



The Oakland Observer [@Oak_Observer](#)

Nov 18 · [165 tweets](#)

On to Flock in this second thread for the meeting devoted strictly to the Flock item

- 3 Subject: OPD Community Safety Camera System, And FLOCK Safety Contract
From: Oakland Police Department
Recommendation: Adopt A Resolution (1) Approving The Oakland Police Department Surveillance Use Policy "DGO I-32.1 - Community Safety Camera System" And The Acquisition Of Security Cameras And Related Technology; (2) Awarding A Two Year Agreement To Flock Safety For Acquisition Of Automated License Plate Reader And Pan Tilt Zoom Cameras, Operating System Technology, And Related Services At A Cost Not To Exceed Two-Million Two-Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand Five-Hundred Dollars (\$2,252,500); And (3) Waiving The Competitive Multiple-Step Solicitation Process Required For The Acquisition Of Information Technology Systems And Waiving The Local And Small Local Business Enterprise Program Requirements

[26-0189](#)

Attachments:

[View Report](#)

[View Attachment A](#)

[View Attachment B](#)

[View Attachment C](#)

[View Attachment D](#)

[View Attachment E](#)

[View Legislation](#)

[View Supplemental Report - 10/23/2025](#)

[View Supplemental Presentation - 10/23/2025](#)

[View Supplemental Report - 11/13/2025](#)

[View Supplemental Presentation - 11/13/2025](#)

Legislative History

10/16/2025 4:51 PM - 10/16/2025 4:51 PM - Scheduled to the Public Safety Committee

There's 139 speakers on Flock, per the clerk.

Lt Gabrielle Urquiza is presenting on the "Community Safety Camera Systems [OPD's appellation]"

Urquiza is going through the history of Flock, contract currently is with CHP, about 290 ALPR cams. OPD has an MOU with both Flock and CHP, OPD owns data. In second year, OPD is supposed to take over the contract, but the MOU for CHP is for three years.

Urquiza says they want to integrate additional camera systems "we did look at other

vendors...and determined there was only one other vendor at scale...but there would be significant funding required to replace system, with brand new service"

This explains the ALPR, but not the other camera systems.

Urquiza describing how different the current system is from the previous machines. Data retention is for 30 days, retained past that if its needed for an investigation



EXISTING AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READERS (ALPR)

Designed to take photos of the rear of a vehicle and capture the license plate of the vehicle.

Data captured by Flock ALPR cameras is owned by the customer (City of Oakland).

Data is retained through Flock Safety for a period of 30 days. Data determined to be related to an investigation is then downloaded and retained as evidence.

Data is only downloaded/saved if determined to be evidence related to an investigation.

California LE Agencies wishing to access OPD data must complete a sharing request. The requesting agency is required to affirmatively confirm that it will follow state law related to the use and sharing of ALPR data (SB 34 and SB 54).

Federal and out-of-state agencies are prohibited from accessing OPD's data through Flock.



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numbers

Flock is not designed to capture photos of people, [but it does capture them along with license plates if people are in the way]



WHAT ALPR DOES NOT DO

Flock ALPR is not designed to capture photos of people.

Flock does not utilize facial recognition technology on any of its platforms.

Data is not searchable by a person's demographic data.

Flock ALPR does not include any Personal Identifying Information (PII).

Flock ALPR does not contain or capture DMV data or Oakland PD RMS Data.

numbers

Urquiza: "the genesis of this is that there's significant surveillance infrastructure in

downtown, chinatown, etc..." he says that OPD wants additional cameras for those areas that lack as many private cams.

We'll see if they go into the real-time video data



COMMUNITY/PRIVATE DEVICES

Requires affirmative opt-in to share access to historical and real-time video data.

Owner/Manager retains ownership over data.

Flock OS provides OPD the capability to access data related to investigations.

Data only downloaded/saved if determined to be evidence related to a specific investigation.

Participants do not have access to OPD system or any other participants data.



OPD OWNED/MANAGED DEVICES

Only OPD has direct access to data captured by devices.

Data is retained for 30 days unless determined to be evidence related to investigation.
Evidence is download from the system and retained in separate data storage system

Data is not searchable by any other agency.

Intended to supplement existing community-based cameras in commercial areas.

