

What are your town's cameras really doing?

Flock cameras are bought with your tax money, usually with no public vote. A records request is how you get the facts. Anyone can ask.

WHAT TO ASK FOR

- 1 The contract**
cost, renewal date, retention setting
- 2 The invoices**
what it really costs each year
- 3 The data sharing**
who else can search your plates
- 4 The audit logs**
how it's really used, and why
- 5 The usage policy**
the rules, if any exist
- 6 Locations + funding**
how many, where, who paid
- 7 Sharing agreements**
the deals behind the access

Check the portal first

Some agencies post camera count and retention at transparency.flocksafety.com. Many don't. Check if yours exists, see what it answers, then request the rest.

A DRAFT TO WORK FROM

To your FOIA Coordinator:

I'm a [your town] resident writing about the [police/sheriff]'s automated license-plate reader (ALPR) camera program, whether Flock or another vendor. Under Michigan's Freedom of Information Act (MCL 15.231 et seq.), I request copies of the following, in electronic form:

1. The vendor contract + amendments (term, renewal date, cost, retention).
2. Invoices and payments, past three years.
3. Data-sharing and network settings, plus the full list of outside agencies that can search your cameras.
4. Search/audit logs, past 12 months (who, when, why).
5. Usage policy and retention schedule, or confirmation none exists.
6. Camera locations and any grant or funding source.
7. Any data-sharing agreements with other agencies.

I don't need to state a purpose. Please respond within 5 business days (MCL 15.235), with an itemized estimate first for any cost.

Thank you, [Your name] · [Your email]

IF THEY STALL, DENY, OR OVERCHARGE

They go silent

5 business days, plus one 10-day extension. Silence past that is a denial you can appeal.

The fee is huge

They must send an itemized estimate (MCL 15.234). Ask for electronic copies to cut the cost.

"We'll ask Flock"

Not a lawful reason. The duty to respond is the agency's, not the vendor's.



Scan for the full guide.

Templates, what other towns found, and how to plug in:
northwoods flockfree.com