

MEDIA ADVISORY: Press Conference in Advance of Berkeley Flock Vote

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Berkeley Mayor, Councilmembers, Immigration Advocates, and Faith Leaders Rally Against Contracts with Flock ahead of Berkeley City Council Vote on May 7

WHAT: Press conference and rally to demand the Berkeley City Council vote no on any contracts with Flock Safety.

WHEN: Thursday, May 7th from 4-5pm in advance of the Special City Council meeting at 5pm

WHERE: Outside the Berkeley Unified School District Boardroom (1231 Addison Street, Berkeley, CA 94702). Ample street parking; 15 minute walk from North Berkeley BART.

WHO: Mayor Adena Ishii, Councilmember Cecilia Lunaparra (District 7), Councilmember Igor Tregub (District 4), **The Berkeley Immigration Collaborative** (comprised of East Bay Sanctuary Covenant, East Bay Community Law Center, Multicultural Institute, Oasis Legal Services, and Social Justice Collaborative), **Community-based Organizations, Faith Community, and other community leaders.**

WHY: The Berkeley City Council stands to undercut over 50 years of Sanctuary City protections by approving a \$2 million contract expansion with Flock for drones, fixed surveillance cameras, license plate readers, and access to private cameras, all integrated within Flock's centralized, AI-powered software. Flock Safety, a private surveillance company with investors tied to the Trump administration, has repeatedly shared residents' sensitive data with federal immigration authorities and continues to lie about the risk and the legal liability the use of their technology poses to cities and residents. As a result, more than 75 jurisdictions across the United States have canceled their contracts with Flock including Mountain View, Santa Cruz, and Los Altos Hills. The City of Berkeley must join them by prioritizing the privacy and safety of all people who live, work, and go to school in Berkeley.

Mayor Adena Ishii: *"Flock's track record raises concerns about data sharing and accountability. It becomes difficult to justify the use of Flock's services when the public's trust is compromised"*

and there are legitimate fears that data could be used to target immigrant communities or suppress First Amendment rights.”

Councilmember Cecelia Lunaparra: *“Flock keeps violating the law and getting caught in lies. How many ‘mistakes’ will it take for us to learn that we can’t trust them? I am not comfortable with waiting for my neighbors to get deported before we shut off these technologies. As a city, we can do better. We can do better than mass surveillance, and we can do better than Flock.”*

The Police Accountability Board has raised major concerns about Flock’s integrated network and the lack of any transparent competitive bidding process for selecting a vendor for this technology. Hundreds of community members have spoken in opposition to this contract in town halls and city council meetings. Advocates call on the City of Berkeley to uphold their commitment to Sanctuary by listening to their constituents and investing in community-based public safety, not a private surveillance company.

Twenty community organizations and faith leaders have endorsed the rally where speakers will urge the council to vote against contracting with Flock and in support of Mayor Ishii, Councilmember Lunaparra and Councilmember Tregub’s supplemental which would stop all contracts with Flock and initiate a competitive bidding process to identify alternative vendors that can meet the city’s needs and values without putting our communities at risk.

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Berkeley-based organizations against Berkeley’s contracts with Flock (to date):

1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations

ACLU of Northern California

Berkeley Cop Watch

Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists Social Justice Committee

Council on American-Islamic Relations, San Francisco Bay Area (CAIR-SFBA)

Cal Berkeley Democrats

EBCFA: East Bay Communities for Action

East Bay Community Law Center

East Bay Sanctuary Covenant

Fight for the Future

Green Party of Alameda County

Indivisible Berkeley

Multicultural Institute

Oasis Legal Services

R.I.S.E

Secure Justice

Social Justice Collaborative

Street Level Health Project

Tsuru for Solidarity
Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club

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EBSC has moved!

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