Again live access...and the use policy does not address the fact that OPD may allow other agencies to view the images and once seen can't be unseen.



FLOCK OPERATING SYSTEM

A technology platform allowing CS Camera System integration.

Potential of integrating additional existing systems into Flock OS for more cohesive and comprehensive approach.

CS Camera System data is not searchable/accessible by any other agency.

Tier Access within the Department for Live Access (Tier 1) and Historical Access (Tier 2)

On Tier 1 access..."live camera data related to crimes in progress..."

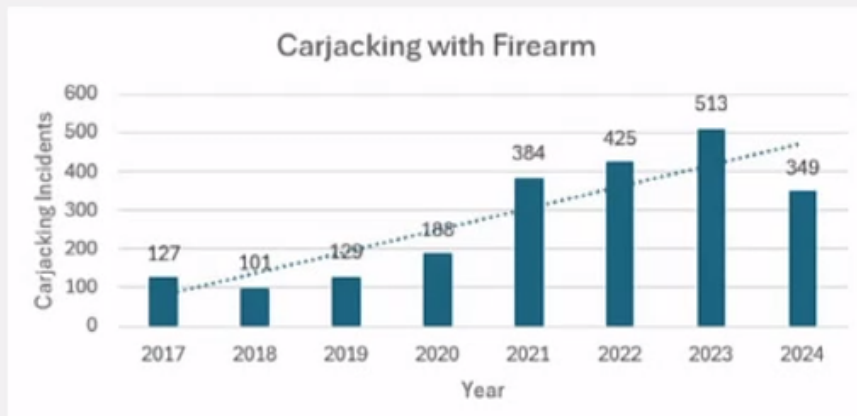
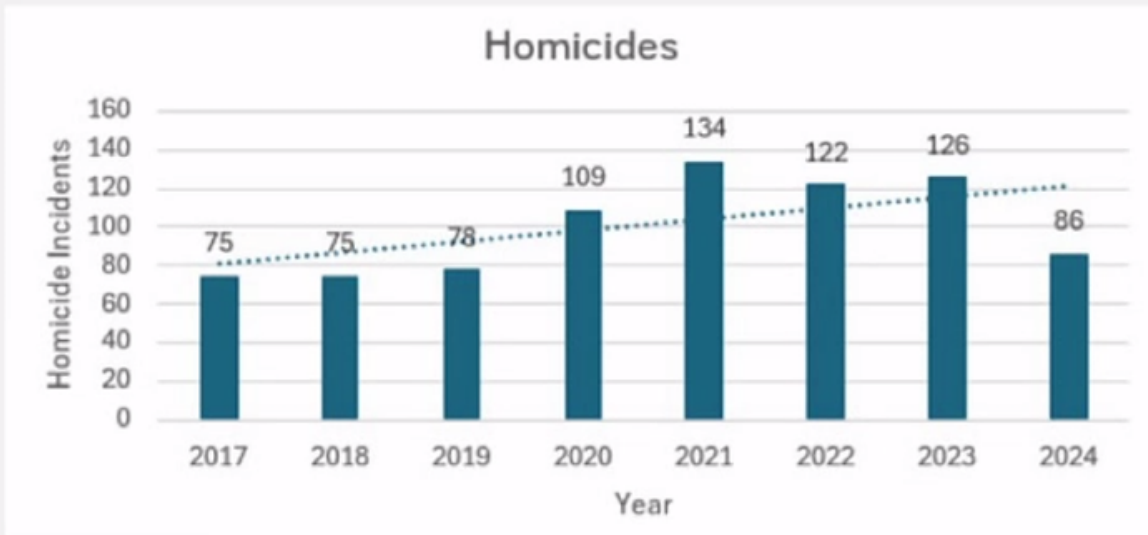
OPD's data analysis is heavy on data, but not analysis



THE ROLE OF THE RTOC

The Real-Time Operations Center began a pilot program in July of 2024 and sought to integrate and leverage existing technology within the Department, while researching and developing new and emerging technology that would be beneficial to the community.

The RTOC has since evolved to assist with operations and planning throughout the Department, while supporting field operations that address disruptive criminal activity. The RTOC program currently works within the current Ceasefire Section, providing data-informed direction to support the overall Ceasefire Strategy.



