# Why our HOA Boards have chosen Flock Automatic Licenses Plate Reader Cameras for our Subdivisions

By Mike Parsons, Estates at Windrush HOA President & Mary Matthews, Champion Forest 1-10 HOA President

Our subdivisions have partnered with Flock Safety, a national public safety operating system that specializes in community safety through the use of **automatic license plate reading (ALPR) cameras.** License plates are the #1 piece of evidence that police request in the case of criminal activity such as home and car break-ins.

Flock Safety's cameras are entirely self-sufficient; they are solar-powered and send footage via mobile technology to a secure cloud-based network unique to our community. The cameras are specifically designed to capture information about every *vehicle* that enters our community, since 70% of property crimes involve a vehicle.

Privacy is a top concern for Flock and our community. The footage and data that is collected is automatically deleted after 30 days and is **accessible directly by law enforcement agencies**. In the event of a crime, the footage can be downloaded and stored by local authorities.

Despite this technology, it is just a camera. The #1 way to deter crime is a responsibility we each own individually: lock your doors and keep your valuables out of sight. We are fortunate to live in such a safe neighborhood, but we believe that this service works to both further deter mischief crimes and provide a valuable resource to enhance the ability of law enforcement to solve crimes.

### What To Do If a Crime Occurs:

- 1. Please report it first to the police department. When filing the report, let them know your community has Flock License Plate Reading Cameras!
- 2. As the officer taking the report may not know that we have this utility in our community, always ask that they check the footage and follow up with you on the investigation of the crime.

# **Considerations:**

The existence of Flock cameras should NOT be relied upon by any individual for safety or security. Individuals are encouraged to take additional precautions to ensure the safety of their property.

Our community managers and Flock Safety are NOT law enforcement agencies and are not in a position to undertake law enforcement activities. Any illegal activity should be reported to law enforcement immediately for investigation.

### Does it work?

With every vehicle entering our subdivision having pertinent data recorded, law enforcement can match vehicles caught on a homeowner's security camera or an eyewitness sighting, to Flock captured vehicle data. That vehicle data can then be used to help pursue the perpetrators.

Does it always mean a crime is solved or a perpetrator is brought to justice? Of course not, but it is another tool in the crime-fighting toolbox.

# What is "Hot List" and how does it help?

Flock 'Hot List" alerts notify law enforcement when a known suspect vehicle is in the area. These real-time notifications work by connecting Flock cameras with data from the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and local law enforcement agencies. When a vehicle with a warrant or a stolen vehicle passes a camera, officers receive a notification enabling them to respond accordingly, and prevent the suspect from committing any further crimes.

This capability recently helped in the apprehension of four juveniles involved in burglary of motor vehicle incidences in our subdivision. The powerful combination of homeowner camera footage and Flock data meant that the vehicle the suspects were using was added to the Hot List and when the vehicle reentered the subdivision, law enforcement was notified immediately. They located the vehicle and gave chase apprehending and arresting the suspects.



A second recent example of a success story from our Flock system is when a homeowner reported hearing their vehicle being side swiped by another vehicle but didn't see who did it. They reported it and the Constable's office was able to pull the plate info using Flock data and find the guilty party.