

# DO NOT RENEW FULTON COUNTY ALPR SURVEILLANCE CONTRACTS WITHOUT AUDIT AND PUBLIC POLICY

A one-page brief for commissioners, reporters, civic groups, and allies

**\$220,000**

Vigilant Mobile LPR System  
Software Maintenance

**\$88,000**

Flock Safety Falcon Camera  
License Plate Readers

**\$307,500**

Combined Annual Cost

## WHAT ALPRS ACTUALLY DO

Automatic License Plate Readers are **not ordinary traffic cameras**. They photograph every passing vehicle, convert plates to searchable text, and build a **retrospective, searchable database of every driver's movements** over time. Vendors market real-time alerts, cross-jurisdiction data sharing, "FreeForm" plain-language vehicle search, convoy analysis, and national networks. These are **pattern-of-life surveillance tools**, not simple ticket cameras.

## CONSTITUTIONAL CONCERN: LONG-TERM LOCATION TRACKING

The U.S. Supreme Court has held that warrantless GPS tracking of a vehicle (*United States v. Jones*) and obtaining historical cell-site location records (*Carpenter v. United States*) are Fourth Amendment searches. ALPR networks create the same **comprehensive movement histories** that the Court found constitutionally suspect. Fulton County's system retains data for up to 30 months under O.C.G.A. § 35-1-22, storing detailed location records on every driver, not just suspects.

## FISCAL CONCERN: OVER \$307,500 IN ANNUAL SPENDING

The Sheriff's budget lists **\$220,000 for Vigilant LPR maintenance** and **\$88,000 for Flock Safety cameras**. The 2026 adopted budget adds another **\$72,500 Flock LPR request**. These line items are embedded alongside Fusus enterprise services, Clearview AI, building security cameras, and covert surveillance equipment, representing a **growing, unaudited surveillance stack** with no public performance review.

## RELIABILITY CONCERN: MISREADS AND FALSE POSITIVES

A documented Vallejo trial found that **35% of mobile-reader hits and 37% of fixed-reader hits were misreads**. The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators confirms that **no LPR system is 100% accurate**. False positives lead to wrongful stops, wasted officer time, and potential civil liability, yet no public audit of Fulton County's accuracy rates exists.

## EFFECTIVENESS CONCERN: NO PROVEN LOCAL IMPACT ON VIOLENT CRIME

The National Policing Institute states that rigorous ALPR studies remain few and results depend heavily on implementation. A major Atlantic City evaluation of fixed ALPR expansion **found no reduction in violent crime**. Vendor marketing claims are not independent evidence. **Fulton County has produced no independent, local proof** that its ALPR network reduces violent crime.

## VENDOR GOVERNANCE CONCERN: PRIVATIZED SURVEILLANCE INFRASTRUCTURE

Flock Safety and Vigilant (Motorola) hold and manage the data. Georgia law permits agencies to contract with **private vendors to store and maintain sensitive location data**, making a private company the custodian of residents' movement records. This creates opaque data practices, vendor lock-in, and infrastructure the county does not fully control or audit.

## THE ASK

**DELETE THE LINE ITEMS**

**OR**

**TABLE RENEWAL PENDING AUDIT**

*No renewal until there is a public audit of accuracy, effectiveness, data retention policy, and vendor oversight.*