

OUR POSITION: Pro-police. Pro-safety. Anti-mass surveillance. We support targeted law enforcement use of ALPR — not a private company holding permanent records of every Corona resident's movements.

COMMON ARGUMENTS

What They Say — And How to Respond

WHAT THEY SAY	WHAT TO SAY BACK
"It's just a license plate reader. What's the big deal?"	Flock's own 2022 patent (US11416545B1) describes AI classification of people by race, gender, height, weight, and clothing — not just plates. Their Nova platform combines plate data with jail records, arrest records, and OSINT into a warrantless cross-jurisdictional dossier. 100,000 cameras scanning 20 billion vehicles/month feed a single private corporate database. Hardware already on Corona's streets can unlock these capabilities via software update — no new cameras, no city vote.
"If you have nothing to hide, you have nothing to worry about."	Privacy isn't about hiding — it's about who decides what's nobody else's business. Doctor visits, church, gun store trips, political donations: all legal, all now permanently logged by a private company.
"It helps catch criminals — stolen cars, kidnappings."	Flock only hits on already-flagged plates. Your car won't be in the system until after you report it stolen — by then plates are swapped or the car is gone. Targeted use is legitimate. Surveilling every innocent driver to maybe catch one thief is a different question.
"Cameras are everywhere. Get over it."	A gas station camera records an incident. Flock is a city-wide system tracking every vehicle's movements, timestamped and stored indefinitely on private corporate servers. One is a camera. The other is a searchable, permanent, nationwide surveillance database.
"Data is only used for legitimate investigations."	SFPD gave out-of-state agencies access to its Flock database — enabling 1.6M illegal searches, at least 19 explicitly for ICE, violating California sanctuary law. Mountain View had unauthorized federal access found in their own audit. Flock's CEO admitted misleading elected officials. Where is Corona's written policy?
"The contract says data is deleted after 30 days."	★ NEW — That's Flock's own policy in a subordinate document Flock controls. Corona's actual governing contract (the PSA) contains ZERO language on retention or deletion. Worse: Section 3.5.1 of the PSA requires Flock to retain 'Documents & Data' for FIVE YEARS. And Flock has confirmed audit logs — who searched what, when — are retained indefinitely. Source: CPRA C000108-020325.
"Neighborhoods paid for these — not the city."	The cameras may be neighborhood-funded, but data lives on Flock's private corporate servers — not with the neighborhood. Flock is a \$7.5 billion for-profit company. Who controls the data, for how long, and who else can access it?
"This is like defunding the police."	It's the opposite. We support police with real tools and real accountability. Outsourcing public safety data to a private company with no oversight, no audit trail, and no written use policy isn't pro-police — it's pro-Flock.
"The public already approved this at a council meeting."	★ NEW — Emails obtained by CPRA show the city attorney DISCOVERED the public comment requirement (CA Civil Code §1798.90.55) mid-negotiation in January 2021 — and staff weren't sure it had been satisfied. Confirmation came from the Flock sales rep, not the city attorney. No council minutes appear in the CPRA production. Ask for them.

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WHO IS BEHIND THIS

The Money & The Agenda

Flock Safety	Founded 2017. Valued at \$7.5 billion. 100,000+ cameras in 49 states. 20+ billion vehicle scans per month.
Andreessen Horowitz	Major Silicon Valley VC. Primary investor in Flock. Co-founder Marc Andreessen has publicly stated: "Democracy is fake."
Peter Thiel / Founders Fund	Thiel co-founded Palantir — the government data-analytics firm with ICE, NSA, and DoD contracts. His Founders Fund invested in Flock's \$275M round. Flock data feeds directly into Palantir's platform.
The Palantir Connection	Palantir CEO Alex Karp said publicly: "This technology disrupts Democratic voters and reduces their economic power." Palantir holds a \$30M ICE contract. Denver police used Flock data for nearly 1,400 ICE-related searches in 2024–25.

★ NEW — CORONA CONTRACT INVESTIGATION

What the CPRA Documents Actually Say

PSA Silent on Retention	The governing Professional Services Agreement — the legally controlling document — contains ZERO specific language about how long data is retained, when it is deleted, or what happens to it when the contract ends. The '30-day deletion' claim lives in Flock's own subordinate Terms & Conditions that Flock controls unilaterally.
5-Year Retention Required	Section 3.5.1 of the PSA requires Flock to retain all 'Documents & Data' for a minimum of FIVE YEARS after project completion — and the contract never defines whether ALPR footage falls into that category. Flock has never been asked on the record.
"Share With Any Agency as Needed"	Exhibit A — drafted by Corona, not Flock — requires data be 'available to share with other agencies as needed.' Other agencies: undefined. As needed: undefined. No warrant requirement. No approved agency list. No prohibition on federal immigration enforcement.
Public Hearing May Be Invalid	Emails show the city attorney discovered CA Civil Code §1798.90.55's public meeting requirement mid-negotiation. Staff weren't certain it had been met. Confirmation came from the Flock sales rep — not the city. No council minutes appear in CPRA production.
203 Unauthorized Users	Corona discovered 203 users with active system access who hadn't logged in for 6+ months — not through its own audit, but through a Flock notification. Required under CA Civil Code §1798.90.51: regular independent audits. Evidence of any: zero.
\$565,283 — No Oversight Votes	The program tripled from 28 to 62 cameras across 3 amendments. The Third Amendment was approved administratively under a 10% change order threshold — no council vote, no new public comment. Total spent: \$565,283. Community votes held: 0.

Source: CPRA Request C000108-020325 · City of Corona · March 2025 · Full investigation: deflock-corona.org/corona-flock-accountability.html

FLOCK'S OWN PATENT SAYS —

Patent US11416545B1

What it describes	"System and Method for Object Based Query of Video Content Captured by a Dynamic Surveillance Network." Identifies and classifies people by race, gender, height, weight, and clothing using neural networks. Stores data in searchable databases queryable across the entire national network — without a warrant.
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Figure 5A specifically	Shows the neural network's object classification architecture — not just plates and vehicles, but humans, animals, and physical attributes. This is the diagram Flock does not put in their sales brochure.
What it means for Corona	Hardware already deployed in Corona is capable of far more than plate reading. These capabilities can be unlocked via software update — no new cameras needed. No Corona ordinance currently prevents this. The contract contains no restriction.

Read the patent: patents.google.com/patent/US11416545B1

FLOCK NOVA —

The Next Step They're Already Taking

What is Nova?	Flock's 'public safety data platform' combining ALPR data with jail records, arrest records, public records, OSINT, and — until public reporting stopped them — commercial data broker and breach data. All searchable from one interface, without a warrant.
What it does	Type a name, plate, phone, or address and instantly pull everything connected across jurisdictions — in Flock's own words, a "Google-like search experience." No warrant. No judge. No oversight.
What experts said	EFF: "dystopian panopticon." ACLU: "authoritarian tracking infrastructure." After 404 Media broke the story, Flock removed the data-breach component — and kept everything else.
What it means for Corona	Every Corona camera is already part of the network Nova searches. No opt-in required. Your plate data — every trip, every timestamp — can become part of a cross-jurisdictional dossier. No city policy currently prohibits this. The contract explicitly requires data be shareable 'with other agencies as needed.'

404 Media investigation (May 2025): 404media.co/flock-safety-nova-surveillance-platform · EFF: eff.org/deeplinks/2025/05/flock-safety-expanding-its-dystopian-panopticon