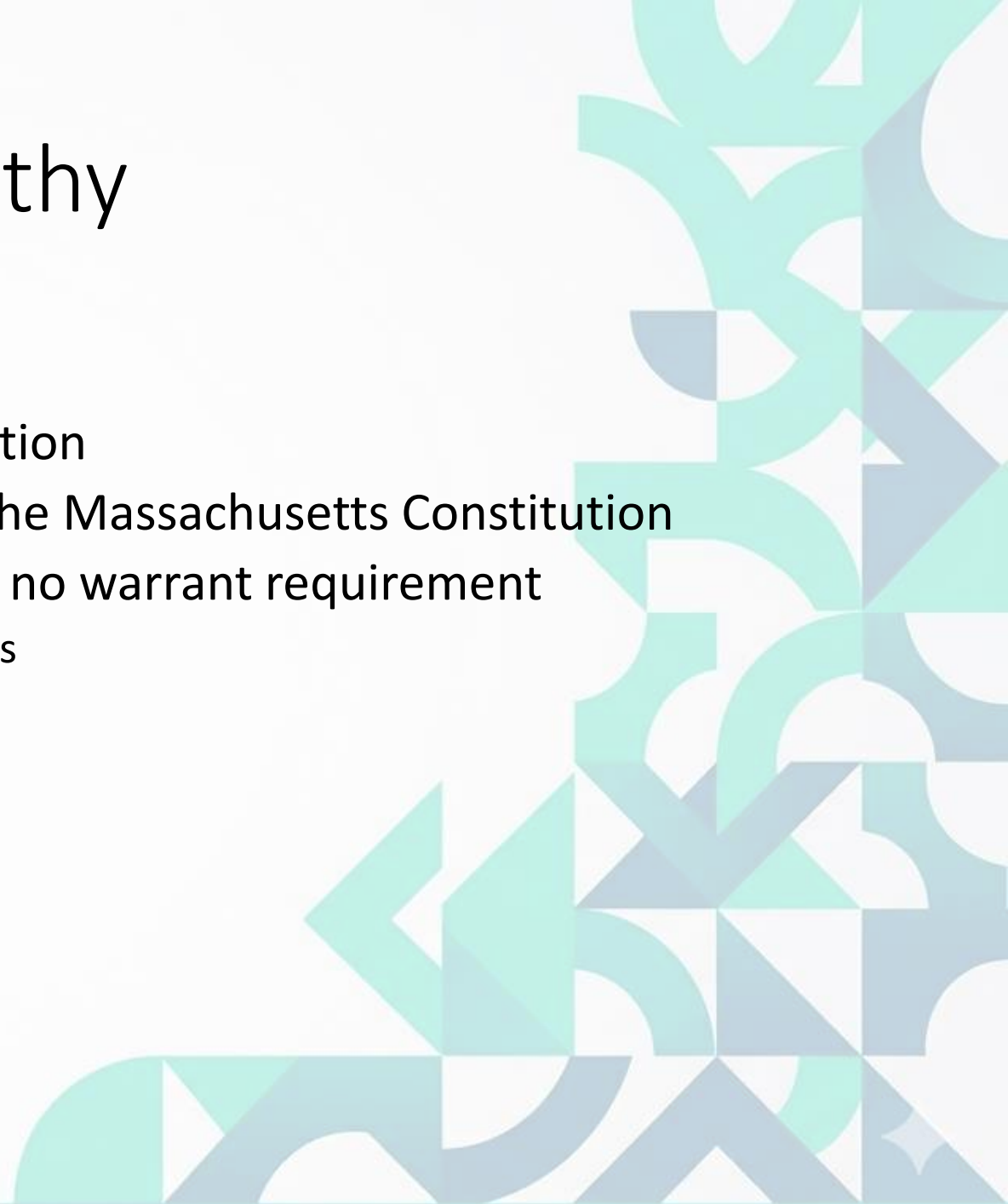
# Notable cases

- Commonwealth vs. Montero
- Commonwealth vs. Brunelle
- Commonwealth vs. Russ
- Commonwealth vs. McCarthy



# Commonwealth v. McCarthy

- Decided April 16, 2020
  - Barnstable Fentanyl Trafficking Investigation
  - SJC ruled does not violate Article 14 of the Massachusetts Constitution
  - 6 years of use post McCarthy ruling, still no warrant requirement
    - No pending cases at the SJC regarding ALPRs



# Traffic Regulation Using Road Safety Cameras

- Bill S.2344 and H.3754 194<sup>th</sup> (Current)
  - Local option to employ automated cameras
  - Owner of vehicle liable for violation
  - Cameras would photograph vehicle, plate, location, and speed
    - Connect through RMV for owner PII
    - Send citation based on owner PII

# School Bus Arm Cameras 2026



# What is Barnstable Doing?

- Federal Sharing disabled
- Immigration Investigations disabled
- Reproductive health care investigations disabled
- Nationwide Search (reciprocal) disabled
- Scheduled Audits
- Barnstable ALPR Policy under review to assess updated technologies and best practices

# Flock Settings

## General

### Audit Assistance

Choose to add Audit Assistance as an Organization Audit enhancement within Insights.

Disabled

### Federal Sharing

Choose to receive 1:1 sharing requests from Federal organizations within the Sharing experience.

### Receive Federal share requests

Disabled

### Search Filters

These filters are designed to remove your organization's devices from any search that appears to indicate that the search is connected to either immigration enforcement or reproductive care. The filter will apply to all searches performed that would include any of your networks, whether by users in your organization or other agencies you share with, such as via direct one-to-one sharing and the Statewide and Nationwide Lookup tools (if applicable).

### Filter out Immigration searches

Last updated by Kevin Connolly on 4/20/2026, 10:08 AM EDT

Enabled

### Filter out Reproductive Care searches

Enabled