

Durango Community Members and Organizations Urge Support for Flock Camera Regulation Ordinance

Dear Members of the Durango City Council,

We, the undersigned community members and organizations, respectfully urge you to support the proposed Protect Our Privacy Ordinance to regulate the use of Flock Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras in Durango. We also call on our fellow residents to attend the City Council meeting on May 5th to ensure that community voices are heard on this critical issue.

Flock ALPR cameras represent a rapidly expanding form of surveillance technology. While often introduced under the premise of public safety, these systems collect and store large amounts of data about residents and visitors, often without their knowledge or meaningful consent. Without clear safeguards, this raises serious concerns about privacy, civil liberties, and the potential for misuse.

Durango now has an opportunity to take a proactive and balanced approach. The proposed Protect Our Privacy Ordinance—developed by Durango residents in collaboration with the ACLU of Colorado and the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition—offers common-sense regulations that both protect civil liberties and allow law enforcement to continue using technology within clearly defined limits.

As outlined in the ordinance:

- A **judicial warrant would be required** for agencies to access ALPR data, ensuring proper legal oversight
- Data retention would be **limited to 72 hours**, reducing the risks associated with long-term data storage
- A **community oversight board** would be established to ensure accountability and compliance
- Carefully defined **exceptions for exigent circumstances** would allow timely access when truly necessary

These provisions reflect a thoughtful and measured approach to public safety—one that prioritizes transparency, accountability, and community trust.

As Councilor Shirley Gonzales has stated, this ordinance is a “common-sense regulation that would provide important safeguards for our community while allowing our Police Department to continue to use the Flock Safety system.” This is not about eliminating tools, but about ensuring they are used responsibly and with appropriate democratic oversight.

Across the country, communities are recognizing that surveillance technologies must not be allowed to expand unchecked. Without clear policies in place, there is a risk of overreach, erosion of privacy, and disproportionate impacts on marginalized communities.

We believe that decisions of this magnitude must be made through an open and democratic process with meaningful public engagement. Residents deserve to know how surveillance tools are used, what data is collected, how long it is stored, and who has access.

We urge the Durango City Councils to:

- Support the Protect Our Privacy Ordinance
- Ensure strong transparency and accountability measures
- Uphold community oversight in decisions about surveillance technologies

Durango is strongest when decisions are made with the trust and participation of its people. This ordinance is an important step toward that goal.

Sincerely,

Community Organizations and groups

ACLU of Colorado
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition
DeFlock Durango Coalition
Compañeros: Four Corners Immigrant Resource Center
La Plata Food Equity Coalition, The Good Food Collective

Additional Signatories

Red Cliffs Construction LLC
Rachel Boyle (community member)