

Success of
Automated License
Plate Readers
(ALPRs) in
Harrisonburg, VA





Current ALPR Technologies in Harrisonburg

Flock Falcon

Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR)



There are 30 total ALPR Cameras in the City of Harrisonburg.
28 stationary ALPRs, 2 mobile (Falcon Flex).

They are situated at major thoroughfares, heavily trafficked areas,
and roads leading into and out of Harrisonburg.



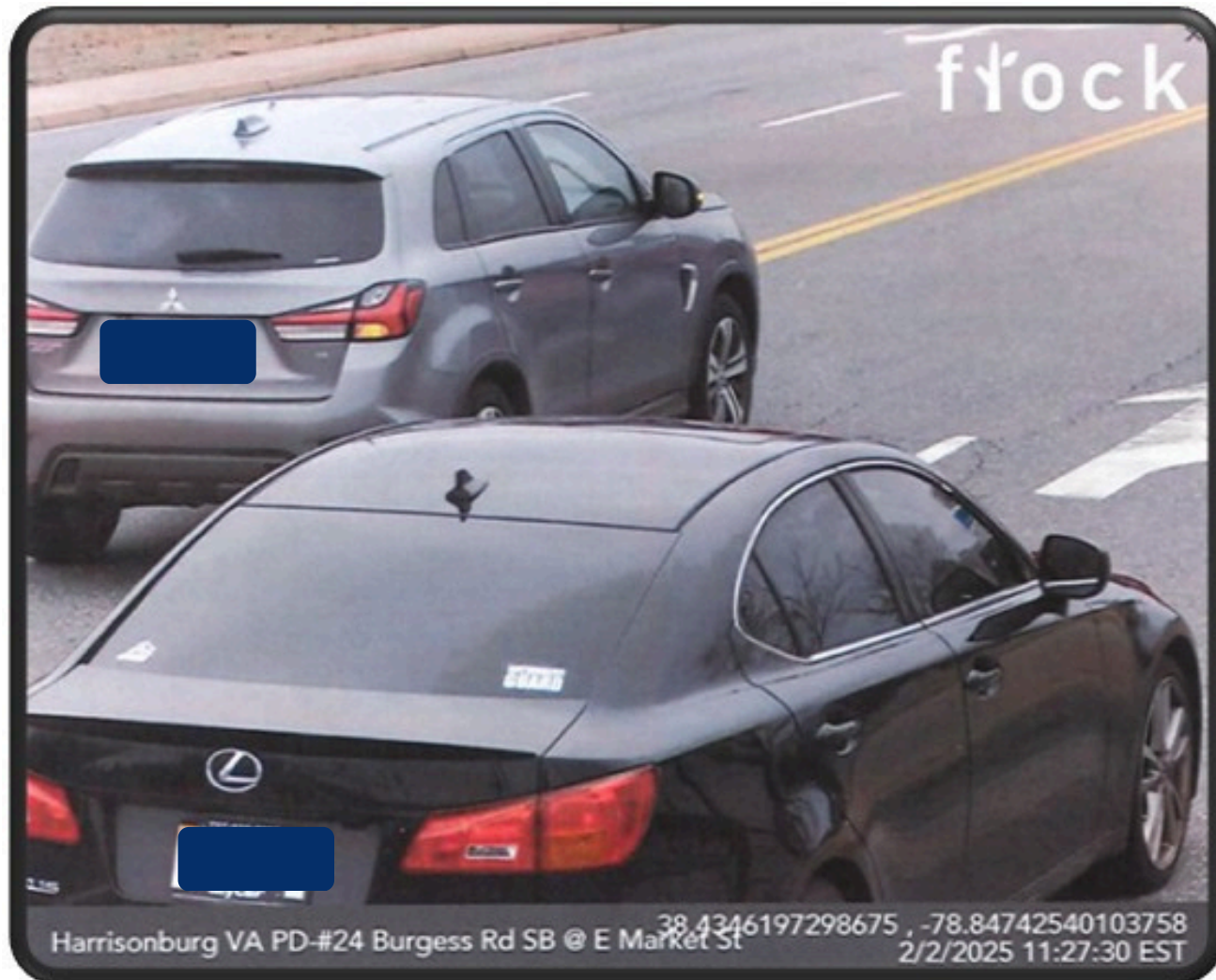
ALPRs Capture a Still Photo of Passing Vehicles

What is a “Vehicle Fingerprint”?

- License plate
- Location of the camera it hit, date, and time
- Make, body type, and color of the vehicle
- Unique identifiers- bumper stickers, tool boxes, etc.
- Type of tag- standard, temporary, missing, etc.

