City of Newburgh Police Department

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Date: August 27, 2026

To: Interim City Manager Morris, Mayor & City Council

From: Brandon Rola, Chief of Police

RE: Audits Records of Flock LPR Searches That Included the CNPD LPR Network

PURPOSE

This memorandum further explains the Flock LPR search audit records being released and summarizes outside agency searches that included the CNPD LPR network from October 2024 through 2026.

BACKGROUND

Resolution No. 144-2026 of July 22, 2024, authorized the City Manager to enter into a contract with Flock for 1 mobile Flock Falcon Flex license plate reader (LPR) and to install 86 fixed LPRs within the City of Newburgh. The contract was signed by the City of Newburgh and Flock on August 6, 2024.

From August 6, 2024, to date, Flock has been working with the CNPD to install the agreed upon license plate readers within the City. Permitting requirements with Central Hudson and Verizon created significant installation delays in this process. As of January 1, 2026, 52 of 86 license plate readers have not yet been installed in compliance with the Flock LPR contractual agreement.

FLOCK LPR AUDIT REPORTS

On August 7, 2026, Councilmember Shakur requested the Flock Audit log via email. In response to that request, CNPD is providing the entire City Council with the complete Flock LPR search audit records covering October 2024 through August 2026.

DEFINITIONS

1. **CNPD Network** – For purposes of this memorandum, "CNPD network" means the group of CNPD Flock LPRs and the available license plate detections associated with those LPRs. A search that included the CNPD network could search available CNPD LPR detections within the selected time frame, up to the applicable 30-day retention period.

Inclusion of the CNPD network in a search does not establish that the search returned or displayed a CNPD LPR detection.

2. **Unauthorized** - For purposes of this memorandum, "unauthorized" means that an outside law enforcement agency included the CNPD LPR network within a search without CNPD's specific permission. It does not mean that the search returned a CNPD LPR detection, that CNPD information was viewed, or that the searching agency acted improperly or unlawfully.

What the Audit Records Show

The audit records identify searches that included the City of Newburgh LPR network by CNPD personnel and by numerous outside law enforcement agencies.

Each audit record entry documenting a search of the LPR network does not automatically mean the search was conducted in connection with a separate investigation or offense. When conducting a search, each change to a search filter setting generates a separate audit search entry number. For example, narrowing a four-day search to three days, or adding a vehicle color, or removing a previous filter creates another search entry number, even though the search activity relates to one investigation and occurs within minutes. Accordingly, the number of audit entry numbers does not equal the number of separate investigations, incidents or cases.

What the Audit Records Do Not Show

The audit records do not, by themselves, establish that any given search which included the CNPD LPR network produced a detection, or an investigative lead, or that CNPD LPR data was actually viewed, or that enforcement action resulted.

Flock LPR detections are retained within the Flock system for 30 days and are then automatically deleted. When a detection is relevant to a law enforcement investigation, an authorized user may download it before deletion and retain it separately as part of the applicable case file.

The Audit Record Columns Explained

- **ID** – The unique identifier assigned to the audit entry for a search.
- **Name** – User running the search.
- **Org Name** – Organization running the search.
- **Total Networks** – Total number of LPR networks included within a search.
- **Time Frame** – Date range used to limit the search of the LPR database.
- **License Plate** – License plate of the vehicle searched.
- **Reason** – Reason for search.
- **Case # -** Corresponding case number for a search.
- **Filters** – Filters added to a search, e.g, vehicle make, color, body type, etc.

- **Search Time** – Time a search was conducted.
- **Search Type**:
    - **Standard (search)** – A search performed where the license plate is only partially known or not known at all, e.g. searches of the LPR data using only a vehicle description including vehicle make, model, color, year, etc.
    - **Lookup** – A search performed where the license plate is fully known.
    - **Freeform** – A search performed allowing the user to type in free text description, e.g., "a red truck with a trailer towing a boat"
    - **Convoy** – Search performed to identify a specific vehicle "hitting" an LPR directly behind the searched vehicle.
    - **Geo Search** – A search selecting specific LPRs within a specific timeframe.
    - **Mobile** – added after any of the above search types to signify the search was completed on a mobile device.
    - **Text Prompt** – Additional information added to search criteria to help filter search results.
    - **Moderation** – Directly related to the freeform search function. Would allow, warn, or block the search based on the freeform text added.

CITY OF NEWBURGH FLOCK TIMELINE

- The October 2024 audit records are the first month showing City of Newburgh Police Department Flock LPR training and implementation TEST searches, as well as investigative searches.

- On December 9, 2025, after learning more about the extent of network sharing within the Flock license plate reader system, I took steps to restrict outside agencies from including the CNPD's LPR network within a search. I configured the Flock system so that no outside law enforcement agency, other than the New York State Crime Analysis Center (NYS CAC), could include CNPD's LPR network within a search. These restrictions were initiated in December 2025, well before the City began receiving the first negative public comments concerning Flock on March 23, 2026.

    NOTE: The NYS CAC is a Department of Criminal Justice Services funded and operated agency. The Flock LPR project was originally funded by the NYS DCJS Law Enforcement Technology Grant, which has the following required attestation upon grant award acceptance:

    > "As a condition of this funding award, any relevant data or information generated by technology or equipment procured with these funds must be shared with the New York State DCJS Crime Analysis Center Network to enable them to support investigations more fully. This data includes but is not limited to license plate reader data, gunshot detection system data, surveillance camera feeds (where appropriate), records management system (RMS) data, computer aided dispatch (CAD) system data, body-

worn cameras (where appropriate), and any relevant software systems (as appropriate). You are requested to engage with your local crime analysis center to develop a plan for the provision or integration of this data."

