SAMPLE LETTER (*make sure you date the letter and sign your own name at the bottom of the letter before sending*)

_____-

[Today's Date]

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing to request that you remove the Flock cameras in the City of Santa Cruz. Surveillance is not safety. In fact, it can compromise the safety of our community members.

1. **The Flock "Safety" company cannot be trusted.** California state laws prohibit data sharing with federal agencies and out of state police departments. Flock allowed such sharing for years, and continues to allow the El Cajon, CA police department to share data out-of-state. Flock also instituted a "side door" Customs and Border Patrol pilot project that police departments did not know about, whereby ICE had direct access to Flock data. *This project is only "paused" as of today.*
2. **Using Flock leaves the city vulnerable to a lawsuit.** If the City of Santa Cruz claims it "owns" our data, it is liable for failure to protect it – from hackers, criminals, government entities, and even foreign governments accessing the Flock mass surveillance network. Residents and civil rights organizations are suing Oakland, San Jose, and Norfolk, Virginia for their contracts with Flock. ***Is this how we want to use city resources – defending ourselves from lawsuits?***

The only acceptable action is to cancel the Flock contract and take down the cameras. Protect our residents from mass surveillance and tracking now!

Thank you,

[Your name]