

March 12, 2026

Chair Spiker, Vice-Chair Burgelis, and Members of the Public Safety & Health Committee:

The ACLU of Wisconsin appreciates the opportunity to submit a written comment regarding Item 9 on this morning's agenda, File # [251665](#) (Communication from the Milwaukee Police Department relating to its use of cameras including, but not limited to, body cameras, automated license plate readers, and point-tilt-zoom cameras, as well as those provided by Flock Safety).

On February 4, 2026, we sent [written comments](#) to the Finance & Personnel Committee regarding File # [251653](#) (Communication from the Department of Administration informing the Finance and Personnel Committee of waivers granted for certain single or sole source contracts or contract amendments) raising, in part, the following concerns:

- MPD and DOA have bypassed Finance & Personnel Committee approval—and democratic accountability—by entering into single/sole source contracts for Flock and other surveillance technology based on the purported “proprietary” nature of these products;
- Flock Safety's nationwide information sharing network allows federal, state, and local law enforcement to directly (or indirectly) access sensitive license plate data from Wisconsin municipalities and counties without a warrant or meaningful oversight;
- According to an analysis of Flock audit data detailing searches between January 1 – May 28, 2025, the MPD/STAC performed the most Flock searches of all Wisconsin law enforcement agencies during that time-period, with “[n]early 40,000 searches originating from MPD alone appear[ing] in network audit data from the Wauwatosa Police Department”;
- Flock data have been used for federal immigration enforcement through side-door access provided by many local law enforcement agencies across the country; and
- There is a disturbing trend in Wisconsin and across the country regarding law enforcement abuse of Flock/ALPR technology to stalk and harass people, in most cases women.

While profoundly alarming, it was unfortunately not a surprise that 1) an MPD officer allegedly searched Flock 179 times to see the locations of his romantic partner and their ex, and 2) an investigation into the officer only occurred after the alleged victim discovered searches of their license plate on the website www.havebeenflocked.com.

We are deeply grateful to Council members who sent a [letter](#) to the Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission on March 11, 2026 expressing urgent concerns regarding the lack of oversight and transparency surrounding Flock license plate readers and urging the immediate implementation of reforms.

As the ACLU of Wisconsin and 18 other community organizations wrote in a May 21, 2025 [letter](#) to the Council, it is critical that our community has a say in if and how invasive surveillance technologies are used, how they are deployed against residents, if and how their data is stored and shared with third parties, and whether spending our limited tax dollars on surveillance technologies is the best way to promote public safety.

In a discussion regarding MPD’s use of cameras (including ALPRs), it’s important to understand the realities of how MPD’s entire surveillance infrastructure—including various camera networks—are integrated. Notably, MPD has a contract with the company Fusus¹ (Contract # E19690); in 2024, Axon [announced](#) that it acquired the company Fusus. **The premise of Fusus is to integrate most aspects of MPD’s public and private surveillance infrastructure and also employ artificial intelligence.**

Note, the Axon product “Fusus” is not to be confused with “Fusion.” Milwaukee’s Southeastern Threat Analysis Center (STAC) is one of two fusion centers in Wisconsin. There is a Fusion Division within MPD, and MPD participates in the STAC. **The premise of fusion centers is information sharing among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.**

Below is non-exhaustive list of surveillance technology used by MPD that may be integrated into the Fusus platform or may be accessible to federal, state, and local partners through the Fusion Center.

How Are Milwaukee Residents Currently Surveilled?	
Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) MPD Contract: Flock Safety	The contract with Flock Safety was recently amended to provide additional funds “for the renewal of licenses for MPD’s thirty-one (31) city-funded Flock cameras.” MPD SOP 735 – Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR)
Community Connect Surveillance Camera Network MPD Contract: Fusus/Axon	August 2023 MPD Press Release https://communityconnectmilwaukee.org/
Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS) Technology (“Drones”) MPD Contract: Skidio	MPD SOI: Airborne Assessment Team MPD Airborne Assessment Team Flight Dashboard
Cell-Site Simulators (“Stingrays”) MPD Contract: Tactical Support Equipment, Inc.	Cell-site simulators, also known as “international mobile subscriber identity (IMSI) catchers” or “Stingrays,” mimic a cell phone communications tower, causing your cell phone to communicate with it and disrupting the phone’s connection with a real cell tower. This communications link gives the Stingray the ability to track your location and intercept data from your phone. MPD’s contract with Tactical Support Equipment was extended until 2028.
Pen Register and Trap and Trace Intercepts MPD Contract: PenLink	PenLink produces technologies to help police intercept and analyze phone or social media data. A MPD PenLink contract renewal document from 2023 describes software that can “intercept, analyze, and map real-time telco pen register data,” and “autoload, analyze, and map CDRs, cell tower data, and cell phone forensics data.”
Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) MPD Contract: Babel Street	MPD acquired an open source intelligence tool ahead of the RNC, entering a contract with AI powered software company called Babel Street.
“Gunshot Detection” Microphones MPD Contract: SoundThinking	Milwaukee has a contract with the company SoundThinking (formerly known as “ShotSpotter”). A 2024 data leak revealing locations of ShotSpotter sensors across the country, including Milwaukee, highlighted the wildly disproportionate placement of ShotSpotter sensors in Black and Latino neighborhoods.

¹ As a contract/PO amendment request form from November 2024 described, “FUSUS software enables MPD to consolidate disparate video surveillance technology platforms (3) into one platform: Real Time Crime Center platform. In addition, FUSUS enables MPD to work with the Community Connect Milwaukee program to connect ~1,300 private home security surveillance cameras to the consolidated platform. Community Connect Milwaukee enables MPD to send emails to registered households when a crime occurs and access live video from the community. Finally, FUSUS facilitates access to private businesses’ surveillance videos to allow access to live feeds from video cameras.” A May 2023 “request for exception to bidding” form identified “patented product only available from the manufacturer” and “proprietary software” as the reasons for a sole source contract.

**Other SOPs Relevant to MPD's
Surveillance Infrastructure**

- [SOP 260 – Record Retention](#)
- [SOP 680 – Computer Equipment, Applications and Systems](#)
- [SOP 682 – Generative Artificial Intelligence](#)
- [SOP 730 – In-Car Camera Systems](#)
- [SOP 745 – ShotSpotter Gunshot Location System](#)
- [SOP 747 – Body Worn Cameras \(BWC\)](#)