

FAQ:

ADDRESSING COMMUNITY CONCERN ABOUT FLOCK SAFETY CAMERAS



Q What is the Flock Safety camera system?

A Flock Safety cameras are license plate reader (LPR) cameras used by law enforcement to capture images of vehicles traveling on public roadways. The system is used to help investigate crimes, locate stolen vehicles, and identify suspect vehicles connected to criminal activity.

Q Are residents being tracked?

A No. Residents are not being tracked. Currently, the City of Appleton has 19 fixed Flock Safety cameras and one mobile camera. These cameras capture images of vehicles in public spaces. They do not track individuals, monitor personal behavior, or follow people's daily movements.

Q What information is collected?

A The system captures:

- Images of vehicles
- License plate numbers
- Vehicle characteristics (such as color, make, and type)
- Date, time, and general location of the image
- It does not collect personal information about drivers or passengers

Q Can the data be misused?

A Yes, like any data system, misuse is possible. However, the Appleton Police Department has:

- Strict usage policies
- Limited user access
- Required training
- Audit logs that track every search

These safeguards help ensure accountability.

Q How long is data stored?

A Vehicle image data is stored for 30 days, unless it is needed for:

- An active investigation, or
- Evidentiary purposes in a criminal case

Audit logs are maintained for a minimum of 3 years showing who accessed the system and when are maintained indefinitely.

Q Who can access the system?

A Access is limited to:

- Sworn police officers, and
- The department's crime analyst and police communication specialists

All users are required to follow department policy and are subject to review and discipline for misuse.

Q Is the data shared with other agencies?

A Yes. Data may be shared with other Wisconsin law enforcement agencies for legitimate law enforcement purposes and in accordance with department policy and applicable laws.

Q Why does the department use this technology?

Flock Safety cameras are used to:

- Locate stolen vehicles
- Identify suspect vehicles involved in crimes
- Assist in Amber Alerts and missing person cases
- Support investigations while reducing reliance on witnesses and manual video searches

The goal is to enhance public safety while respecting privacy and maintaining transparency.

APPLETON POLICE DEPARTMENT TRANSPARENCY PORTAL

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