DARIEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Community Information Bulletin

Serving and Protecting the City of Darien, Illinois

The Darien Police Department is aware of flyers circulating in the community that contain inaccurate and misleading information regarding our License Plate Reader (LPR) camera program.

WHAT IS THE LICENSE PLATE READER (LPR) SYSTEM?

The Darien Police Department has deployed Flock Safety LPR cameras at key entry and exit points throughout the city. These cameras are a law enforcement tool designed to capture license plate information from vehicles traveling on public roadways and compare that information against databases of vehicles associated with stolen vehicles, wanted persons, missing persons alerts, and active criminal investigations.

The system can also assist investigations by allowing officers to enter vehicle descriptions or partial license plate information provided by crime victims or witnesses. If a matching vehicle passes a camera location, the system can alert investigators and provide valuable leads.

Importantly, the system does not make enforcement decisions. When an alert is generated, officers must independently verify that the license plate was correctly read, confirm the plate and state match the vehicle of interest, and ensure the alert remains valid before taking any action. The technology serves as an investigative tool, while law enforcement officers remain responsible for evaluating the information and determining the appropriate response.

HOW THE LPR SYSTEM PROTECTS DARIEN RESIDENTS

Since deployment, the LPR system has become one of the most effective public safety tools in our department's history. The program has directly contributed to:

- Recovery of stolen vehicles reported by Darien residents and neighboring communities
- Apprehension of individuals wanted on felony warrants passing through Darien
- Rapid investigation of hit-and-run collisions by providing plate leads within minutes
- Identification of vehicles connected to residential and commercial burglaries

These are real outcomes that have made Darien a safer community for every family, business owner, and visitor.

ADDRESSING THE FLYER'S CLAIMS

Claim: "The Darien Police Department has quietly installed Flock cameras."

FACT: The LPR program was approved through the Darien City Council's public budget and appropriations process. The program was not implemented in secret, and the Police Department remains committed to transparency regarding its use of public safety technology.

Claim: "Cameras record every car, every day, even if you're not suspected of a crime."

FACT: LPR cameras capture license plate information from vehicles traveling on public roadways, similar to what a police officer may lawfully observe. The information collected is used solely for legitimate law enforcement purposes and is not sold, used for marketing, or shared with unauthorized third parties.

Claim: "These cameras create a searchable database of your exact location as you go to work, attend church, and visit your doctor."

FACT: The system records when a license plate passes a fixed camera location. It does not identify vehicle occupants, determine destinations, or track individuals. Access to data is limited to authorized law enforcement personnel and is subject to audit and oversight.

Claim: "This is how a surveillance state like North Korea operates."

FACT: The LPR system operates under constitutional protections, state and federal law, department policy, and judicial oversight. It is an investigative tool designed to assist in solving crimes and locating wanted or missing persons; not a system for monitoring lawful activities.

PRIVACY SAFEGUARDS AND POLICY CONTROLS

The Darien Police Department takes its responsibility to balance effective law enforcement with civil liberties seriously. The following safeguards govern our LPR program:

- Data Retention Limits: Plate records are retained only for a 30-day period authorized by department policy and are then purged automatically
- Access Controls: Only trained, authorized officers may query the database, and all queries are logged and subject to supervisory audit
- Prohibited Uses: The system may not be used for immigration enforcement, monitoring of lawful assemblies or protests, or any purpose unrelated to criminal investigation
- No Facial Recognition: Flock Safety LPR cameras capture license plates only — they do not use facial recognition technology
- No Commercial Use: Data is never sold, shared with advertisers, or used for any non-law enforcement purpose

YOU ARE BEING WATCHED

Flock cameras are being installed across Darien, recording every vehicle, every day.



These are not red-light cameras.
These are license plate readers that record every car they see, even with no evidence of a crime.

Your voice matters. Get involved.
See the other side for more information →

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER



NO MASS SURVEILLANCE!

The Darien Police Department has quietly installed Flock-brand cameras, recording every car, every day, even if you're not suspected of a crime.

These cameras create a searchable database of your exact location as you go to work, attend church, and visit your doctor.

This is not how a free society operates. This is how a surveillance state like North Korea operates.

This is a fundamental question of our American values: does the government have a right to track us everywhere we go simply because it helps them catch a few more criminals? Our police department seems to think the answer is yes.

Your neighbor,
Henry

FLOCK CAMERAS IN DARIEN



These cameras don't simply catch criminals, they record you everywhere you go.

TELL YOUR CITY TO REMOVE THESE CAMERAS

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
7:30 pm, 1st & 3rd Monday
Darien City Hall
1702 Plainfield Road

POLICE COMMITTEE MEETING
6:00 pm, 3rd Monday
Darien Police Department
1710Plainfield Road