- Carjacking incidents peaked in 2023 at **513 armed carjackings**. In the first 6 months of 2024, there was an average of 40 carjackings per month.

- After the implementation of Flock ALPR in July of 2024, there was an average of 24 Carjackings per month.



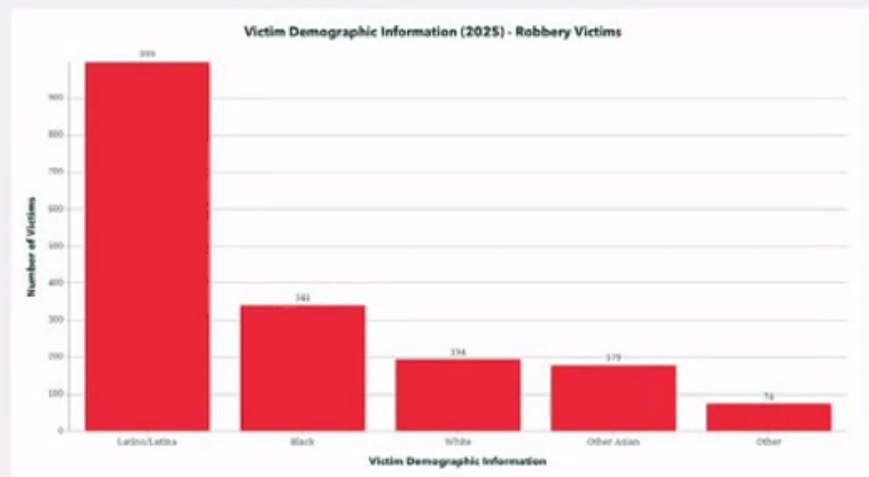
- 2023 YTD, there were **568 carjacking** robberies.
- 2025 YTD, there have been **192 carjacking** robberies, a **66% decrease**.
- 2025 YTD, there has been a **41% decrease** in overall robberies. Robberies are **down 53%** between 2023 YTD (3,047) and 2025 YTD (1,416).

Challenges Related To Robberies in Oakland



City	2024 Population	Robberies 2024 (approx.)	Robbery Rate (Per 100K)
<i>Oakland</i>	443,554	2,877	654
San Francisco	827,526	2,098	254
Chicago	2,700,000	2,419	89.6
Detriot	630,000	1,210	192
New Orleans	376,000	495	131.6
Memphis	650,000	2,230	343
St. Louis	310,000	687	221.6
Baltimore	600,000	706	117.7
Cleveland	370,000	1413	382.2
Los Angeles	3,878,704	8,637	222.7

- * Latino members of the community were impacted by robberies at a significantly higher rate, **55% of the total robberies in Oakland (2025 YTD)**.
- * The second most impacted group is Black members of the community, who were targeted in **19% of the total robberies in Oakland**.
- * This data illustrates the impact of robberies on our communities of color, while demonstrating the benefits to vulnerable populations that are presented by deterring or preventing robbery activity.



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Most of this information seems designed to undermine any argument that surveillance harms non white residents, because its never related back to Flock's capacities. Almost all of this information is available to the public.

Urquiza: "we don't think that Flock is the only thing impacting homicides, but it's a cohesive approach, not just from OPD, but from our partners in the community"

Flock does not claim to be effective at reducing homicides directly.



IMPACTING HOMICIDES

- At this time in October 2023 (YTD), there were **104 homicides**.
- Through October 20th, 2025, there have been **55 homicides; a 47% percent decrease**.

It is the Department's explicit intent to continue to drive down homicides in the most impacted communities by taking a collective and comprehensive approach to addressing violence.

Technology is one element of that approach, along with utilizing community partnerships and supporting the separate but parallel work of the Department of Violence Prevention.

OPD has already been budgeted for the amount. It won't require "additional funding", it was budgeted to OPD, which had an increased budget this year over last year.



- OPD intends to utilize \$2,252,000 (over 2 years) in City funding for Flock Safety software and hardware products.
- OPD has \$1,500,000 authorized to utilize for funding Flock Safety systems for FY 25-26 and another \$1,500,000 authorized for FY -26-27.
- No additional funding has been requested from the General Purpose Fund. The funds were already allocated by OPD during the FY 25-26 budget.

