Firestone Police Department

David C. Angelo
Chief of Police

Flock License Plate Reader Camera Utilization Plan
Firestone Police Department

Introduction

The Firestone Police Department is committed to enhancing public safety through innovative technologies. In line with this mission, the police department has deployed **Flock Safety License Plate Reader (LPR) Cameras** across key locations within the Town. This plan outlines the purpose, operation, and guidelines for the use of Flock Safety LPR cameras, ensuring that they are used responsibly, effectively, and in full compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

These cameras serve as a **force multiplier**, significantly expanding the department's ability to respond to public safety incidents more effectively, while also protecting the privacy and civil liberties of the community.

1. Purpose and Objectives

The primary purpose of the Flock LPR cameras is to enhance public safety by providing real-time alerts, assisting in solving crimes, and supporting law enforcement in our efforts to protect the community.

The cameras utilize advanced artificial intelligence (AI) and license plate recognition technology to scan and record license plates and vehicle descriptions in the area, helping law enforcement to identify vehicles of interest and respond quickly to public safety threats.

As a **force multiplier**, Flock cameras allow the Firestone Police Department to maximize the impact of its officers and resources, enabling quicker identification of suspects, investigation of criminal activity, and response to emergencies. By automating the process of identifying vehicles, the FPD can allocate resources more effectively, prioritizing officer intervention for critical cases and focusing on more complex investigative tasks.

2. Technology Overview and Capabilities

Flock Safety cameras are designed to capture **license plate numbers** and **vehicle information** in real-time. The system detects and records the data, while also scanning for specific "hotlist" vehicles tied to critical law enforcement databases. Key capabilities include:

- **License Plate Recognition (LPR)**: Cameras scan passing vehicles to capture their license plates and log them in the system.
- **Vehicle Detection**: In addition to license plate recognition, vehicle make and model may be captured for investigative purposes.
- **Hotlist Alerts**: The system is integrated with several hotlist databases, including the **National Crime Information Center (NCIC)**, **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)** Amber Alerts, and the **Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC)**.

These alerts help officers identify vehicles involved in active investigations, Amber Alerts, and other public safety concerns.

What is Detected:

- **License Plates**
- **Vehicles** (including make and model, where available)

What is NOT Detected:

- **Facial Recognition**
- **People**
- **Gender**
- **Race**

These limitations ensure that the Flock cameras focus solely on vehicles and license plates, and do not collect personal or biometric data related to individuals, thus safeguarding community privacy.

3. Data Retention and Use

To ensure compliance with data privacy standards, the Flock Safety system retains data for a maximum of **30 days**. After this period, all data is automatically deleted from the system. This short retention period balances the need for effective law enforcement with the protection of individual privacy.

Data Usage Policy:

- All data captured by the cameras is for **law enforcement purposes only**.
- **Data ownership** rests with the Firestone Police Department, and it will **never be sold** to third parties.

The department will use the captured vehicle data solely for the investigation of crimes, identification of vehicles associated with criminal activity, and locating vehicles involved in alerts or other law enforcement notifications.

4. Acceptable Use and Prohibited Activities

The Firestone Police Department has implemented strict guidelines to govern the use of Flock cameras, ensuring that the technology is used solely for lawful purposes. To maintain accountability, random audits are conducted to verify that the system is being employed in an ethical and legal manner.

Acceptable Use Policy:

- Data from the Flock system may only be used for **law enforcement purposes**.
- All use of the system must be consistent with established **local, state, and federal laws**.

Prohibited Uses:

- The system **cannot be used** for **immigration enforcement**, including the targeting or identification of individuals based on immigration status.
- The system **cannot be used** for **traffic enforcement** or issuing citations.
- The system **cannot be used** for **harassment or intimidation** of individuals.
- The system **cannot be used** for profiling or targeting individuals based solely on **protected characteristics** (i.e., race, sex, religion, etc.).
- The system **cannot be used** for **personal use** or any non-law enforcement purposes.

These prohibitions ensure that the technology is used exclusively to protect public safety and to uphold the constitutional rights of community members.

5. Access and Verification Policies

Access Policy:

- Only authorized Firestone Police Department personnel with a **valid law enforcement purpose** will be granted access to the Flock system.
- Two-factor authentication is required to log in.
- All access to the system is logged, and search records are retained indefinitely for accountability and oversight.

Hotlist Policy:

- When a **hotlist vehicle** is detected, an immediate **alert** is sent to the designated officers for investigation.
- **Hotlist hits** must be verified by a police officer before any enforcement action is taken. This ensures that there is no reliance solely on automated systems for decision-making, and all alerts are handled with appropriate due process.

6. Implementation and Camera Deployment

As of this date, the Firestone Police Department owns **19 Flock Safety cameras**, strategically deployed throughout the Town. These cameras have been positioned to optimize coverage and capture vehicle data without infringing on privacy.

- **Number of Cameras**: 19
- **Hotlist Alerts**: NCIC, NCMEC Amber Alert, CCIC

The data from these cameras will be continuously analyzed for use in criminal investigations, with alerts sent to officers in real-time for immediate follow-up when a vehicle of interest is detected. Officers will investigate these alerts to determine the appropriate response, whether it be further investigation, surveillance, or other law enforcement actions.

7. Conclusion

The Flock Safety License Plate Reader cameras offer the Firestone Police Department a powerful tool for enhancing community safety and law enforcement effectiveness. Through responsible use of technology as a **force multiplier**, the department can quickly identify and track vehicles of interest, respond to urgent public safety concerns, and improve its ability to solve crimes.

The department remains committed to upholding the highest standards of privacy, civil liberties, and transparency. By strictly adhering to acceptable use policies, implementing comprehensive access and verification protocols, and ensuring data retention for only 30 days, the Firestone Police Department will continue to foster trust and accountability within the community while leveraging technology to keep residents safe.