

— SURVEILLANCE SERIES —

BOOK ONE

WHAT ARE **FLOCK** CAMERAS?

A **PREMIUM REPORT** ON THE NATIONWIDE
LICENSE PLATE CAMERA NETWORK
TRANSFORMING OUR COMMUNITIES



A COMPREHENSIVE INVESTIGATIVE
REPORT ON FLOCK SAFETY

INVISIBLE DANGERS

WHAT ARE FLOCK CAMERAS?

**A Comprehensive Investigative Report on Flock
Safety**

Published by Invisible Dangers
2026

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First digital edition, 2026

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Cover design and original illustrations: Invisible Dangers

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About This Report

This report draws on public records, court filings, published journalism, company statements, public videos, and Flock Safety's own materials. Sources used in the preparation of this report are listed at the back of the book.

Where information is disputed, alleged, or unresolved, it is identified as such rather than presented as settled fact.

Flock Safety's statements are considered alongside findings from independent researchers, journalists, courts, and public agencies so readers can see where the record agrees, conflicts, or remains unresolved.

Where courts have ruled, this report states what was decided. Where the law remains unsettled, this report says so.

This is an investigative report created for readers who want to thoroughly understand Flock Safety.

The book was written to be as exact and factually precise as possible. If you believe any information in this report is inaccurate or needs clarification, please contact Invisible Dangers so it can be reviewed or updated.

Introduction

Drive down almost any suburban street or through a major intersection today, and you are probably going to pass a black, solar-powered license plate reader camera. A Flock camera.

To agencies and HOAs, these cameras are a useful tool for solving crime. Some communities and residents, however, have raised questions about privacy, legality, and how much of their everyday lives are recorded and shared.

The company built its technology and network around its definition of public safety. Its mission, in the words of founder and CEO Garrett Langley, is ambitious: “Our mission is to eliminate crime. Full stop.”

Flock puts AI cameras along roads to capture images of passing vehicles. Users can search cameras using a plate or vehicle description, check related records, open live video, or send up a drone after an alert. Those searches can show where someone’s car has been and help identify the person connected to it.

Flock is far from the only ALPR surveillance company in the U.S., but its rapid growth has made the company highly visible and widely debated.

In 2026, the company faced protests, vandalism, public opposition, and contract cancellations over data privacy, agency sharing, and oversight. At the same time, police departments have credited the technology with helping solve crimes and find suspects, stolen vehicles, and missing people.

Communities are now asking themselves: How much surveillance am I willing to accept in exchange for “safety”? What happens to information about me once the camera takes the picture? Could this system ever point police toward me when I did nothing wrong? Who can look me up, and could someone several states away be searching for my car or looking through information connected to me? And why are cameras pointed at my child’s playground?

This investigative book helps answer those questions and helps people understand what is going on behind the scenes at a company that is constantly in the news. It covers things you do not typically read about. It helps explain what the big deal is about Flock and its surveillance system, why people are upset about it, and why agencies keep using the technology.

Flock Safety has staked its claim in the surveillance industry, and judging by how quickly the company has grown, Flock isn’t going anywhere.

Chapter 1: Inside Flock Safety

Flock cameras and devices are developed, manufactured, and sold by Atlanta-based Flock Group, Inc., doing business as Flock Safety. The private American company makes and operates automated license plate readers, video cameras, software, and AI detection tools.

Flock Safety was co-founded in 2017 by Garrett Langley, Paige Todd, and Matt Feury. Langley went on to lead the company as CEO, while Feury worked on its early technology and Todd focused on building the operations behind the growing business.

In a June 2025 interview, Langley recalled that he, Todd, and Feury were kicking around ideas for a company they could build together. They considered everything from saving people time to music, healthcare, and crime. Crime was the one idea they could imagine spending the next decade working on without being “miserable,” as Langley put it.

In the same June 2025 interview, Langley described himself as a fan of Peter Thiel’s “go build a monopoly” philosophy, pointing to the lack of major competition he saw in the market.

The founders say they built their first camera prototype at Langley’s kitchen table in just three weeks: an Android phone in a waterproof box. At the time, ALPR technology already existed for law enforcement and toll systems.

Flock first pitched its cameras to property managers, neighborhoods, and HOAs.