What Can't We See?

- The driver of the vehicle or any passengers
- Personal information on the registered owner or driver
- DMV information





Success of ALPR Cameras in our Community

Since their Installation, ALPR cameras helped recover or identify at least...

- 48 Stolen Vehicles
- 15 Missing and Endangered Persons
- 1 Homicide Suspect
- 3 Attempted Homicide Suspects
- 3 Armed Robbery Suspects
- 5 Shooting Suspects
- 3 Brandishing Suspects
- 1 Stabbing Suspect

ALPR Cameras Also Assisted in over 21 Hit-and-Run Investigations.

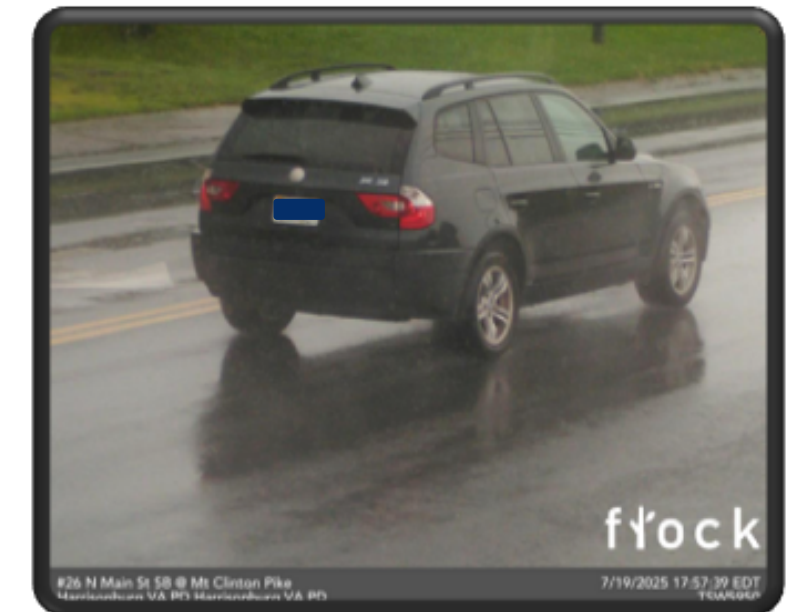
The Total Value of Property Recovered Thanks to ALPRs is at least \$1,531,297



Case Overview

Indecent Exposure and Vehicle Theft

On July 18, 2025 A vehicle was stolen from the parking lot of Kroger. Two children, members of our community, were in the vehicle when the suspect opened the doors, removed the children, and stole the car. The suspect was identified using security camera footage, and turned out to also be suspected of exposing himself at multiple local businesses. Officers entered the plate number into Flock, and observed it heading North out of city limits. With this information, a BOL was put out to surrounding jurisdictions and the vehicle was seen on Flock cameras in Front Royal a short time after. The car was pulled over by Front Royal Police, and thanks to Flock cameras in both Harrisonburg and Front Royal, the car was recovered and an arrest was made in less than two hours.