FLOCK contract dates	Costs
Year 1	\$1,155,500
Year 2	\$1,097,000
TOTAL	\$2,252,500

Urquiza: notes that OPD's contract has barred collection of machine learning data and sharing data without consent is considered a breach of contract



CONTRACT SAFEGUARDS

- Data collected is the property of the City of Oakland and shall not be shared with any other entity without the consent of the City. Any violation of this clause would represent a breach of contract, allowing the Department/City to terminate the contract.
- As part of the proposed contract, Flock has agreed not to collect anonymized aggregated data for the purpose of machine learning.



CONTRACT SAFEGUARDS

- Language within the contract that allows for a termination of the contract for the following:
- Federal Assumption. *(In the event that the City is assumed, merged into, or otherwise placed under the direct control or administration of the United States Federal Government (a "Federal Assumption"), and as a result is no longer able to operate as an independent agency, performance of all Services under this Agreement shall be immediately suspended and qualify as a termination for cause.)*
- Contract with a Federal Agency that invalidates or compromises the City's sole ownership of City Data.



ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS

- The Department continues to be aligned with the principles of the community and the City of Oakland related to Immigration Enforcement.
- By Department and City Policy, OPD does not assist in any Immigration Enforcement.
- The Community Safety Camera System shall only be accessed by members of the Department who are authorized to utilize it. **No outside agency shall be provided access to the system.**

I would be worried, were I a committee member, that OPD thinks what they just presented is data analysis related to Flock. This is an emotional argument for Flock, not analysis.



CRITICAL STAFFING SITUATION

- In January of 2024, OPD sworn staffing levels were at 711, 89 fewer than the last proposed staffing study suggested.
- Currently, in October of 2025, OPD sworn staffing levels are at 636, with an operational staffing level of 509 sworn.
- At these numbers, critical units have been required to be disbanded to backfill essential roles in Patrol.

The urgency is that the downward trend of last two years could reverse. That's it, that's the urgency



URGENCY

OPD's concern is how quickly progress can be reversed, as was demonstrated in 2020.

During the first 6 months of 2020, there were 37 homicides. The second half of 2020 saw a large spike, with 72 homicides occurring in that 6-month period. This trend continued into 2021, 2022, and 2023 where far higher incidents of shootings and homicides were seen, compared to recent years.

Nowhere in the presentation was there any linkage of data to use of Flock.



IN CONCLUSION

- In the last two years, Oakland has seen tremendous progress related to overall crime, especially violent crime. OPD is committed to continuing the positive momentum forward despite the limited staffing resources available and seeks to utilize technology to keep Oakland heading in the right direction.
- OPD recognizes that there is an important balance between privacy and public safety and is focused on utilizing technology responsibly, with sufficient guardrails to protect the community's data. Technology must always be used ethically and constitutionally and in accordance with policy, procedure, law, and in accordance with our Surveillance Technology Ordinance 13635 CMS.

