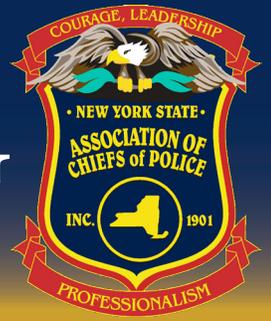


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Monthly Newsletter for New York State Law Enforcement Leaders

April 2023

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Glen Cove City Council OKs Contract for License Plate Reading Cameras for Police

By Ted Phillips

*The following article appeared in Newsday
on March 31, 2023.*

New license plate reading cameras paired with a cloud-based database are coming to Glen Cove to boost its police department's ability to identify and track vehicles suspected in crimes.

The Glen Cove City Council approved the contract with Atlanta-based Flock Group Inc., which uses the name Flock Safety for its products and services, at its meeting on Tuesday.

While license plate reading cameras are not new, the company touts a centralized database and artificial intelligence that can record

details such as a vehicle's color, make, bumper stickers, decals and racks. The company's vast reach — it claims its cameras record 1 billion license plate captures each month across the United States — has raised privacy concerns from the American Civil Liberties Union.



Glen Cove Police Chief William Whitton at department headquarters.
Photo Credit: Danielle Silverman

“It's just a good investigatory tool for us should we have a serious crime,” Glen

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Did you know that law enforcement officers are at greater risk for suicide than the general population because of the unique stressors of their jobs? During this training, law enforcement officers will:

- Develop innovative strategies that promote health and wellness.
- Discover ways to interrupt unhealthy behaviors and overcome the stigma of help-seeking.
- Discuss how they can provide support to fellow officers.
- Develop a personal action plan that includes resources that they can access to continue their health and wellness journey.

This project was supported by Grant No. 2018-VI-BX-K003 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART). Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Cove Police Chief William Whitton said. For example, if there was a robbery and police had a description of the vehicle and the approximate time of the incident, they could look for matches in the system, he said.

“If anything like that was populated in any of those cameras, we would then be able to see a picture of the vehicle along with the license plate,” Whitton said. “Then we would have to do good old-fashioned detective work to see if that car was actually involved.”

The motion-activated cameras can be mounted on poles and powered by a solar panel. The images and data they collect are transmitted using mobile phone technology. The city plans to install 10 cameras to monitor vehicles traveling in and out of the city, officials said.

Glen Cove joins other Long Island municipalities that have added license plate reading cameras in recent months, some using state grants.

“It’s going to be a tool and good resource for them to solve crime.”

—Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck

The city is to pay Flock Group \$53,500 under a two-year contract. The money will come out of the police department’s budget, Whitton said.

Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck said the city council approved the service in response to a request from the police department.

“It’s going to be a tool and good resource for them to solve crime,” Panzenbeck said.

The American Civil Liberties Union criticized Flock Safety’s services in a report last year, calling it a “giant centralized government surveillance network” that could one day give law enforcement unprecedented information about the movements of “virtually any vehicle” in America.

“License plate readers indiscriminately collect billions of location records nationwide and threaten to expose New Yorkers’ daily lives to an entirely new level of police tracking and spying,” Daniel Schwarz, senior privacy and technology strategist at the New York Civil Liberties Union, said in a statement Thursday. “People don’t want to live in a surveillance state and New Yorkers deserve regulation over this increasingly dangerous technology.”

According to the contract with Glen Cove, the company will delete collected data after 30 days, but police departments can download the data and store it. Flock Group can retain aggregate, anonymized data that it collects, according to the contract.



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Panzenbeck said that in an age when most people carry cellphones that can take pictures and record video, “Our privacy is already invaded.”

Whitton said he was interested in Flock Safety’s services in part because other Long Island municipalities are also using them and because they can track vehicles that travel across municipal borders.

Old Westbury Police Chief Stuart Cameron, whose department is already using the service, said law enforcement agencies share license plate information with each other.

“In many cases, the people that are coming into the North Shore of Nassau County are victimizing residents across all of these communities,” Cameron said.

Flock Safety spokeswoman Holly Beilin said in an email that the company has more than 25 clients on Long Island, including homeowner associations, neighborhood associations and law enforcement agencies.