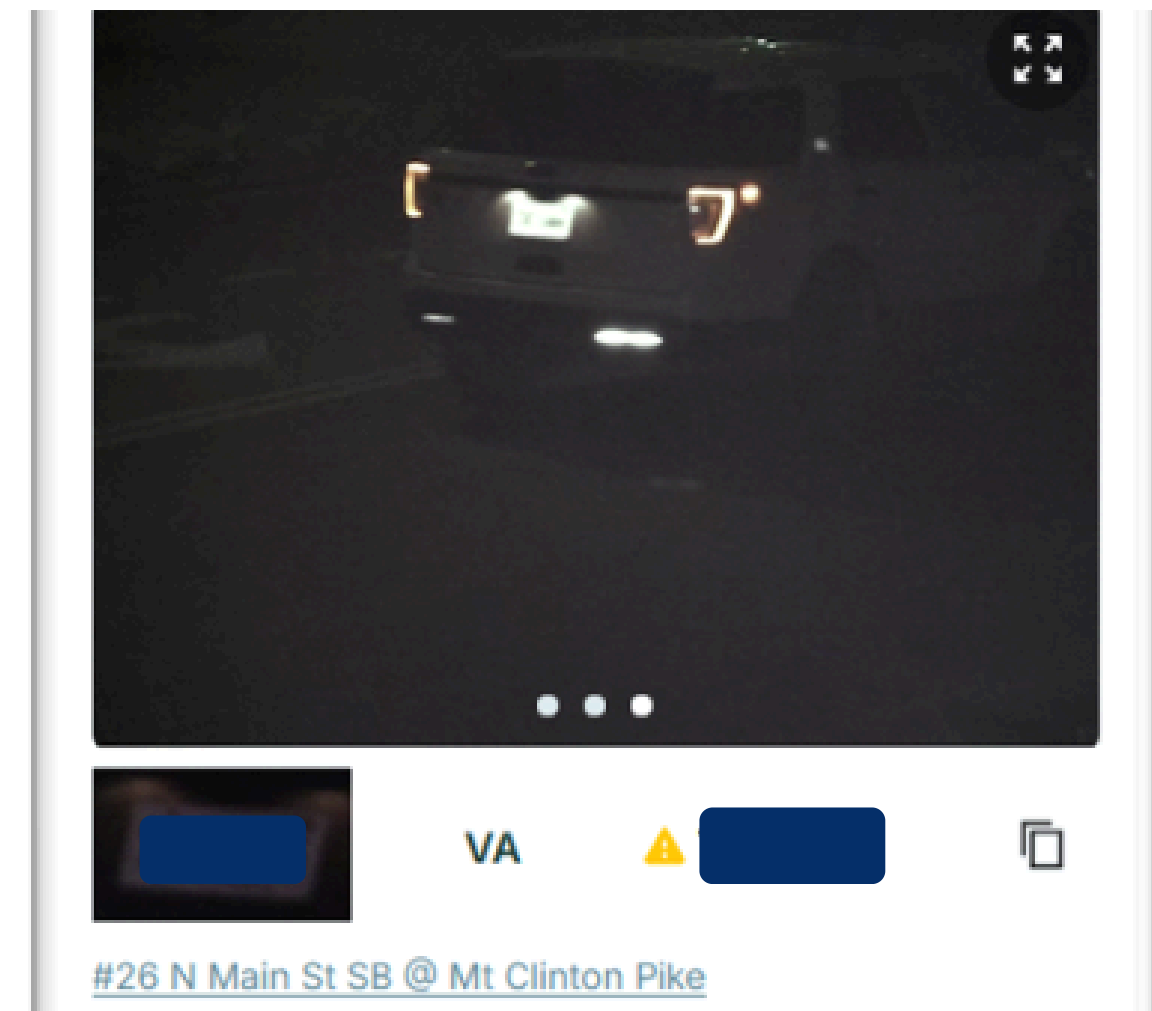


Case Overview

DUI Hit and Run

On February 6, 2026, A woman was driving her vehicle when she was rear ended at the intersection of S Main St. and MLK Way in Harrisonburg. The suspect fled the scene, but the passenger had taken a photo of the vehicle plate. Officers entered the plate number into Flock, and were able to narrow their search to the North end of Harrisonburg, where the vehicle was seen driving and a traffic stop was initiated. The driver of the vehicle was intoxicated, and a breath analysis at the jail read a BAC of 0.24 grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath.

Approximately 12,000 to 13,500 people die annually in the United States due to alcohol-impaired driving crashes, equating to roughly one person every 39 to 42 minutes. Thanks to ALPR cameras, we were able to stop the impaired driver before he caused more harm to our community.