- On January 22, 2026, I reviewed the Flock system to confirm that outside law enforcement agencies could not include CNPD's LPR network within a search. During that review, I discovered that outside agencies were still able to search CNPD's LPR network.

  I called CNPD's Flock representative and learned that the Flock software contained multiple layers of sharing permissions located in different areas of the system, each of which had to be manually disabled to fully restrict outside search access.

- On January 23, 2026, I further disabled all sharing permissions identified by Flock during the call. Based on the information and system settings available to me at that time, those changes were expected to prevent outside agencies, other than the NYS CAC, from including CNPD's LPR network within a search. The January 23 audit record revealed only searches performed by CNPD and NYS CAC.

NOTE: Despite the initial January 22nd Flock system access permission revocations, subsequent CNPD network system checks identified additional outside agencies that were able to include the CNPD LPR network within a search.

- During February 2026, I reviewed the Flock system to confirm that no outside law enforcement agencies could include CNPD's LPR network within a search. I found 3 unauthorized outside law enforcement agencies were able to include the CNPD LPR network within a search: Baldwinsville Central School District (1 search on February 5th), Town of Marlborough NY PD (4 searches all on February 18th), and the Village of Westhampton Beach NY PD (40 searches all on February 17th). All agencies were subsequently removed.

- During March 2026, I reviewed the Flock system to confirm that no outside law enforcement agencies could include CNPD's LPR network within a search. I found 1 unauthorized outside law enforcement agency was able to include the CNPD LPR network within a search: Village of Westhampton Beach NY PD conducted 4 searches on March 3rd. The agency's access had been previously removed by me in February 2026 and was now being removed for a second time.

- March 23, 2026, was the first City Council meeting with public comment pertaining to Flock.

- During April 2026, I reviewed the Flock system to confirm that no outside law enforcement agencies could include CNPD's LPR network within a search. I found 1 unauthorized outside law enforcement agency was able to include the CNPD LPR

network within a search: Town of Marlborough NY PD conducted 5 searches (4 on April 1st and 1 on April 10th). The agency's access had been previously removed in February 2026 and was now being removed for a second time.

- On April 14, 2026, because additional outside-agencies continued to have the ability to include the CNPD LPR network within a search, I implemented further restrictions requiring all outside agencies, including the NYS CAC, to obtain CNPD permission before being able to include the CNPD LPR network within a search.

- April 23, 2026, the first Police Department public update regarding the Flock LPRs was given at the City of Newburgh Work Session.

- April 14-30, 2026, I reviewed the Flock system to confirm that no outside law enforcement agencies could include CNPD's LPR network within a search. I found no outside agencies were able to include the CNPD LPR network within a search.

- During May 2026, I reviewed the Flock system to confirm that no outside law enforcement agencies could include CNPD's LPR network within a search. I found for May 2026, no outside agencies were able to include the CNPD LPR network within a search.

- During June 2026, I reviewed the Flock system to confirm that no outside law enforcement agencies could include CNPD's LPR network within a search. I found for June 2026, no outside agencies were able to include the CNPD LPR network within a search.

- During July 2026, I reviewed the Flock system to confirm that no outside law enforcement agencies could include CNPD's LPR network within a search. I found for July 2026, no outside agencies were able to include the CNPD LPR network within a search.

- As of August 24, 2026, I reviewed the Flock system to confirm that no outside law enforcement agencies could include CNPD's LPR network within a search. I found for August 2026, no outside agencies were able to include the CNPD LPR network within a search.

- On August 25, 2026, Flock responded to my inquiry regarding how Baldwinsville Central School District, Westhampton Beach Police Department, and Marlborough Police Department were able to include the CNPD Flock network in their individual searches after the January 23rd sharing restrictions were implemented by CNPD. Flock explained that CNPD has two separate networks: one for its fixed mounted LPRs and another for a

single handheld/mobile Flock LPR unit, called the Falcon Flex LPR. The searches conducted by these three agencies included only the Flock Falcon Flex LPR network. CNPD has never deployed or used the single Flock Falcon Flex LPR in its possession, and that network contains no LPR detections. Therefore, these searches could not have returned or displayed any City of Newburgh LPR detection information.

CONCLUSIONS

1. From October 1, 2024, through January 22, 2026, the Flock LPR audit shows hundreds of thousands of searches conducted by outside law enforcement agencies (federal, state and municipal) across the US that included the CNPD LPR network. However, the audit does not indicate whether any of those searches detected the target license plate in the CNPD LPR network or produced any law enforcement action by the outside law enforcement agency conducting the search. Additionally, my review identified audit entries for searches conducted by outside law enforcement agencies in which "ICE," "HSI," "immigration," or similar terms were entered in the "Reason" field.

2. From January 23, 2026, through August 25, 2026, NO searches were conducted that included the CNPD LPR network by an outside law enforcement agency for an immigration enforcement related "Reason".

3. From January 23, 2026, through April 14, 2026, a total of 54 searches were conducted by 3 outside law enforcement agencies that included the CNPD Falcon Flex mobile LPR network: Baldwinsville Central School District (1 search), Town of Marlborough PD (9 searches), Westhampton Beach Village PD (44 searches). These searches would have returned or displayed no City of Newburgh LPR detection information.

4. From April 15, 2026, through August 25, 2026, NO searches were conducted by an outside law enforcement agency of the CNPD LPR network.

5. From January 23, 2026, through August 25, 2026, NO unauthorized CNPD LPR network data was shared.

Respectfully submitted,



Brandon Rola, Chief of Police