Seven years after launching, Flock had installed cameras across 42 states in more than 4,000 communities and employed over 900 people.

In 2026, it operates across 49 states in over 6,000 communities, serves more than 5,000 law enforcement agencies, and employs over 1,400 people.

Today, Flock logs billions of vehicle scans each month, has raised \$1.2 billion in funding, and surpassed \$500 million in annual recurring revenue.

That rapid expansion also made Flock a focus of public and political resistance, from town hall meetings and contract cancellations to court challenges and, most recently, a U.S. Senate investigation.

Despite that resistance, Flock continues pushing into new products and new territory.

That expansion includes video, audio detection, drones, software, and domestic manufacturing, including a brand new 97,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in Georgia. Its valuation rose from \$3.5 billion in 2022 to \$7.5 billion in March 2025 and \$8.4 billion by April 2026.

The company's rapid growth was backed by major venture-capital firms and investors including Andreessen Horowitz (a16z), Greenoaks, Bedrock Capital, Matrix Partners, Meritech Capital, Founders Fund, Kleiner Perkins, Sands Capital, Y Combinator, and Tiger Global.

Venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz, also known as a16z, was founded by Marc Andreessen and Ben Horowitz in 2009 and is one of Flock's largest institutional backers. The firm currently manages over \$100 billion and typically invests in segments including AI, healthcare, crypto, and infrastructure. It also runs American Dynamism, a practice focused on public safety, defense, aerospace, and manufacturing.

The firm led Flock's round in 2021, participated in 2022, led again in March 2025 with \$275 million, and backed a sizeable \$500 million round in 2026.

Langley described a16z teams working directly with Flock on communications, positioning, and branding, showing the firm is more than just a financing partner.

a16z's portfolio also includes Skydio, a drone maker used in military and battlefield operations, and Anduril, a defense-technology company building autonomous systems for the U.S. military.

Another a16z investment is an Israeli-founded cyber-intelligence company, Toka, whose 2018 seed round was led by the firm and has remained an investor since.

According to a 2022 investigation by *Haaretz*, Toka developed technology that locates internet-connected cameras within a target area, gains feed access, and alters or erases live and archived footage.

In other words, the technology cases a camera, breaks in, and wipes what it saw.

In February 2026, Toka transitioned into a U.S.-based company, headquartered in Columbia, Maryland. The company cites a 60% year-over-year growth with increased demand from the U.S. and allied government partners.

Flock publicly states it has no relationship with companies like Toka. In the public materials reviewed for this book, we found no documentation showing Toka has ever accessed Flock's cameras or the data they collect.

a16z backed Toka for roughly eight years, funding a company whose technology is designed to locate, access, and alter footage from internet-connected cameras, the same technology Flock builds and sells to police departments.

In August 2023, co-founder Ben Horowitz offered to fund a Toka purchase for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, the same department where he already helped finance Flock camera purchases. Records obtained by *TechCrunch* show the deal never happened. Toka said Las Vegas police have never been a client.

In a June 29, 2026 announcement, co-founder Marc Andreessen was appointed to the Pentagon's newly reconstituted Defense Policy Board by Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, about a year after the previous panel's members were removed.

The board, established in 1985, advises senior Pentagon leadership on strategic planning, force structure, modernization, regional defense policy, and other national-security issues.

This connection is notable because one of Flock's largest institutional investors is also led by someone now advising the Pentagon on defense policy, while the firm itself backs companies working across surveillance, drones, and defense technology, including technology capable of wiping camera footage.

a16z has also invested in SpaceX, xAI, OpenAI, Applied Intuition, Saronic, Shield AI, and Hadrian, several of which have contracts or other active relationships with the U.S. Department of Defense.

Blake Masters, former chief operating officer of Thiel Capital, Peter Thiel's personal investment firm, also joined the board in the same announcement. Founders Fund, the venture capital firm Thiel separately co-founded, is one of Flock's investors.

Founders Fund was also the first institutional investor in Palantir Technologies, a data and government technology company Thiel co-founded and still chairs.

Trae Stephens, a Founders Fund partner, also co-founded Anduril Industries and serves as its executive chairman.

Thiel has also personally invested in Clearview AI, the facial-recognition company built around a database that Clearview says currently exceeds 60 billion images scraped from the internet.

