



FLOCK CAMERAS: TOWN MEETING QUESTION SHEET

A neutral, fact based worksheet for residents, board members, and local officials | Current as of July 2026

How to use this sheet. You will likely get two or three minutes. Do not try to ask everything. Pick two or three questions, ask them plainly, and request a written answer for the rest. The goal is not to win an argument in the room. It is to get commitments into the public record where they can be checked later. Questions below are written so that a well run program can answer them easily.

1. SCOPE AND COST

#	ASK THIS	WATCH FOR THIS ANSWER
1	How many cameras, at exactly which locations, and who chose the locations? <i>Placement determines who gets watched most.</i>	Locations are confidential or still to be determined by the vendor.
2	What is the total cost across the full contract term, not the first year?	Only a per camera monthly figure is offered.
3	At the end of the contract, who owns the cameras and the data? <i>These are usually leased. The vendor removes them.</i>	Uncertainty, or the answer is that the town owns the data but not the platform.
4	Was this competitively bid, or sole sourced?	Sole source with no documented justification.
5	What is the funding source in year three and beyond when the grant runs out?	Grant funded start with no identified recurring source.

2. DATA RETENTION AND ACCESS

#	ASK THIS	WATCH FOR THIS ANSWER
6	How many days is data retained, and is that number written into the contract or only set in software? <i>A settings toggle can be changed. A contract term cannot.</i>	Retention is described only as a system setting.
7	Who inside the department can run a search, and does a supervisor approve it?	All sworn personnel have unrestricted search rights.
8	Is a documented reason required for every search, and is the reason field a free text box or a controlled list? <i>Free text fields are how improper searches get hidden.</i>	Free text with no review.
9	Does the vendor retain any copy, including anonymized or aggregated derivatives, after we terminate?	Anything other than a clear yes to full deletion.

3. OUTSIDE SHARING

#	ASK THIS	WATCH FOR THIS ANSWER
10	Is statewide lookup on? Is national lookup on? Is federal sharing on? Please answer each separately. <i>In several cities these were on by default and nobody knew for years.</i>	A single combined answer, or a promise to check later.
11	Which specific outside agencies have queried our cameras in the last twelve months, and how many times each?	No one has ever pulled that report.
12	If an outside agency violates our written policy, how would we find out, and what happens then?	Reliance on the other agency to self police.
13	Does our policy conflict with any state law passed in 2026 on plate reader sharing or retention?	No one has reviewed it against current state law.

4. ACCURACY AND WRONGFUL STOPS

#	ASK THIS	WATCH FOR THIS ANSWER
14	Is an officer required to independently confirm a plate before making a stop based on an alert? Is that in written policy? <i>Misreads have produced high risk stops on innocent drivers.</i>	It is described as standard practice rather than written policy.
15	If a resident is wrongly flagged, who do they call, and what is the deadline to fix it?	No named owner and no timeline.
16	What is our measured false alert rate over the last year?	Not tracked.

QUESTION SHEET, CONTINUED

Oversight, contract exit, scope creep, and emergency management



5. OVERSIGHT AND AUDIT

#	ASK THIS	WATCH FOR THIS ANSWER
17	Has an audit of system usage ever been run? When, by whom, and what did it find? <i>In city after city, violations were found only once someone finally looked.</i>	Never audited, or audited internally with no written result.
18	Will the town commit to a published quarterly audit, with query counts broken out by agency and stated purpose?	Available on request instead of published.
19	Who audits the auditor? Is there any independent or citizen review role?	The department reviews itself only.
20	What is the disciplinary consequence for an employee who searches without a legitimate purpose?	Handled case by case with no defined standard.

6. CONTRACT TERMS AND EXIT

#	ASK THIS	WATCH FOR THIS ANSWER
21	If this board votes to end the program mid term, how fast do cameras go dark, and what does it cost? <i>At least one city could not switch its cameras off and covered the lenses instead.</i>	No termination for convenience clause.
22	Does the contract give us the right to audit the vendor, or only to audit ourselves?	No third party audit rights.
23	If state law changes and forces us to alter retention or sharing, does the price or term change?	Unknown, or the risk sits with the town.
24	Will this board add a sunset clause requiring an affirmative renewal vote and a published outcomes report in two years?	Resistance to any expiration date.

7. SCOPE CREEP

#	ASK THIS	WATCH FOR THIS ANSWER
25	Does this vote authorize only plate readers, or does it open the door to audio sensors, drones, and person description search from the same vendor? <i>The platform now includes all of these. They are separate decisions.</i>	Bundled authorization, or one contract covering every product.
26	Will the department commit that this data will not be used for minor traffic or code enforcement?	Refusal to limit permitted uses in writing.
27	Can we see the vendor demonstration claims in writing? Specifically, can the system generate movement or heat maps from repeat sightings? <i>One council rescinded a contract a day after approving it over exactly this question.</i>	A verbal no with nothing in writing.

8. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND RESILIENCE

#	ASK THIS	WATCH FOR THIS ANSWER
28	Does our emergency operations plan or evacuation annex rely on this system? If so, what is the documented degraded mode when cellular service is down? <i>These units run on solar and cellular. Cell backhaul often fails early in a real event.</i>	It is in the plan with no fallback procedure.
29	Has anyone assessed whether residents avoiding contact with local government because of these cameras would affect shelter use, functional needs registries, or 911 calls?	Never considered.
30	What specific, measurable outcome would tell us in two years that this was worth the money?	No metric defined before purchase.

REQUEST IN WRITING

If you get vague answers, submit a public records request. Suggested language:

- The complete executed contract, all amendments, and the current statement of work.
- The adopted written use and privacy policy governing the system.
- All usage audit reports produced in the last twenty four months.
- A list of all external agencies with query access, and query counts by agency for the last twelve months.
- Current configuration settings for statewide lookup, national lookup, and federal sharing.
- Any internal affairs findings involving misuse of the system.

MY NOTES