“Law enforcement agencies may elect to share access to their cameras to other agencies, although they are not required to and are not automatically enrolled in sharing,” Beilin said. “HOAs do not have access to any cameras but their own, and they may grant their own local law enforcement agency access to those cameras if both opt in to that sharing.”

enforcement agency access to those cameras if both opt in to that sharing.”

Property crimes in Glen Cove were up last year, with 133 reported, including eight motor vehicle thefts, in the first nine months compared with 94 property crimes for all of 2021, according to data from the state Division of Criminal Justice Services.

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Officers Did What Had To Be Done

My heart breaks for the families of the six people who died in the shooting at The Covenant School in Nashville, Tennessee. Over the course of my career I've struggled with the notion that our children face a never ending threat of violence in their schools. Like so many others, our department has worked hard to formulate plans, reinforce infrastructure, and train until our response is second nature. Still, it sometimes feels like we aren't gaining ground.

These past few days I've taken dozens of calls from families demanding action. They're demanding staffing and training. They want more, not less. This leaves me wondering where we go from here. How can we move the dial in a meaningful way to give our kids an opportunity to learn in schools that feel safe and actually provide them with the type of security we promise.

I've long advocated for more training in law enforcement. As executives, too many times we find our selves too busy to train but when we stop learning we stop bringing value to our communities. In March our Association directly addressed this issue with the New Chiefs Training Course. This five day training program provided guidance to more than 40 newly promoted law enforcement executives and command level officers who aspire to move up. This type of training, education, and networking keeps police officers sharp, even after leaving the field so we can continue to lead our agencies in a productive way.

In the Nashville school shooting we saw the result of quality training. Officers Rex Engelbert and Michael

Collazo displayed the discipline and courage I think we all would hope to embody if faced with such difficult circumstances. Their actions were not only a testament to their upbringings, department culture, and military experience, but a community dedicated to equipping their officers and educating them on appropriate tactics.



The challenges our communities acknowledged during months of protest and a year of reform are not gone. We continue to be charged with being fair and just but it cannot be forgotten that we must also be courageous and decisive in our actions. As we approach the summer months when schools are empty or less crowded, consider working with educators and administrators to move officers into the schools. Productive training can take place in those educational settings at times when scholars are not present so that, should the need arise, our officers know where to go, what to expect, and what to do to protect our children.



Real-Life Heroes: Officers Rex Engelbart and Michael Collazo were the team members who fired at Hale, killing her. Collazo has been a member of the force for nine years, while Engelbart has been a member for four years with the Metro Nashville Police Department.

keep kids safe. But it's hard to ignore the sense of pride we've seen from staff who watched as those two officers set aside their own personal safety, stared danger in the face, and continued to press forward. That is courage of the highest order. This is the time to take advantage of those positive sentiments and move forward with training, preparation, and reinforcement of facilities to ensure we're ready if we ever face the unthinkable. This is the time to move the dial and take action that will make our kids safe.

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The IACP Trust Building Campaign



I recently attended the IACP midyear conference and received a briefing on the IACP trust building campaign. The IACP is encouraging chiefs to take part in the campaign to assist in enhancing public trust. The campaign is a roadmap to specific strategies.

To join the campaign police agencies must pledge to implement key policies and practices over the next 36 months. These policies and practices represent six key focus areas that are essential to enhancing trust and collaboration between communities and police.

Bias Free Policing:

- Establish a policy on bias free policing
- Increase transparency and accountability on police use of force. Publish complaint process, policies, and data.
- Provide officers with training and coaching on cultural responsibility. Train officers on the unique makeup and needs of their communities based on country of origin, religious and cultural practices, etc. which may conflict with local laws.

Use of Force

- Adopt the elements of the National Consensus Policy on Use of Force into the agency's policies and procedures. Publish use of force policies.
- Provide regular training on the agency's use of force policies. Training should include scenario-based exercises that incorporate de-escalation techniques.
- Document all use of force beyond handcuffing in agency records. Review these records on an annual basis to identify trends that need to be addressed in policy and training.
- Participate in the National Use of Force database.