Thiel holds no board seat or known operational role at Flock Safety. His documented connection to the company is through Founders Fund's investment; Flock has not publicly disclosed the size of that stake.

How Flock Makes Money

Flock's business ultimately depends on collecting, organizing, analyzing, and providing access to vehicle data.

Its main product is the searchability, automation, and nationwide network access built on top of what the cameras collect.

According to Sacra, a research firm that covers private technology companies for investors, HOAs make up roughly 40% of Flock's business, while law enforcement agencies make up the majority.

Safe City

Flock's Safe City business model pitches a full platform to municipal leaders at roughly \$20 per resident annually. Cities pay over five to ten years, with hardware and software upgrades included automatically.

Greenville, Mississippi, population approximately 26,000, runs Flock's full suite of cameras, drones, and AI tools. Mayor Errick D. Simmons called it "a bold step forward" in public safety. The operating cost is roughly \$30,000 a year.

Flock Protects Corporate America

As part of its corporate business model, Flock markets its offerings as helping protect employees and property.

The company targets retail, healthcare, and logistics because these industries have multiple locations, large workforces, and frequent public traffic, with retailers including Lowe's and Ulta. CEO Garrett Langley recently cited Dollar General, with roughly 7,000 stores, and Subway, with thousands of franchise locations, as examples of potential customers.

In October 2025, Flock partnered with Blue Eye to add remote video monitoring. Blue Eye uses AI to flag activity on camera, while live operators can speak to people at the scene, call for help when needed, and document the incident. The company markets the service to large businesses as a "lower-cost alternative" to on-site security guards.

Flock can also add a terminated employee's vehicle to a localized alert list, so if the vehicle appears near company property, security is notified before it reaches the building.

Flock also places cameras at corporate executives' homes and workplaces and can flag when the same vehicle appears at both locations on the same day. The alert can go to a protective detail or law enforcement.

Risk Behind the Growth

Sacra's report, released April 19, 2026, identified three substantial risks behind Flock's growth.

The first is regulatory exposure.

Sacra says Flock's rapid expansion, including installations without proper permits, has led to moratoriums and could result in wider restrictions, forced camera removals, slower expansion, disrupted service to law enforcement customers, and damage to relationships and reputation.

Cameras installed without approved breakaway hardware or adequate distance from traffic can raise safety, permitting, removal, and liability concerns. Flock stated its permitting team submitted over 25,000 permit applications in 2024.

The second is public resistance.

Flock's network is estimated to cover 70% of the U.S. population, while clear regulatory frameworks for data collection and retention have not kept pace with its expansion.

Privacy advocates, legislators, and city councils have begun scrutinizing its surveillance reach, and Sacra warns this pressure may lead more cities or states to restrict or ban the technology.

The third is budget dependence.

Since law enforcement makes up most of Flock's revenue, and Sacra estimates that 94% of police budgets is tied to labor, a much smaller share is left for discretionary expenses such as technology subscriptions like Flock's Nova.

Because Flock relies on recurring subscriptions, the risk does not end after the first sale. Agencies must continue approving and funding the contracts during future budget reviews, creating an ongoing renewal risk for the company.

In other words, the same growth that makes Flock valuable is also what makes it vulnerable.

Flock is Growing Fast

Flock earns most of its revenue through annual subscriptions. Subscriptions can include: cameras and sensors, installation, connectivity, maintenance, software, cloud storage, support, and access to search and alert tools.

Some of Flock's customers include: law enforcement agencies, municipalities, HOAs, multifamily communities, schools including universities, places of worship, retailers, healthcare providers, logistics companies, property managers, hospitality businesses, manufacturers, correctional facilities, federal agencies, fire and EMS departments, casinos, and other businesses.

Sacra estimates Flock's base subscriptions cost about \$2,400 to \$2,500 per camera annually, with a one-time installation fee of about \$300 to \$350. Public contracts show pricing varies by equipment, software, installation requirements, location count, and contract length.

For police departments and cities, Flock's results can be measured in officer time saved, leads generated, vehicles recovered, missing people located, and cases advanced.

