

Flock Camera Program : Keeping New Kent County Safe

The New Kent Sheriff's Office is committed to public safety through responsible, transparent, and accountable use of technology. Here's everything you need to know about our Automated License Plate Reader program.

NEW KENT SHERIFF'S OFFICE

PUBLIC SAFETY TECHNOLOGY



How the Program Began

The Flock camera program launched in 2023 through a strategic partnership with the **Virginia State Police**, when the Sheriff's Office was awarded a **HEAT (Help Eliminate Auto Theft) Grant** to purchase the first four Flock ALPR cameras. From that foundation, the program grew steadily and responsibly.

Subsequent expansion was funded through an **ARPA Grant** (four additional cameras) and a second Virginia State Police HEAT Grant. Today, the program's annual operational costs are fully covered by the **New Kent County operational budget**—demonstrating the County's sustained investment to proactive law enforcement.

Program at a Glance

01

2023

First cameras go live via VSP HEAT Grant

02

Expansion

ARPA Grant adds four more cameras

03

Today

16 ALPR + 3 Condor PTZ cameras countywide

The Camera Network Today

The Sheriff's Office has deployed a comprehensive, strategically positioned network of cameras across New Kent County to maximize coverage and public safety impact.

16 Flock ALPR Cameras

Automated License Plate Reader cameras capture vehicle data at key locations, generating real-time investigative leads for deputies and detectives around the clock.

3 Condor PTZ Cameras

Pan-Tilt-Zoom live-view cameras provide situational awareness capability, enabling real-time monitoring of developing public safety incidents when needed.

Approved Locations Only

All cameras are placed at VDOT-permitted rights-of-way, County-owned property, or private property with explicit owner permission — never installed arbitrarily.



Crimes the System Has Helped Solve

Since going live, the Flock system has become an **invaluable investigative resource**, providing leads that have assisted deputies and detectives in solving and investigating a wide range of serious offenses throughout New Kent County.

The screenshot displays the Flock system's search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs: 'Search' (highlighted), 'Lookup', 'Convoy', 'Multi-Geo', and 'Visual'. Below the navigation bar, the 'Investigative Purpose' section is visible, featuring a search icon and a red asterisk indicating required fields. It includes an 'Offense Type' dropdown menu with the placeholder 'Enter offense type', a 'Case No. / Call for Service No.' text input with the placeholder 'Enter a case or call for service nu', and a 'Reason' text input with the placeholder 'Enter search reason (required)'. The 'Vehicle Details' section follows, containing a 'License Plate' text input with the placeholder 'Enter license plate', a 'Plate State' dropdown menu with the placeholder 'Any', a checkbox for 'Include Partial Plate', a checkbox for 'Statewide (VA)', and a 'Vehicle Signature' text input with the placeholder 'Enter body, make, color, etc'. A search button with a magnifying glass icon is located at the bottom right of the form.

A Wide Range of Investigations Supported

VIOLENT CRIME

- Attempted Murders & Shootings
- Malicious Wounding
- Abductions & Robbery
- Illegal Firearms Sales
- Distribution of Narcotics

PROPERTY CRIME

- Burglary & Larceny from Vehicles
- Stolen Vehicles & License Plates
- Multiple Stolen Property Offenses
- Hit-and-Run Crashes
- Elder Fraud & Financial Scams

PUBLIC SAFETY & MISSING PERSONS

- Missing & Endangered Persons
- Runaway Juveniles
- Suicidal Persons
- Endangered Elderly Individuals
- Wanted Persons & Eluding Law Enforcement



Beyond criminal cases, the camera network has helped **reunite families** with missing loved ones and locate vulnerable individuals who may have been in danger.

Where Cameras Are —and Are Not —Placed

Camera placement is deliberate, lawful, and respectful of community privacy. Every installation site must meet strict criteria before a camera is deployed.



VDOT Rights-of-Way

Cameras at roadsides require a permit from the Virginia Department of Transportation, ensuring placement complies with state traffic and infrastructure regulations.



County-Owned Property

Cameras may be placed on New Kent County-owned property, consistent with the County's public safety mission and its role as a responsible steward of public infrastructure.



Private Property with Consent

Where private property provides strategic public safety value, cameras are installed only with the **explicit, documented permission** of the property owner —never without consent.

How Your Data Is Protected

The Sheriff's Office strictly follows the **Code of Virginia** governing all aspects of ALPR data: development, operation, retention, access, auditing, and sharing. These are not optional guidelines —they are binding legal requirements that we take seriously.

21-Day Retention Only

All data collected by Flock cameras is automatically deleted after **21 days** in accordance with Virginia state law and agency policy. No data is kept longer than legally permitted.

No Federal Sharing

The Sheriff's Office does **not** share Flock data with federal agencies. Data is shared only with Virginia law enforcement agencies, and only as expressly authorized by state law for legitimate purposes.

Virginia-Only Partnerships

Information is shared exclusively within the Commonwealth of Virginia and only for verified, lawful law enforcement purposes —never with out-of-state agencies.

Every Search Requires Documented Justification

Accessing the Flock system is not as simple as entering a plate number. The following requirements must be met before a search is permitted:

Every single search conducted within the system must meet all four of the

1

Case or Incident Number

A valid, active case or incident number must be linked to every search —no anonymous or undocumented queries are permitted.

2

Qualifying Purpose

The search must be tied to a legitimate criminal investigation or documented public safety need —not general curiosity or surveillance.

3

Pre-Approved Offense Category

The criminal offense category driving the search must be pre-approved under agency policy, limiting use to serious and appropriate matters.

4

Documented Investigative Reason

The specific reason for conducting the search must be written down and logged —creating an auditable record for every query in the system.

Accountability: Monthly Audits and Zero Tolerance for Misuse

Our Audit Commitment

All searches are reviewed on a **monthly basis** by agency leadership to verify compliance with policy and the Code of Virginia. No search goes unreviewed.

Any query that appears improper, inaccurate, or outside authorized use is flagged for **immediate review**. If misuse is confirmed, a formal administrative and/or criminal investigation is launched without delay.

What Happens When Issues Arise

- **Flag** — Suspicious or out-of-policy search is identified during audit
- **Review** — Immediate leadership review of the search context and circumstances
- **Investigate** — Formal administrative and/or criminal investigation is initiated
- **Act** — Appropriate disciplinary or criminal action is taken where warranted

Our Commitment to You

The Flock camera program is one of the Sheriff's Office's most powerful tools

—but its power is guided by principle. We remain unwavering in our commitment to the citizens of New Kent County.



Public Safety First

Solving violent crimes, recovering stolen property, and locating vulnerable individuals remain our top priorities.



Full Transparency

We openly communicate how the system works, what data is collected, how long it's kept, and how it is used.



Legal Compliance

Every aspect of the program follows the Code of Virginia —no exceptions, no shortcuts, no gray areas.



Privacy Protected

Strict access controls, short retention periods, and monthly audits safeguard the civil liberties of every resident.



Questions about the program? Contact the New Kent Sheriff's Office directly. We welcome community dialogue and are committed to keeping our residents informed.