



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 23, 2025

The NAACP Oakland Branch calls on the City of Oakland and the Oakland City Council to continue to fund and activate Flock Safety Camera System to Combat Rising Crime

Oakland, CA— As crime rates continue to escalate across our community, The Oakland Branch of the NAACP strongly urges the city to take immediate action to continue to fund and activate the Flock Safety camera system already in place. These cameras have proven effective in other American cities and are a critical tool in combating the surge of criminal activity in our area.

Over the past several years, our city has experienced a significant increase in theft, property crimes, smash-and-grab incidents, and violent assaults. In 2023, Oakland reported a 20% rise in violent crime, with a 35% decline in homicides in 2024, attributed to targeted interventions. However, property crimes remain a persistent challenge. With 189 million license plate scans recorded by Flock cameras from July to December 2024 alone, the violent crime law enforcement case clearance rate has increased by 13%. *

The Flock Safety system, which includes remote license plate readers, cameras, and drones, has already been deployed in key areas to aid law enforcement in deterring and investigating criminal activity. This technology has demonstrated measurable success in other communities, providing real-time data to law enforcement and helping prevent crimes before they occur.

We call on the city council to take immediate action to continue funding the monitoring and management of these devices. The infrastructure is already in place; what is needed now is the political and financial will to ensure the system is actively used to protect our neighborhoods, deter criminals, and support our police officers in keeping our city safe. Our community cannot afford to lose any momentum on public safety. Supporting and fully utilizing these tools is a practical, effective step toward reducing crime and safeguarding our families, local businesses, and public spaces.

The NAACP is deeply concerned about the role of the Oakland Privacy Commission which has severely limited the placing of cameras in Oakland. Unlike Oakland, other cities widely utilize cameras to assist in combatting illegal dumping and other unlawful activities. The NAACP believes that resources devoted to support this commission should be used for fighting crime rather than making it more difficult to combat crime. The City Council should abolish this unnecessary commission.

For more information, please contact:

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* This data was reported by the Oakland Police Department and cited in a news article by ABC7 News on September 4, 2025. According to the article, and as reported by Flock Safety, the Flock Safety cameras in Oakland read 189 million license plates from July to December 2024. Multiple vehicles may have passed multiple Flock cameras on multiple occasions yielding this result.