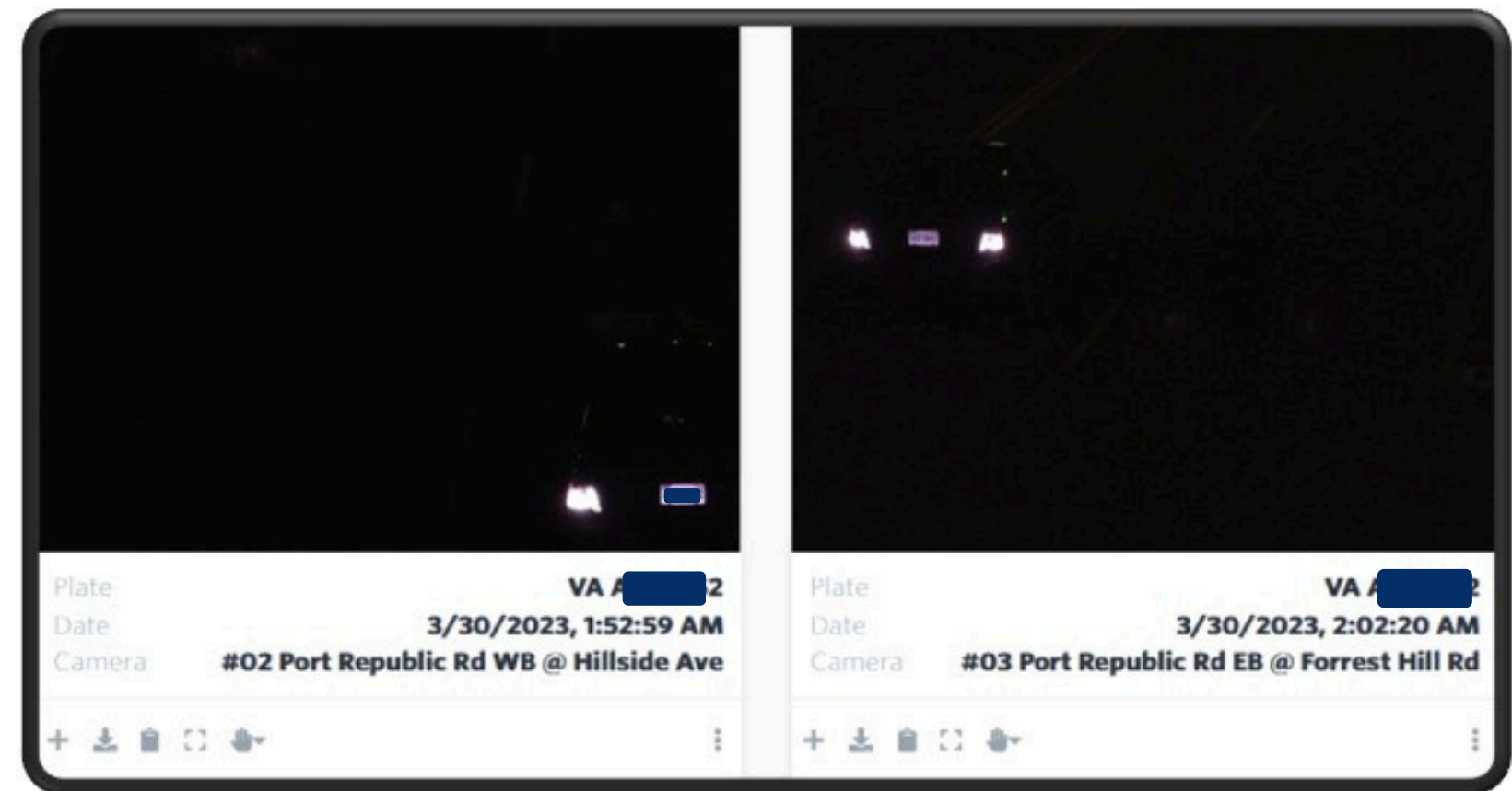




Case Overview

Homicide Suspect Identified and Arrested

On March 30, 2023, a member of our community, John Carter, was found shot in his apartment on N High St. in Harrisonburg. Upon interviewing witnesses and reviewing surveillance footage, a possible suspect vehicle was identified and officers were able to use Flock to search for the blue Ford Focus. Thanks to ALPR cameras, detectives working the case were able to locate a blue Ford Focus heading towards the crime scene and leaving the crime scene on the day of the murder. The license plate number was clearly visible, allowing officers to find the registered owner of the vehicle, who was a known associate of Mr. Carter. The suspect was arrested.





ALPR Regulations- H.B. 2724, Effective July 1, 2025

Although we have always had an internal policy for ALPR use, H.B. 2724 codified when and how ALPRs should be used. This was an important step in ensuring appropriate use of the technology, and criminalizes misuse of data.

ALPR Use: Limited to Law Enforcement action only- Missing Persons, Criminal Investigations, Wanted Subjects, etc.

Retention: Data can only be kept for 21 days. After that, it is automatically purged from the system and cannot be recovered.

Data Sharing: ALPR data can only be shared with local law enforcement in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Not with out of state or federal agencies. Data must be subpoenaed by any other organization.

Audits: Mandatory routine audits of ALPR use must be submitted to VSP.

Violations: Any violation of use is a **Class 1 Misdemeanor** and a violation of HPD policy.



Conducting a Search

Search Alerts FlockOS Devices Sharing Insights Evidence Admin

Search | Search Lookup

Investigative Purpose ⓘ * Required Field

Offense Type* Case No. / Call for Service No.*

Reason*

Vehicle Details

License Plate Plate State

Include Partial Plate Statewide (VA)

Vehicle Fingerprint

Location & Time

Location

Start - End

Advanced Filters (2)

Search Alerts FlockOS Devices Sharing Insights Evidence Admin

Search | Search Lookup

Investigative Purpose ⓘ * Required Field

Offense Type* Case No. / Call for Service No.*

- Alcohol Offenses (Non-DUI)
- Animal Offenses (cruelty/neglect)
- Arson
- Assault/Battery Offenses
- Assault/Battery Offenses (Domestic)
- Bribery
- Burglary/Breaking & Entering
- Child Abuse/Neglect
- Counterfeiting/Forgery

