



City of Saint Paul

City Hall and Court House
15 West Kellogg
Boulevard
Council Chambers - 3rd
Floor
651-266-8560

Meeting Agenda

City Council

Council President Rebecca Noecker
Vice President Nelsie Yang
Councilmember Anika Bowie
Councilmember Molly Coleman
Councilmember Cheniqua Johnson
Councilmember Saura Jost
Councilmember HwaJeong Kim

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

4:30 PM

Council Chambers - 3rd Floor

Special City Council meeting to hold a public hearing on police surveillance technology and data privacy.

**Meeting will start after the conclusion of the City Council's regularly scheduled meeting.
The approximate start time will be 4:30 PM.**

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC HEARING

Live testimony is limited to two minutes for each person. See below for optional ways to testify.

- 1 [PH 26-16](#) Public comment on police surveillance technology and data privacy.

Sponsors: Bowie and Yang

Attachments: [Public comments](#)

ADJOURNMENT

City Council meetings are open for in person attendance, but the public may also comment on public hearing items in writing. Any comments and materials submitted by 12:00 pm of the day before the meeting will be attached to the public record and available for review by the City Council. Comments may be submitted as follows:

Written public comment on public hearing items can be submitted to Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us or CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us. Live testimony will be taken in person in the Council Chambers.

Council Meeting Information

The City Council is paperless which saves the environment and reduces expenses. The agendas and Council files are all available on the Web (see below). Council members use mobile devices to review the files during the meeting. Using a mobile device greatly reduces costs since most agendas, including the documents attached to files, are over 1000 pages when printed.

Web

Meetings are available on the Council's website. Email notification and web feeds (RSS) of newly released minutes, agendas, and meetings are available by subscription. Visit www.stpaul.gov/council for meeting videos and updated copies of the agendas, minutes, and supporting documents.

Cable

Meetings are live on St Paul Channel 18 and replayed at various times. Check your local listings.



City of Saint Paul

City Hall and Court House
15 West Kellogg
Boulevard
Phone: 651-266-8560

Master

File Number: PH 26-16

File ID: PH 26-16

Type: Public Hearing-Misc.

Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

**Contact
Number:**

In Control: City Council

File Created: 08/20/2026

File Name:

Final Action:

Title: Public comment on police surveillance technology and data privacy.

Notes:

Agenda Date:

Sponsors: Bowie and Yang

Enactment Date:

Attachments: Public comments

Financials Included?:

Contact Name:

Hearing Date:

Entered by: Pierre.Fulford@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Ord Effective Date:

History of Legislative File

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
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Text of Legislative File PH 26-16

Public comment on police surveillance technology and data privacy.

From: [Steve Dropkin](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Public comment on Flock cameras in Saint Paul
Date: Monday, August 24, 2026 8:54:23 AM

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I cannot attend the special meeting on Wednesday so I would like to add a comment to the discussion of the use of Flock ALPRs in Saint Paul:

While Flock is the current poster child in the ALPR space, they are not alone in the service they sell. The City must extend Council Member Noecker's measure to not allow choosing any other ALPR company (the privacy policies for which may be even worse than Flock's). That level of data collection has no place in Saint Paul.

Thank you.

Steven Dropkin
489 Michigan Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55102

From: [Eyes Off Saint Paul](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul_Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Comment for 8/26 Special City Council meeting
Date: Sunday, August 23, 2026 4:28:30 PM
Attachments: [comment.pdf](#)

Comment for the Special City Council meeting to hold a public hearing on police surveillance technology and data privacy, 2026-08-26

It is instructive to examine the Saint Paul Police Department's contract with Flock Safety, and the way the Flock system operates, in light of relevant Minnesota state laws. Such an examination turns up at least five ways that Flock hardware and software and law enforcement's use of it violate the letter and spirit of state law (Minn. Stat. § 13.824 and § 13.055).

1. Unauthorized data collection

Minn. Stat. § 13.824, Subd. 2(a) explicitly limits ALPR data collection to exactly three categories:

(1) license plate numbers; (2) date, time, and location data on vehicles; and (3) pictures of license plates, vehicles, and areas surrounding the vehicles... Collection of any data not authorized by this paragraph is prohibited.

