

EXTERNAL CONTEXT: U.S. SENATE INVESTIGATION OF FLOCK SAFETY

Sen. Josh Hawley / Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Counterterrorism - August 26, 2026

Important: This document summarizes a congressional investigation and request for information. It is **not a finding that Flock Safety violated the law**, and it is not evidence that Gulfport engaged in misconduct.

What the Senate investigation is examining

On August 26, 2026, Sen. Josh Hawley, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Counterterrorism, announced an investigation into Flock Safety's collection, retention, and dissemination of data generated by its AI-powered camera network.

Hawley's letter to Flock CEO Garrett Langley asked the company to provide documents and information concerning safeguards for Americans' data, who can access the system, how data is shared, and how Flock's network is governed.

Areas of information requested

Inquiry area	What the investigation seeks to understand
Data collection and retention	How Flock collects vehicle data, how long data is retained, and what internal rules govern that information.
Access and dissemination	Who can access Flock data, including law-enforcement and other entities, and how sharing relationships are controlled.
Camera network and placement	Information about the scope and deployment of Flock's camera network.
Safeguards and misuse prevention	Policies, controls, and technical safeguards intended to prevent abuse or unauthorized access.
Documents and records	The letter requested responsive materials by September 8, 2026 and stated that further congressional process could follow if necessary.

Flock's reported response

In contemporaneous reporting, Flock said it was committed to improving privacy protections and to working with communities and civil-liberties groups. That response should be read as the company's position while the Senate inquiry is pending; it does not resolve the questions raised by the investigation.

Why this matters as national context

The investigation shows that questions about ALPR data access, retention, sharing, safeguards, and oversight have moved beyond individual cities into congressional scrutiny. For a local government considering renewal of an ALPR contract, that national scrutiny can be relevant background when deciding whether to review local safeguards and governance before extending a long-term agreement.

The Senate inquiry does not dictate Gulfport's decision and does not establish that Gulfport's current practices are unlawful. It is best used as context supporting careful local review rather than as proof of wrongdoing.

Sources

Official Senate source - August 26, 2026

[Chairman Hawley Investigates AI-Powered Flock Cameras Amidst Privacy Concerns](#)

Axios - August 26, 2026

[Senate Republican investigates Flock cameras](#)

Publication note: This PDF summarizes the official Senate announcement and contemporaneous reporting; it does not reproduce either source in full.