



Bluegrass DSA

Dear members of the Council,

We, the Bluegrass chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America (BGDSA), write to you regarding the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG)'s contract with Flock Safety and the growing ubiquity of automated license plate readers (ALPRs) in Lexington.

Over the past two years, our members—now over 350 strong—have united to defend and expand the democratic liberties now under attack in our country. We have grown at this rate in no small part because people in this city, like generations of working people before them, are determined to win the struggle for these freedoms.

The right to privacy is necessary for a free society, and ALPRs inherently contradict this right. Furthermore, they hold great potential for abuse—whether by federal agencies, massive corporations, cyberattackers, or authorized users abusing their authority—which the Council cannot realistically hope to regulate. We are especially troubled by the likelihood of such abuses being directed against our most vulnerable neighbors, including immigrants, people of color, and victims of domestic abuse, considering the many instances of this occurring nationwide. Flock's claimed benefits to public safety are exaggerated and unproven, and do not justify its immense financial and social cost.

For all these reasons, and to defend our community's safety, rule of law, and civil liberties, our chapter unanimously voted in May to bring this issue before the Council and the public. Over the past months, you have already heard several of our members voice their concerns at public comment sessions. We would now like to lay out our proposals in full.

We urge the Council to enact the following measures:

1. Immediately cancel LFUCG's contract with Flock Safety
2. Commit not to enter any future contracts with Flock or other ALPR providers
3. Remove all Flock cameras within six months of canceling this contract
4. Ensure all ALPR data collected until this time is deleted unless serving as evidence in an ongoing legal proceeding
5. Prohibit all ALPRs within six feet of public roads or LFUCG-owned land
6. Institute thorough zoning regulations on private ALPR, with the greatest restriction on those in residential zones
7. Require a search warrant for city authorities to create, or employ technology which creates, a profile of surveillance data on any individual

We are not alone in these goals. As ALPRs become better-known to the public, they are drawing ire across the nation and the political spectrum, leading dozens of city governments from Newport, Kentucky to Los Angeles to cancel their contracts with Flock. We are heartened to see these cities rejecting this dangerous technology, and we hope that the Council will follow their example. We are collecting signatures citywide on a petition in support of the positions listed above.

Sincerely,

Bluegrass DSA