



INDIVISIBLE

BENTON COUNTY

Special Edition Newsletter



Instead of holding our regular membership meeting on Wednesday, May 27, we are putting out a call to action. Join us at 6 PM at the Albany City Council Meeting (at Albany City Hall, 333 Broadalbin SW) to protest future use of the controversial FLOCK cameras by Albany law enforcement. The Albany City Council plans to discuss and possibly vote on this issue at its May 27 meeting, and swaying one city councilor could make a difference in the outcome.

If you would like to **carpool**, meet in the **Corvallis Community Center parking lot (2601 NW Tyler Ave.) at 5:15 PM**. Please let us know ahead if you are joining the carpool by sending an email to info@indivisiblebc.org.

If you are an Albany resident, consider giving public comment by showing up before the meeting starts and registering to speak. You are allowed 3 minutes to talk, so plan ahead and keep your comments concise and respectful. You also can attend the meeting via zoom or submit written comments to the city recorder by noon on the day of the meeting. See the [City of Albany website](#) for more information on how to have your voice heard.

If you plan to attend the meeting, please email info@indivisiblebc.org and/or sign up on [Mobilize](#). Let us know if you are an Albany resident and plan to speak, so we can coordinate. We will provide small 8 1/2" X 11" protest signs, or you can make your own. Large signs may not be permitted in the room.

What to know about Flock and ALPRs

Flock cameras are automated license plate reader (ALPR) cameras used by law enforcement, businesses and neighborhoods to identify vehicles, get alerts on "hot-listed" plates, and pull searchable footage to investigate crimes. These are typically mounted on street poles, street lights, highway overpasses, mobile trailers, or attached to police squad cars. ALPRs capture all license plate numbers that come into view, along with location, date and time. The data, which includes photographs of the vehicle and sometimes its driver and passengers, is then uploaded to a central server, where it is analyzed and stored for potential future use. **Data gathered by this powerful surveillance technology can be used to invade the privacy of individuals as well as to violate the rights of entire communities.**

Numerous cases of abuse of FLOCK camera data have been documented across the country, including use by ICE to track immigrants as part of enforcement of the current Fascist administration's illegal and cruel immigration policies. Other vulnerable communities also have been disproportionately targeted. Police officers in New York drove down a street and [electronically recorded the license plate numbers of everyone parked near a mosque](#). Police in Birmingham [targeted a](#)

[Muslim community](#) while misleading the public about the project. ALPR data [the Electronic Frontier Foundation obtained from the Oakland Police Department](#) showed that police disproportionately deploy ALPR-mounted vehicles in low-income communities and communities of color.

In other communities, individual police officers have abused law enforcement databases, including license plate information and records held by motor vehicle departments. In 1998, a Washington, D.C. police officer "[pleaded guilty to extortion](#) after looking up the plates of vehicles near a gay bar and blackmailing the vehicle owners." More recently, [an officer in Kechi, Kansas](#) was arrested on suspicion of accessing a Flock Safety ALPR database to stalk his estranged wife.

In addition to deliberate misuse, **ALPRs sometimes misreads plates, [leading to dire consequences](#)**. A video surveillance industry research group found Flock cameras misidentified license plate state approximately 10% of the time. These misidentifications have led to innocent people being terrorized by police as presumed dangerous criminals. In 2009, San Francisco police pulled over Denise Green, an African-American city worker, handcuffed her at gunpoint, forced her to her knees, and searched both her and her vehicle—all because her car was misidentified as stolen due to a license plate reader error. More recently, [in Aurora, Colorado](#) a group of Black youths were traumatized by police after an ALPR system incorrectly identified their vehicle as stolen.

Flock and other ALPR systems have been demonstrated to have security issues. The massive amounts of data stored make them high-profile targets for hackers. Within just the past year, a security researcher found [Flock logins for sale on Russian hacking forums](#), since Flock negligently doesn't require multifactor authentication—an alleged violation of federal law and industry standard security practices; and a misconfigured demo site [exposed source code](#), some of which reveals how they calculate confidence scores for vehicle tracking, as well as other internal data. In November 2025, [Senator Wyden asked the FTC to investigate Flock for cybersecurity failures](#).

Flock technology has been used to track political activists and other citizens government officials consider to be threats. Flock cameras capture more than just license plates. They can be used to create a vehicle fingerprint using "proprietary machine learning algorithms" which gathers vehicle make, type, color, license plate, state of the license plate, covered plates, missing plates, unique features such as roof racks and bumper stickers. And Flock has broader ambitions to move toward full-motion surveillance, to expand its analytics and to include audio surveillance.

The installation of Flock Cameras in cities across the United States represents the establishment of mass surveillance infrastructure. Regardless of what safeguards are put in place by municipalities, by the State of Oregon, and by Flock themselves, the existence of these cameras provides the means to track the movement and actions of citizens on a scale previously not seen. **If you've ever read a history book, watched a dystopic movie, read George Orwell's *1984* and wondered what you would have done as the walls of a surveillance state closed in around you: You're about to do it. Our voices are strongest together. Join us in speaking out.**

Our Mission

Indivisible Benton County

is a grassroots organization of volunteers committed to advance bold and progressive actions and policies.

We are determined to resist corruption, authoritarianism, and inequality.

We educate, engage, and mobilize to promote values of inclusion, tolerance and fairness with the goal of helping build a more perfect and representative government that is

For The People and By The People.

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