Leadership and Culture

- Establish an agency policy or statement that recognizes the sanctity of life and the importance of preserving human life during all encounters. Adopting the IACP Oath of Honor (Revised 2020) will meet this requirement.
- Participate in accreditation, certification, or credentialing process that utilizes an independent organization which reviews an agency's policies and procedures.
- Ensure training and policy reflect a culture of equity, diversion, inclusion, accountability and that promote procedural justice for community members and employees alike.
- Establish an employee wellness program that includes both physical and mental health.
- Conduct a culture assessment of the organization, with steps taken to address areas of concern and opportunity.
- Provide body armor to all officers and require the wearing of soft body armor while on uniformed patrol.

Recruitment, Hiring, and Retention

- Approach recruiting based on a guardian officer ideology rather than through a warrior mentality.
- Establish minimum educational standards or equivalency requirements that can be met by prior life experience. Provide officers with the opportunity for advanced education and training opportunities throughout their careers.
- Verify potential hires with the national decertification database before hiring experienced officers.
- Include measures of problem-solving, trust-building, and cultural responsibility in metrics of officer performance.





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The IACP Trust Building Campaign (continued)

Victim Services

- Train officers in Trauma-Informed response.
- Train officers on best practices while providing resources and tools for communicating with community members who do not speak English or whose ability to communicate is impaired.
- Establish partnerships to provide for mental health, substance abuse, and youth deflection/diversion resources in their community.

Community Relations

- Educate communities on the dynamics of policing and set reasonable expectations for their police. Establish shared expectations of the role police have in the

community and solicit input from the community on agency policies and procedures.

- Establish a clear and timely complaint process that does not require written or sworn statements to submit. Complaint processes and applicable policies should be accessible to all.
- Conduct a regular recurring survey of the community to measure the level of trust in the police.
- Establish written strategies to engage with youth and marginalized groups in the community to foster positive relationships and build trust.

Agencies and organizations demonstrating a serious commitment to implementing the key action items in all 6 areas will become publicly recognized members of the Trust Building Campaign.

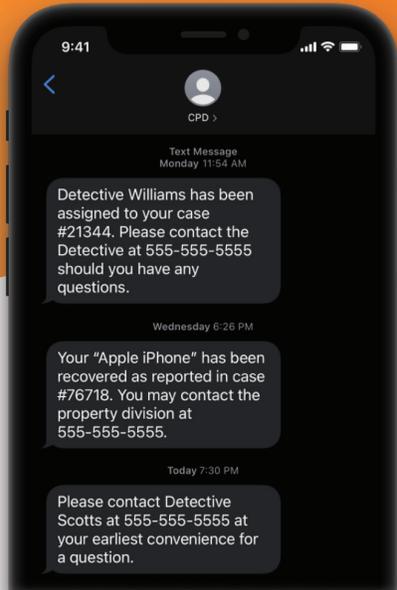
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***Neil Blanchard, Senior Dispatcher
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**(Ret.) Chief Garcia
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Chief Doss Retires



Robert Doss retired as the Town of New Windsor Police Chief after 25 years of service to the agency. New Windsor PD held a walkout ceremony for Chief Doss on February 16th, 2023, he has been the Chief at New Windsor for four years. Doss is moving on to be the Deputy Orange County emergency services commissioner for police services.

Lieutenant Daniel Valeri was promoted to the position of Chief of Police for the New Windsor Police Department.

New Windsor Supervisor George Meyers called Doss “truly a professional” and thanked him for his many years of service.

NYSACOP congratulates Chief Doss and Chief Valeri.

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Town of Fishkill Police Department

March 25, 2023

Junior Police Officer, Christopher Mazzuca, came by the police station yesterday to meet with our officers and share his artwork, which is now proudly displayed at the PD!

Chris's Dad is a Town of Fishkill volunteer fireman, and Chris's dream is to work in the Town of Fishkill Police Department and volunteer as a fireman like his Dad.

Chris has become our junior partner in school. He keeps the officers informed of all the activity that goes on during the school day. He loves anything to do with the police department and wears his junior police badge every day.



Chris is pictured here with his friends Officers Anderson, Aluisio, Sica and Chief Dworkin.

Village of Ardsley Police Benevolent Association

March 31, 2023

Happy Easter to all that celebrate from the Ardsley Police Department!

