

EXTERNAL CONTEXT: FLORIDA ALPR POLICY CONCERNS

Gov. Ron DeSantis comments on automated license-plate readers - August 26, 2026

Important: This document summarizes statewide political and policy context. It is **not a legal determination about Gulfport** and is not evidence that Gulfport misused Flock technology.

What DeSantis said

At an August 26, 2026 appearance at Florida International University, Gov. Ron DeSantis called automated license-plate readers "out of control" and urged legislative action to curb the technology in Florida.

"I think these cameras, the license plate readers, I think it's out of control."

Coverage of the remarks also reported that DeSantis warned against allowing the technology to develop into a broader surveillance system and questioned the scale and governance of its use.

Why this matters as Florida context

Context point	What it means
State-level concern	The Governor's remarks show that ALPR privacy and governance concerns have reached the highest level of Florida state government.
Call for legislation	DeSantis called for state legislative action addressing automated license-plate readers.
Not a Gulfport finding	The remarks did not determine whether Gulfport complied with law or policy and did not address Gulfport's specific records.
Broader debate	Florida reporting reflects an active debate over public-safety benefits, privacy, data sharing, and the scope of local oversight.

Balanced reading

Florida law-enforcement agencies continue to cite ALPR systems as useful for locating stolen vehicles, wanted persons, missing or endangered people, and developing investigative leads. The statewide policy debate is therefore not simply about whether the technology can help police; it is also about what limits, oversight, transparency, and accountability should accompany its use.

Sources

Florida Politics - August 26, 2026

[Flock off? Ron DeSantis says automated license plate readers "out of control," warns of "surveillance state"](#)

Central Florida Public Media - August 26, 2026

[DeSantis says license plate readers are "out of control."](#)

Publication note: This PDF summarizes and cites reporting on the Governor's remarks; it does not reproduce the full articles.