

EXTERNAL CONTEXT: RICHMOND'S FLOCK AUDIT OVERSIGHT MODEL

City of Richmond, Virginia - 2026

Important: This is an outside comparison showing one city's approach to oversight. It is **not evidence about Gulfport's conduct** and does not establish what Gulfport is legally required to do.

Richmond's published audit practice

The Richmond Police Department states that it conducts **monthly audits** of personnel use of Flock automatic license plate readers and publishes **quarterly audit reports** on its public Flock Safety page.

First-quarter 2026 audit finding

Richmond reported that a routine first-quarter audit identified a single policy violation involving an authorized police user. A sergeant, while assisting a homicide investigation, provided an ALPR image to an FBI special agent. Richmond policy prohibited sharing ALPR data with federal agencies or agencies outside Virginia.

Oversight element	Richmond example
Audit cadence	Richmond says Flock ALPR use by personnel is audited monthly.
Public reporting	Richmond publishes quarterly audit reports on its Flock Safety page.
Q1 2026 result	One policy violation was identified involving an authorized user.
Response	The incident was reported to Virginia State Police; Richmond consulted the Commonwealth's Attorney; an internal investigation followed; the sergeant's ALPR access was deactivated.
Q2 2026 result	Richmond's public Flock page reports no violations of Virginia law for the second quarter of 2026.

Why this comparison is useful

The Richmond example shows that routine auditing can do more than document compliance after the fact: it can identify a concrete policy problem, trigger investigation, and produce a public record of the response. That makes Richmond relevant as an example of what active oversight can look like without treating every ALPR use as improper.

Richmond Police Chief Rick Edwards described the audit process as an important safeguard for balancing privacy, public safety, and compliance with law.

Original Richmond sources

Richmond Police - Flock Safety page

<https://rva.gov/police/flock-safety>

Routine ALPR Audit Identifies Single Policy Violation - April 30, 2026

<https://rva.gov/index.php/press-releases-and-announcements/news/routine-alpr-audit-identifies-single-policy-violation>

Publication note: This PDF summarizes Richmond's official public materials; it does not reproduce them in full.