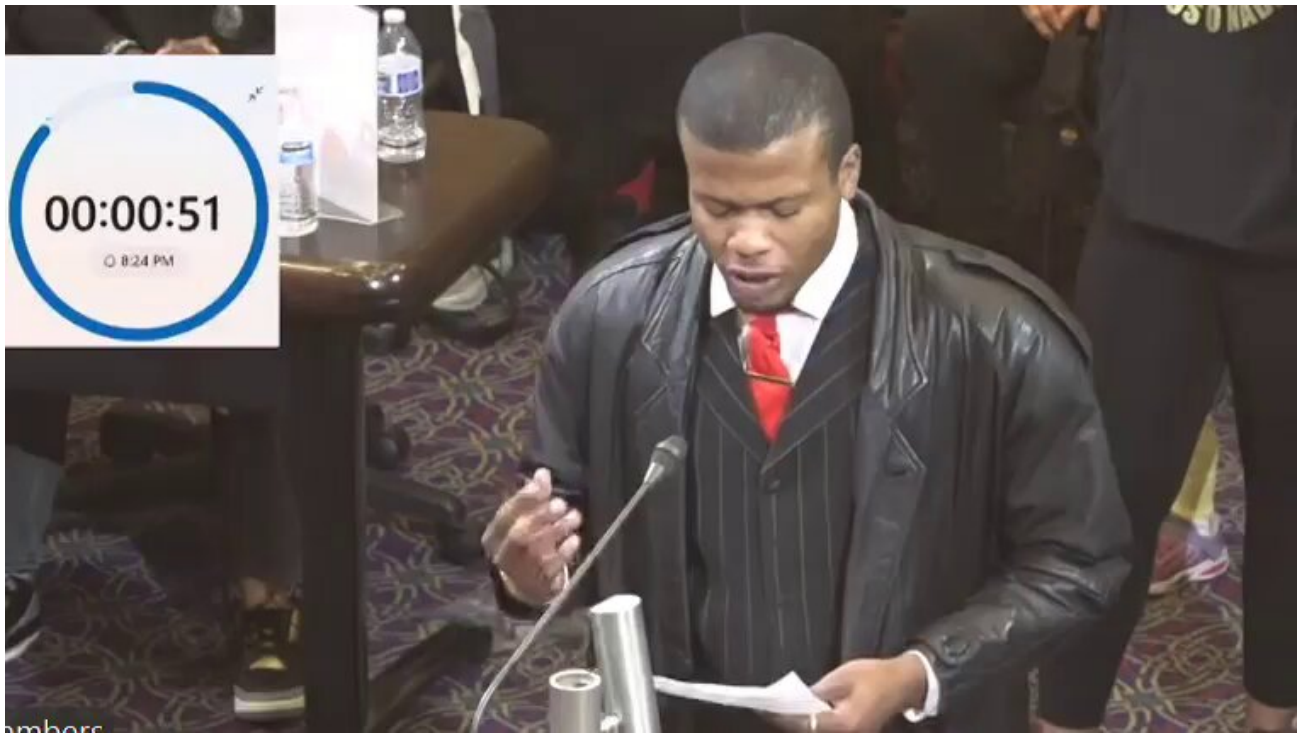
Wang is reading in amendments: "and CAO shall include following provisions: Flock shall

not enable a national look up feature; noting that Flock is a profit-seeking entity, I am introducing a financial penalty, providing for liquidated damages, up to 200K per incident"

Wang: 2nd amendment for CS Cameras, CS data shall not be shared for immigration, abortion [all of these are against CA law, so it's superfluous]









Reem Sulleiman, former PAC commissioner





PAC Commissioner Katz





They said there was 129 speakers, so even at one minute each, we are going to be here a while. It's pretty clear that the turn out here is overwhelmingly against Flock, but who knows may be among Zoom speakers.



The Committee lost quorum; Houston on zoom can't count toward quorum, and a CM was excused briefly, and will be back

To be clear, the committee will be back, momentary recess

Committee is back









Former Council Candidate Kanitha Mathoury was jeered for cutting in line. She claims that her store has been broken into and thus needs to speak now.



