

# PIEDMONT POST

---

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING THE CITIZENS OF PIEDMONT

October 13, 2026

**According to Piedmont's Flock Transparency Portal, Piedmont operates 57 license plate reader cameras, and 150 agencies have access to Piedmont's data. Would you vote to renew the contract with Flock Safety, and what would you do to increase transparency efforts around the program? What limits, if any, would you place on which agencies can access the data?**

Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPR) cameras are one tool the Piedmont Police department uses to aid investigations. Piedmont has used this technology since 2014 and the current contract runs through 2028. Flock is one vendor and other competitors offer similar ALPR technology.

Flock cameras have become a symbol for society's unease with our eroding sense of privacy. While smart phones and smart devices track our locations, conversations, communications, and consumer-spending habits, ALPR are limited to capturing license plates. Nevertheless, the disquiet is real as there have been alarming incidents of misuse of ALPR data from around the country. It is right to be concerned and demand oversight and accountability.

Any decision to issue or renew a contract for ALPRs would require listening to Piedmont residents to fully understand their concerns, an analysis by PPD of the cost-benefit of this tool, discussing the opportunity-cost of forgoing other tools, a gap analysis of desired features and safeguards, and a competitive analysis to see what features competitors can offer. This analysis would need to include cybersecurity protections that vendors offer to prevent and report on unauthorized access.