Reason*

Vehicle Details

License Plate Plate State

Include Partial Plate Statewide (VA)

Vehicle Fingerprint

Location & Time

Location

Start - End

Advanced Filters (2)

Search Alerts FlockOS Devices Sharing Insights Evidence Admin

Search | Search Lookup

Investigative Purpose ⓘ * Required Field

Offense Type* Case No. / Call for Service No.*

Reason*

- Admin ONLY - NO OPERATIONS
- Endangered Person
- Human Trafficking
- Missing Person
- Other Criminal Investigation

Vehicle Details

License Plate Plate State

Include Partial Plate Statewide (VA)

Vehicle Fingerprint

Location & Time

Location

Start - End

Advanced Filters (2)

Search Accountability



Our ALPR cameras have compliance features such as:

Federal Limitations

No federal access to nationwide or state-wide lookup. Only agencies can share their data, not the company.

Legal Response

Our contract mandates that Flock alert us to any legal request for our data so our counsel can decide how to respond.

Search Filters

Prevent searches related to immigration or reproductive health at the request of the community.

Permanent Audit Logs

Communities can require that both the search reason and case number be included in any search.



ALPR Court Decisions in Virginia

United States v. Martin

United States District Court, Eastern District of Virginia

Oct 11, 2024

In *United States v. Martin*, the court denied a motion to suppress evidence obtained via Flock automated license plate readers (ALPRs). The court rejected the "mosaic theory," ruling that aggregated, short-term use of surveillance cameras to track a suspect vehicle does not violate the Fourth Amendment.*

*Virginia Lawyers Weekly, CaseMine



ALPR Court Decisions in Virginia

Schmidt v. City of Norfolk

United States District Court, Eastern District of Virginia

Jan 27, 2026

Schmidt v. City of Norfolk (2026) is a landmark federal case in which the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia ruled that the City of Norfolk's use of Flock Safety Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) does not violate Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable searches. The court found that the 24/7 camera network, which monitors public roads, does not constitute a "search" because it does not continuously track individuals. *



Flock Myth vs. Fact

Myth: Flock is sharing information with ICE and DHS to help with immigration cases and locate members of our community.

Fact: Flock does not contract with ICE or DHS, and federal agencies are excluded from national and statewide network search capabilities. In Virginia, legal restrictions even limit federal and out-of-state access to publicly funded LPR data.

Myth: ALPR cameras collect names, addresses, phone numbers, driver identity, biometric identifiers, and other confidential personal information.

Fact: ALPR cameras only collect license plate text, date/time, camera location, and basic vehicle attributes (make/model/color) - all observable from public roadways.

Myth: The data collected by Flock is not secure, putting our community at risk.

Fact: Flock uses CJIS-aligned controls, and their ALPR cloud storage platform has never been compromised.



Flock Myth vs. Fact

Myth: Data is being stored by agencies long-term.

Fact: Data is deleted after 21 days and cannot be recovered.

Myth: ALPR data is used to surveil protest activity.

Fact: Data from ALPR cameras is not used for any 1st Amendment protected activity. ALPR data can only be used to assist in an active criminal investigation.

Myth: Flock experienced a data breach, exposing information collected by its ALPR cameras.

Fact: Flock reported unauthorized use of 60 live video cameras- the Flock Condor. These are not ALPR cameras.

FAQ



Can ALPR data be used to track citizens not engaged in criminal activity?

- No. By law, ALPR cameras can only be used to assist in a criminal investigation, and the reason must be given when searching. This data is provided in the audit to VSP to ensure accountability.

How does Harrisonburg compare to other jurisdictions when it comes to the number of ALPRs?

- With 28 fixed cameras and 2 mobile, Harrisonburg has 5.2 cameras per 10,000 residents with a total population of 56,879. Based on publicly available data from other localities, this would put us on the mid-to-low end of density.

What can be done about concerns of misuse?

- Every search requires a justification, and we can see a comprehensive audit of who searched, when, and why. This information is also shared with Virginia State Police to hold us accountable and review our searches.



What are ALPR cameras doing in our community?

Using only license plate text, date/time, vehicle attributes, and camera location,
ALPR cameras are...

- Recovering stolen property that our friends and neighbors worked hard for.
- Helping our officers get justice for victims of crime.
- Getting intoxicated drivers off the street, preventing them from causing more harm.
- Locating missing persons and reconnecting them with loved ones.
- Finding dangerous offenders wanted for crimes like murder, kidnapping, and attempted murder from other jurisdictions and preventing them from causing further harm in Harrisonburg.