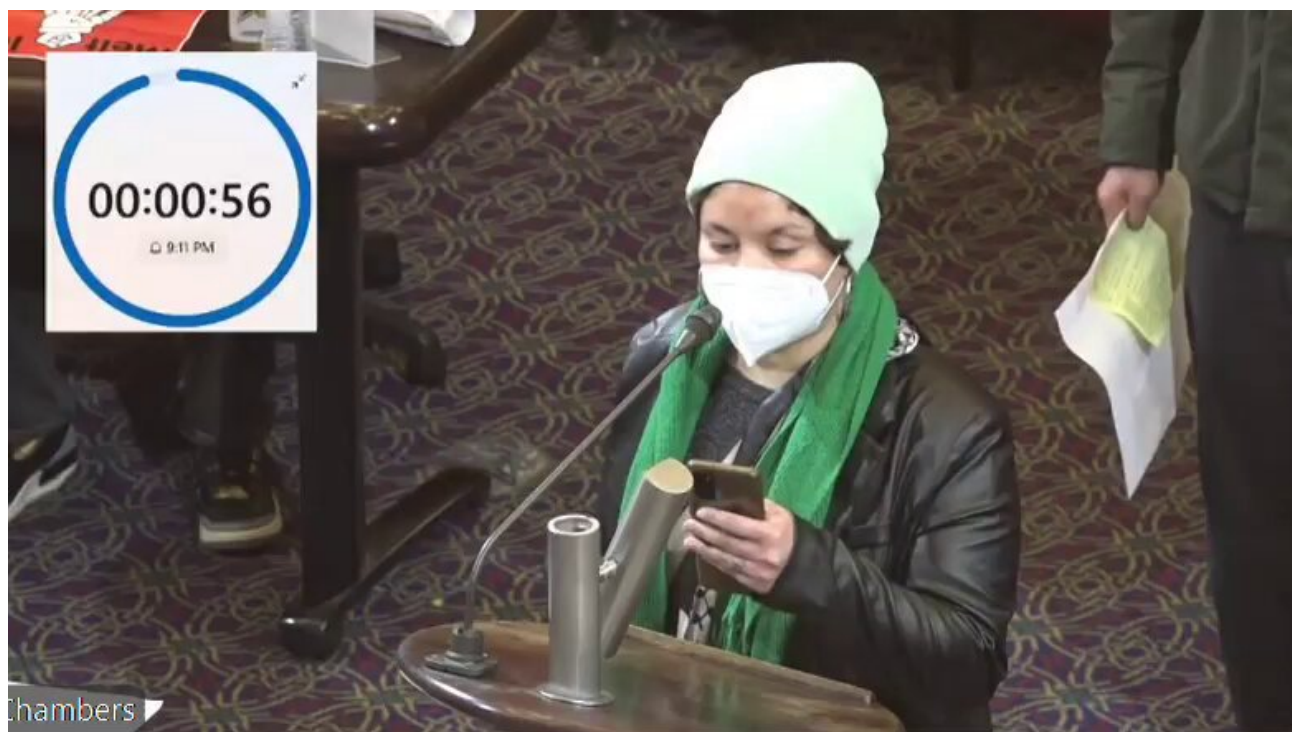
Mathoury spoke over a minute, as well.

















