

Oakmore Community LPR Program
Frequently Asked Questions - FAQs (7.13.2025)

1. What are Flock LPRs and what do they do?

Flock Safety LPR cameras (License Plate Reader/Recognition aka Automatic LPRs – ALPRs) capture the make, color, license number, and other characteristics (stickers, racks, etc.) of vehicles traveling on public streets only. They record a still image of the rear of a vehicle, not live video or feeds. The result is a “*vehicle fingerprint*” log that police can use to track and locate stolen vehicles and vehicles involved in criminal activity. No images of humans in or near the vehicle are captured. [Click here](#) more information about Flock Safety and their LPRs.

2. Where will the LPRs be located and how do they operate?

The LPRs will be installed on private property at strategic entry points to our neighborhood. They are solar powered and are quite unobtrusive. The equipment is maintained by Flock Safety.

3. How will LPRs help with Oakmore area crime?

Our Flock LPRs will be linked to Oakland’s citywide and other Bay Area Flock LPR networks. Authorized agencies can access vehicle information *in real time* to look for vehicles reported stolen or involved in committing crimes. They can access the data for active vehicle searches for *after-the-fact* investigations. Flock’s system also *alerts police* if a known stolen or warranted vehicle passes one of its LPRs. Flock LPRs are now routinely used by the Oakland Police Department (OPD) and neighboring police departments and law enforcement agencies to help stem area crime. Over the past several years, Oakmore has experienced numerous serious crime incidents - home robberies, armed assault of a security officer, and other incidents which impact the lives and well-being of our residents and our property values. We believe installing Flock LPRs in our neighborhood can provide a security benefit to our residents with a low risk of privacy infringement or misuse.

4. Who will have access to the vehicle information? How is it stored and protected?

Criminals operate across city lines, so we plan to authorize OPD, CHP, Piedmont, Berkeley, and other nearby departments to access our Flock LPR data. The data will be temporarily stored in Flock’s secure database for access by authorized law enforcement agencies only. The data is end-to-end encrypted in transit and at rest. All vehicle data is automatically deleted from the Flock database after 30 days, in compliance with CA laws and regulations, but law enforcement may download data and keep it beyond 30 days for ongoing investigations.

5. How effective will these LPRs really be?

We know LPRs won’t be an end-all to crime, but we *do* know they’re helping police in Oakland and other communities apprehend criminals and can be of great benefit when serious crimes occur. In our discussions with OPD, they’ve routinely referred to the Flock system as a “game changer” and “force multiplier.” We will monitor statistics on the use of our LPRs and share them with the community. Flock Safety also provides a [Transparency Portal](#) for our system. Like our home alarms and security patrols, Flock LPRs will add another layer of security for local residents. Also see our website for local [Flock LPR success stories](#).

6. How much will this cost and how will the neighborhood pay for it?

Initially, we’d like to install up to 4 LPRs in the Oakmore neighborhood for a two year pilot. Each unit costs \$3,200 for the first year and then \$2,500 annually for subsequent years, plus operating expenses. The cost will be shared by the Oakmore community, the Oakmore Homes Association and Oakmore local businesses. The number of LPRs that we install will depend on how much money we raise from the community-wide fundraising campaign.

7. Since we don't know how effective they'll be, is this really worth it?

This will be up to the community, but we believe so. Police resources will continue to be limited, and this is an action we can take to aid police response for our community. The cost for the LPRs will be very low. With strong community participation homeowner costs could be as low as \$50 annually. Given the very low cost and the potential safety benefits for the neighborhood, we believe it’s a very worthwhile community investment.

8. We're not Oakmore Homes Association members. Do we still need to contribute?

Yes! The OHA is sponsoring the program and OHAs members have voted to help support it, but the entire neighborhood will benefit so we need contributions from all Oakmore residents to keep the individual cost down and reach our goal of at least 4 LPRs for two years. Please see our [fundraising page](#) for more information.

9. I'm concerned about surveillance and facial recognition. How can we be sure the LPRs will be used only for appropriate purposes?

The OHA Board and its members share the concern that LPR information only be used to help abate crime in the area. As mentioned, these LPRs capture only vehicles traveling on public streets. According to the Flock legal team, "Flock's License Plate Reader technology is specifically designed to capture objective vehicle data, such as license plate numbers, vehicle make, model, color, and other identifying characteristics relevant to public safety. Our technology does not use facial recognition, nor is it equipped with any hardware or software capable of biometric identification. Protecting privacy and ensuring the responsible use of technology are central to our mission, and our systems are designed with these principles in mind."

Additional safeguards that we took into consideration:

- License Plate Readers (LPRs) are already being widely deployed in Oakland, Berkeley, Piedmont, San Francisco, Alameda, and other neighboring cities and towns. All local municipalities have strict and transparent rules for the use of LPRs and the data they capture.
- California has established regulations for appropriate LPR use, which includes requirements for authorized access, regular auditing, and limits on data retention to prevent potential misuse. All data collected from the LPRs is deleted from the Flock database within 30 days, except for ongoing investigations as noted above.
- Oakland maintains a civilian Privacy Advisory Commission (PAC) which has worked with OPD to approve a detailed use policy for LPRs. This policy is currently in place for the department. The PAC performs ongoing monitoring to ensure appropriate use and compliance.
- Importantly, the OHA will have 100% control over which law enforcement entities can access our LPR data, and can rescind this authorization at any time should there be any concern about appropriate access and compliance with the law or our Privacy and Usage policy. Resident Safe List and Opt-Out features are available for residents with specific privacy concerns.

10. I have personal privacy concerns. Can residents opt out of the system?

Yes, but first, it is important to reiterate that Flock LPRs only detect vehicles traveling on public streets. No images of people in vehicles or on the street are captured, so there is no possibility of profiling. Oakmore residents can register their vehicles on a Safe List to mark images of their vehicles 'Resident.' They will also have the option to 'Opt-Out' completely, so their vehicle information is not captured or logged at all. *But please note*, these options are *only* available to neighborhood residents' vehicles, and *only* apply to data captured by our neighborhood LPR system. They do not apply to any LPRs outside the Oakmore LPR system.

11. Where can I find more information about the Oakmore Community LPR Program?

Please go to our [website](#) for details about the community LPR program including a program overview, our Privacy and Usage Policy, how to register for the Safe List, sample Flock LPR images, community fundraising, and local success stories. **More questions? Please send an email to us at oakmorehomes@yahoo.com.**