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Subject: Important Flock Update: Data Sharing and Upcoming Webinar
To: Josh Stottlemeyer <joshuas@kcha.org>
Cc: tory.kornblum@flocksafety.com <tory.kornblum@flocksafety.com>
Sent: October 22, 2025 7:30 PM (UTC-04:00)
Attached: University of Washington Report.pdf

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Hi Josh,

I wanted to reach out directly following the recent [report](#) titled “**Leaving the Door Wide Open,**” which raises concerns about data-sharing practices between Washington agencies and federal entities.

Although there are several factual inaccuracies in the report, we take these concerns seriously and remain committed to ensuring our customers have full control and visibility into how data is shared on the Flock platform. To that end, I’ve attached a detailed document outlining the specific actions we’ve taken over the past months to strengthen transparency and compliance, including:

- **Clear labeling of who is a Federal Agency, and restrictions** from National and State Lookup for any federal agencies
- **Enhanced audit tools** that show exactly who searched, when, and what data returned from a search
- **New configurable sharing permissions** to make it easier for administrators to approve or restrict access
- **Upcoming improvements** to search reason codes, PRA data exports, and network visibility

You can also read our full statement in response to inaccuracies in the report here:

[Flock Safety Blog – Our Statement in Response to Recent Reports](#)

For additional support:

- We’ll be hosting a customer webinar next week to walk through these product enhancements and answer questions about sharing transparency and PRA compliance tools. An invite with registration details will follow shortly.
- If you’d like to better understand your agency’s sharing history or review your current configurations, please reach out to your Customer Success Manager or Account Executive - they’re here to help ensure your setup aligns with your agency’s policies and community expectations.

We recognize that Washington agencies are navigating a complex environment where you must balance transparency, compliance, and public trust, and we’re committed to being your partner through it. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me directly if you’d like to discuss this further.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for the important work you do every day to keep your communities safe.

Lisa Krolkowski
VP, Customer Success



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University of Washington Report - Addressing Misconceptions about Flock

- **Overview of the Report:**
 - The University of Washington released a report titled “Leaving the Door Wide Open,” based on publicly released network audits from Washington State agencies.
 - The report makes claims about Flock's data sharing practices.
- **Flock's Stance:**
 - Flock was not contacted for comment or information by the report's authors, leading to misconceptions and incorrect assertions.
 - **Bottom line:** The claim that Flock may have enabled “backdoor” data sharing without permission is inaccurate. Every Flock customer has complete control over their sharing relationships, and these can be reviewed and revoked at any time.
- **Transparency and Accountability:**
 - Flock's LPR system is designed for transparency, with accountability mechanisms built-in.
 - Every search requires a search reason, which is permanently preserved in an audit trail.
 - "Organizational audits" allow agencies to review their own searches.
 - "Network audits" allow agencies to review searches conducted by external organizations they share with.
- **Addressing Federal Pilot Programs:**
 - Reports indicated some local agencies conducted searches with terms like “HSI Investigation” or “ICE.” These collaborations can be for various criminal investigations, not just immigration enforcement.
 - In late August, Flock paused temporary federal pilot programs with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) nationwide, out of caution to help customers comply with local and state immigration laws.
- **Ongoing Enhancements for Sharing & Compliance:**
 - Flock is actively working on product enhancements, including clearer and customizable sharing permissions, improved search reasons, more meaningful audits, and anomaly detection in searches.
 - **Flock has:**
 - Cleaned up audits for better readability.
 - Made Network Audits more meaningful by allowing filtering for external searches that actually returned data from an agency's cameras (applies to 'exact plate match' searches by outside agencies only).
 - Created federal agency labels.
 - Planned a change to the search reason field from open text to a mandatory dropdown menu of offense types.
- **Customizable Sharing Options:**

- Agency administrators have complete control over data sharing relationships and can modify them at any time. Flock does not create these relationships.
- Options include:
 - **1:1 Sharing:** Share device access with other agencies on a one-to-one basis or within a specific geographic radius.
 - **Statewide Lookup:** A reciprocal program allowing all opting-in agencies within the same state to mutually share Search access for exact plate match searches.
 - **National Lookup:** A reciprocal program for opting-in agencies nationwide to mutually share Search access for full plate number searches (for far-reaching crimes like human trafficking).
 - **No sharing:** Agencies can choose not to share any data outside their own agency.
- **Data Sharing Best Practices:**
 - Admins should carefully review new incoming share requests.
 - Admins should periodically review existing sharing relationships .
 - Consider disabling auto-acceptance of sharing requests and carefully review agencies when approving in bulk.
 - As of August 2025, federal agencies are clearly marked; their sharing requests are not automatically approved and require administrator review.
- **Keyword-Based Search Filter:**
 - This filter removes agency cameras from searches related to immigration enforcement or reproductive care, based on specific keywords.
 - If activated, it applies to all searches including your networks, whether by your officers or shared agencies.
 - The filter's effectiveness is monitored and improved.
- **New Search Controls:**
 - Administrators can create a pre-populated list of acceptable Search Reasons for their agency's users, ensuring users select from a pre-determined list of reasons aligned with agency policies and laws.
 - Agencies can require a case number with every search.