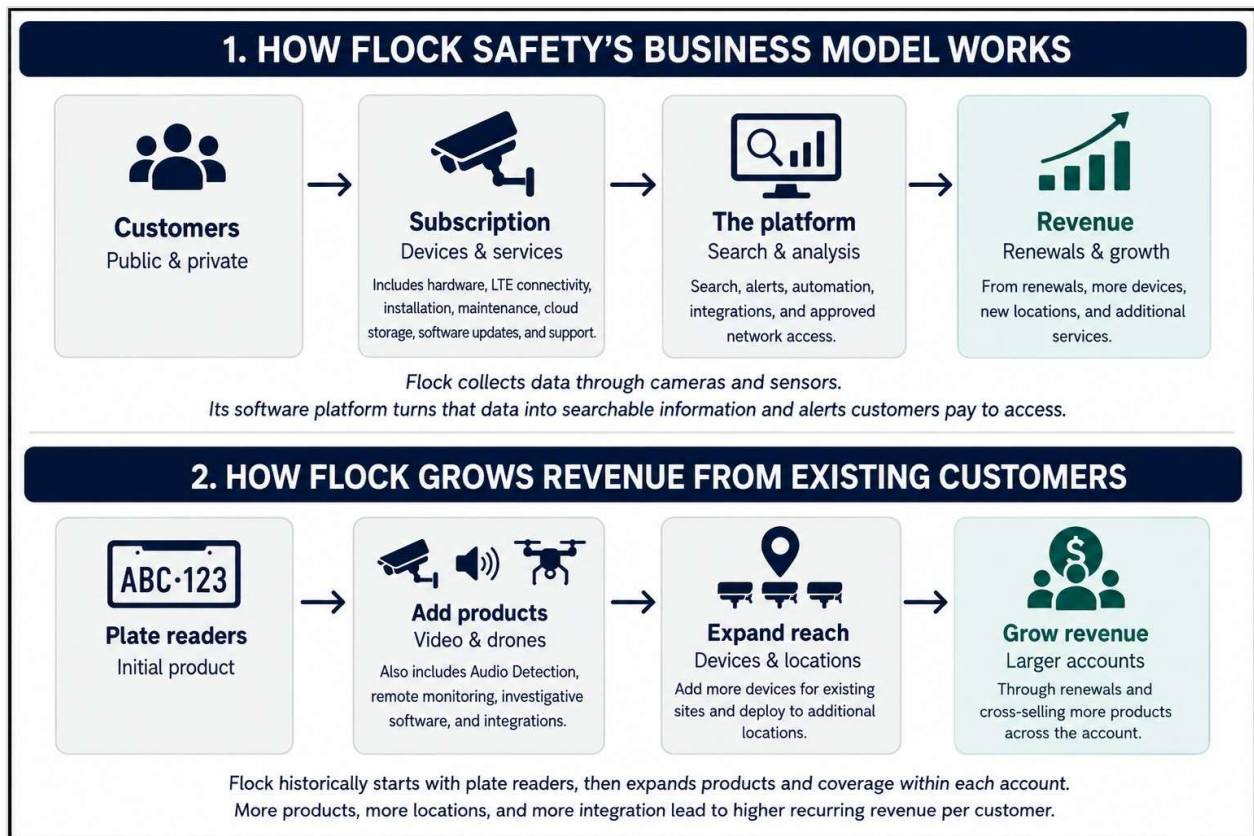


Illustration of Flock's business model is based on publicly available information.

Flock's automated searches and alerts can save officers hours of manually reviewing footage and show where the same vehicle appeared in different locations.

Flock confirmed to *Fortune* in August 2026 that more than half of its new revenue comes from products other than license plate readers.

A police department or HOA might start with a few license plate readers, then buy live-streaming cameras, Audio Detection, mobile trailers, investigative software, remote monitoring, or drones. It can also put cameras on more roads, properties, and neighborhoods, widening the area Flock covers.

Flock can also grow through cameras its customers already own. Announced in 2020, Wing lets a business, HOA, or agency use existing IP cameras with Flock's system instead of replacing them with new Flock hardware. The footage can then be searched through Flock's software.

Each new camera, service, or location can bring Flock more revenue while also putting more footage into the network.

That overlap between business growth and network growth is part of what has fueled concerns over data sharing, jurisdiction, and privacy.

Flock's financial incentive and expansion incentive therefore move in the same direction. More subscriptions, devices, services, and participating locations can increase both company revenue and the reach of the network.