

Kalamazoo Flock Audit Logs - Complete Release

6 months of every search run against the City of Kalamazoo's Flock Safety camera network. 116,017 searches. January 1 through June 30, 2026.

Obtained by FOIA. Free to use, with no email address required and no conditions attached.

Start here if you're a reporter

Where this came from

City of Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety, FOIA request **#P022224-061526**, filed in June 2026.

The City partially denied it on July 8, 2026. On the audit logs the denial said the records "are not held in the regular course of business," and that the City was not obligated to create a new public record or make a compilation or summary. Appealed the same day.

Then, before the appeal was decided, the City supplemented its production on its own initiative. On July 22 the audit logs arrived, license plate and case number columns already redacted. A camera deployment tracker arrived the same day, by email.

July 23, the Mayor's written determination. 2 of the 3 appealed items were upheld and 1 went moot, and which is which matters. Part 2, the data-sharing agreements, was ruled moot, because the supplement had granted that part in full. Part 3, the camera inventory, lost. The Mayor upheld the withholding of camera locations, reasoning that exact sites would let somebody map coverage and evade it. Part 5 lost too, so the plate and case number redactions stand.

The City produced 140,561 rows of records it had said were not held in the regular course of business. They arrived as 12 standing monthly Flock reports. The denial, the appeal and the determination are all in `04_The_Request_And_The_Denial`. Walk the chain yourself and check it against what I just said.

What the City redacted, and what I took out

Before releasing anything, the City redacted the License Plate column and the Case # column. All 98,737 rows that carried a plate read REDACTED. Restoring them was never an option on my end.

What the City did not redact is the free-text notes column, and operators typed things into it. Out of that column I removed **16 license plates, 32 state or offender identification numbers, 39 names** of private individuals and officers, **12 internal report numbers**, 1 street address, 1 physical description of a private person, 1 incident location specific

enough to identify somebody whose name had already come out, and 1 out-of-state county naming where a warrant came from. Each one now reads [PLATE REDACTED], [ID REDACTED], [NAME REDACTED] and so on, so you can always see that something came out and what kind of thing it was.

That is **417 rows out of 140,561**, or 0.30% of the file.

Separately, **225 case numbers** that operators typed into that same notes column were replaced with stable labels, [CASE-A] through [CASE-HQ], across 3,306 rows. Same case number, same label, every time, so you can still count how many searches a single investigation consumed. You just can't read the number.

Everything above is accounted for in REDACTION_LOG.csv: what kind of thing came out, what the text says now, and roughly how many rows it touched. Nothing else was altered, no row was deleted, and no number was changed.

How to check any of it

Method_and_Redaction.pdf documents how the file was processed and how to reproduce every figure in it, including the search patterns behind every keyword count and the SHA-256 of the master file the City delivered.

Every source document in 03_Source_Documents is byte-identical to what the City produced, and Partial_Denial_2026-07-08.pdf carries the hash of each one. Hash them yourself.

If a figure here is wrong, the underlying CSV is in this pack. Tell me and I'll post a correction.

What the records show

- **78.5% of searches of Kalamazoo's cameras were run by outside agencies.** Michigan State Police alone ran 64.2%.
- **57.2% of all searches carried no case number.** That's 66,400 of them.
- **Kalamazoo's own department documents the least of anybody on the network,** with a case number on 9.7% of its 24,954 searches. Portage, next door, documents 100%.
- **The median search touched 1,185 separate camera networks.** 86,680 searches touched more than 500.
- **54 searches were plain-English AI descriptions instead of plates.** "older sedan missing hubcap rear driver side", "a camoflaugje jeep being towed". Full text included, spelling theirs.
- **The Mayor's determination says the City produced every agreement governing outside access to this data. What arrived was 1 memorandum of understanding, with a county dispatch center.** Michigan State Police ran 64.2% of these searches.

Findings.pdf has the tables behind every one of those figures.

What's in here

00_OPEN_FIRST.pdf	this file
Findings.pdf	the numbers, with what they measure kept separate from what I argue they mean
Method_and_Redaction.pdf	how the file was processed, step by step
REDACTION_LOG.csv	an accounting of every change made
01_Audit_Logs/	
..._AS-PRODUCED_redacted.csv	the file as the City produced it, 140,561 rows
..._DEDUPED_redacted.csv	deduplicated working copy, 116,017 searches
02_Analysis/	
	10 cut-down CSVs: by agency, by category, by month, the 54 AI prompts, the 291 convoy searches, search types,
	networks per search, keyword counts, per-account counts,
	and the camera inventory
03_Source_Documents/	
	the Flock contract, the MOU, the purchase order, the quotes and invoices, the camera deployment tracker, and
	KDPS Policy 338, which is the department's own ALPR policy
04_The_Request_And_The_Denial/	
	the July 8 partial denial, the appeal, and the Mayor's written determination

Why there are 2 copies of the log. The City delivered 12 files, 2 standing monthly Flock reports for each of 6 months, combined into a single CSV. Kalamazoo PD's own searches appear in both report series, so 140,561 rows collapse to 116,017 distinct searches once you deduplicate on Flock's own `ID` column. The as-produced file is here so you can confirm nothing was removed. The deduplicated file is the one to run numbers against.

Every figure in `Findings.pdf` is computed from the deduplicated file and can be recomputed from either one.

What I am not claiming

- No specific search here is improper as far as I know. The log records that a search happened. It does not record what came back, or what anybody did with it.
- A missing case number is the absence of the only field that would let anyone check a search afterward. On its own it proves nothing about any individual query.

- No search in this release is connected to any person by name or by plate. The City redacted the plate column, and the 16 plates that leaked into the notes column are gone.
 - I am not a lawyer and nothing here is legal advice.
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Using this

Free to use, quote, republish, or build on. No permission needed. If it's useful, a credit to **Magnetic Norse - magneticnorse.com** is appreciated.

Questions about the data or about how the request was filed get answered in writing, so there's a record either way. If you find an error, tell me and I'll post a correction.

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Want to file one of these yourself

The Michigan FOIA pack is already built and free at **foia.magneticnorse.com**. Fillable PDFs, the request language that produced these records, and no email gate. It works for any Michigan agency.

This work is funded by readers at **donate.magneticnorse.com**. Central Ventures LLC is a business, not a charity, so none of it is tax deductible.

Context

The contract, the purchase order, the MOU, the camera deployment tracker and the department's own ALPR policy are all in `03_Source_Documents`, so the terms the City agreed to are checkable against the searches the City's cameras actually served.

The deployment tracker lists 42 devices, of which 30 were installed during 2021. The agreement published here is the 2025 renewal. The program is 4 years older than the contract in this pack, and the 2021 memo and quote is the earliest document the City produced.

Audit logs like these have been obtained and published in other jurisdictions, including Blount County, Alabama by Blount Tribune (blounttribune.org) in July 2026. Kalamazoo's production is unusual in that the plate column was redacted before release. Some agencies have released plate text.

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