Flock's "Vehicle Fingerprint" technology collects and stores vehicle make, model, color, body style, and unique visual features such as roof racks, bumper stickers, dents, and damage — none of which is authorized under the above statute. This is not a minor technicality; it is a direct, ongoing violation of the statutory prohibition on collecting unauthorized data. The City's contract with Flock authorizes the use of a device that is by design collecting data that the legislature expressly banned, making every scan a statutory violation and rendering all data collected by the device unlawful from the moment of capture.

2. Unauthorized acquisition

Minn. Stat. § 13.055, Subd. 1(c) defines "unauthorized acquisition" as obtaining government data:

...without the informed consent of the individuals who are the subjects of the data or statutory authority and with the intent to use the data for nongovernmental purposes.

The contract between Flock and SPPD, Section 9 "Anonymized Data," explicitly grants to Flock:

...a perpetual, worldwide, royalty-free right to use and distribute such Anonymized Data to improve and enhance the Services and for other development, diagnostic and corrective purposes, and other Contractor offerings.

This is an explicit, contractual authorization for a private entity to use private data for nongovernmental, commercial purposes. By signing this contract, the City has pre-authorized the very "unauthorized acquisition" that § 13.055 is designed to prevent and penalize.

3. Violation of mandatory destruction

The law (Minn. Stat. § 13.824 Subd. 3a) requires:

...data collected by an automated license plate reader that are not related to an active criminal investigation must be destroyed no later than 60 days from the date of collection.

The contract between Flock and the SPPD grants a perpetual license to Flock for AI training and storage, among many other purposes, including product development. Flock indefinitely retains this data, directly violating the statutory destruction mandate.

The statute is unequivocal: it commands destruction, not merely restricted access or anonymization. By retaining the data beyond this 60-day window to perform anonymization, Flock and the participating agencies are failing to execute the mandatory destruction required by law. The statutory text offers no exception for “anonymization” as a substitute for destruction.

4. Unlawful possession

Retention for anonymization violates the statutory limits on lawful purpose and sharing found in Minn. Stat. § 13.824 Subd. 2 and 4. The law strictly limits data collection and use to specific law enforcement functions, such as identifying stolen vehicles or suspects in active investigations. Retaining data indefinitely to build an anonymized historical database, as Flock is doing, is not a recognized lawful purpose under the statute. Additionally, if Flock retains this data on its servers, it effectively constitutes an unauthorized “sharing” or “dissemination” to a third-party entity (the vendor) for a purpose not explicitly authorized by Subd. 4(c).

Consequently, the anonymization process relies on an initial unlawful act (failure to destroy) and continues through an unlawful possession, rendering the entire practice non-compliant with Minn. Stat. § 13.824.

5. No centralized ALPR database

The ACLU of Minnesota testified before the Legislative Data Practices Commission in December 2025:

...the drafters of Minnesota’s ALPR statute clearly contemplated the risks of a vast centralized database. Minn. Stat. 13.824, Subd. 2(c) expressly prohibits the creation of a central state repository of ALPR data. Instead, and circumventing the intent of that provision, law enforcement agencies are utilizing a private, third-party central repository of all ALPR data accessible by any Flock end-user.

Minn. Statute § 13.055 imposes a duty to protect private data from “unauthorized acquisition” for “nongovernmental purposes.” Law enforcement agencies that contribute to Flock’s centralized ALPR database may believe they are exploiting a legislative gap, but a more dispassionate reading points to a straight violation of the spirit and letter of the law.

— KD, Ward 4, Saint Paul

From: [Mark Klabunde](#)
To: [#CI-StPaul_Ward6](#); [CouncilHearing \(CI-StPaul\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment in Support of Flock Safety Cameras - Special Hearing Aug 26
Date: Saturday, August 22, 2026 4:10:54 PM

You don't often get email from klabunde.mark@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Saint Paul City Council and Councilmember Yang,

My name is Mark Klabunde, and I am a Ward 6 resident living at 799 Lake St, Saint Paul, MN 55119.

I am writing today to express my strong support for the resolution regarding the Flock Safety camera contracts, which will be discussed at the upcoming special hearing on Wednesday, August 26.

As a resident of the Greater East Side, community safety is a top priority for me. I believe implementing these cameras is a necessary step to help the Saint Paul Police Department solve crimes more efficiently, deter criminal activity, and keep our neighborhoods safe.

Please accept this email as my official public testimony in favor of the Flock cameras and enter it into the public record for the August 26 meeting.

Mark Klabunde