Speaker is from EFF















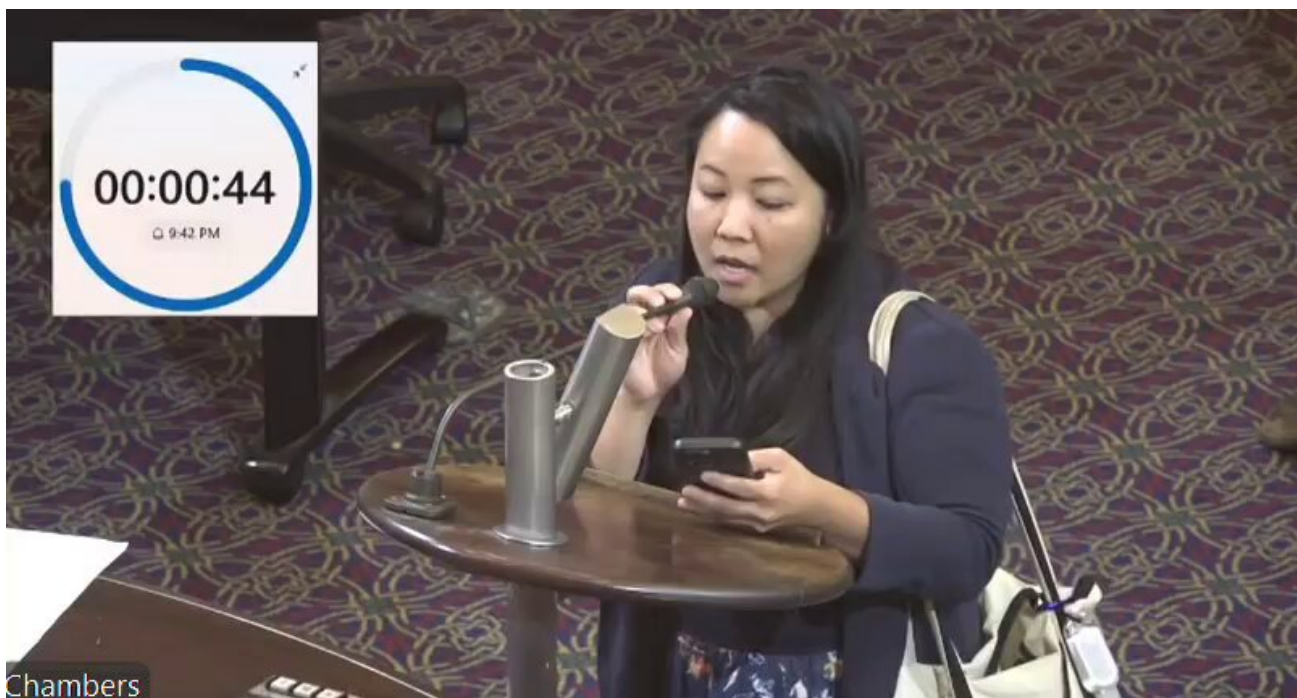








Jennifer Tran, President of Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, was the fourth person tonight to speak in favor of Flock.

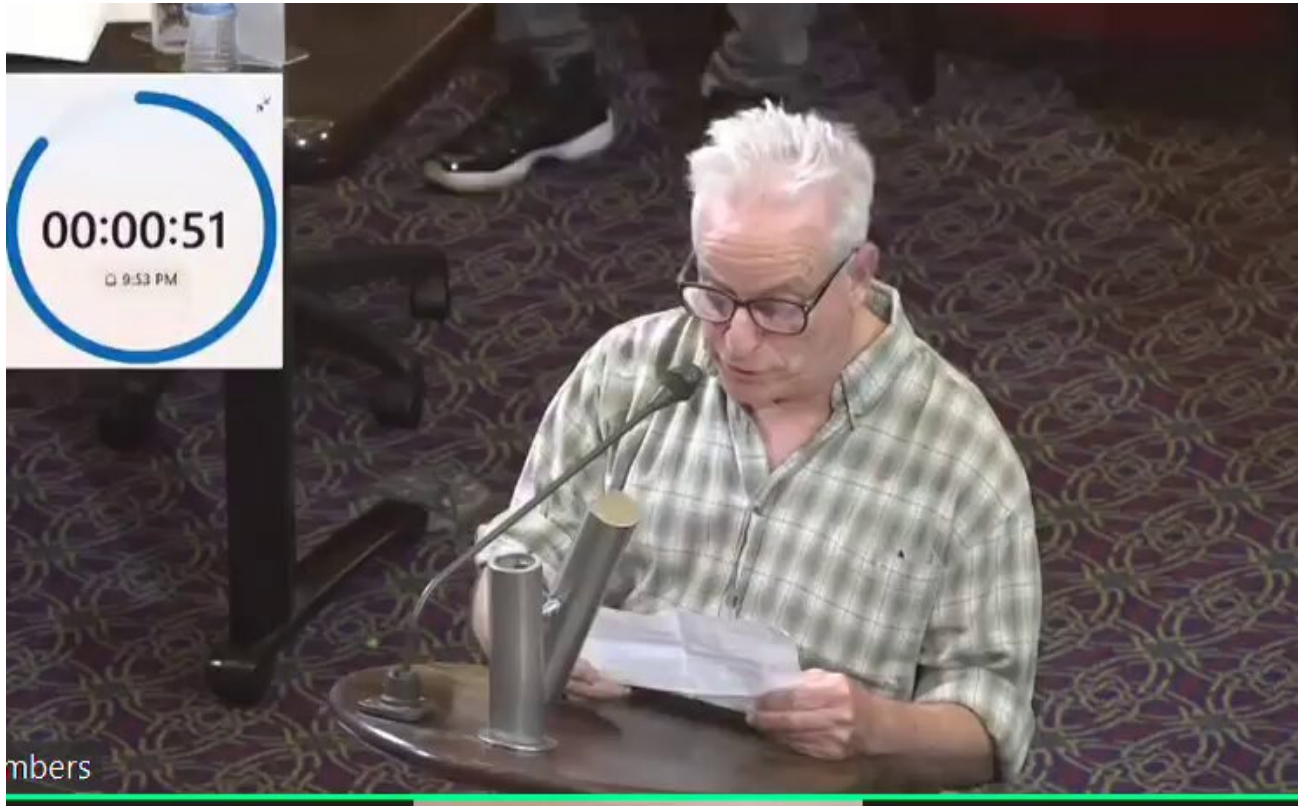






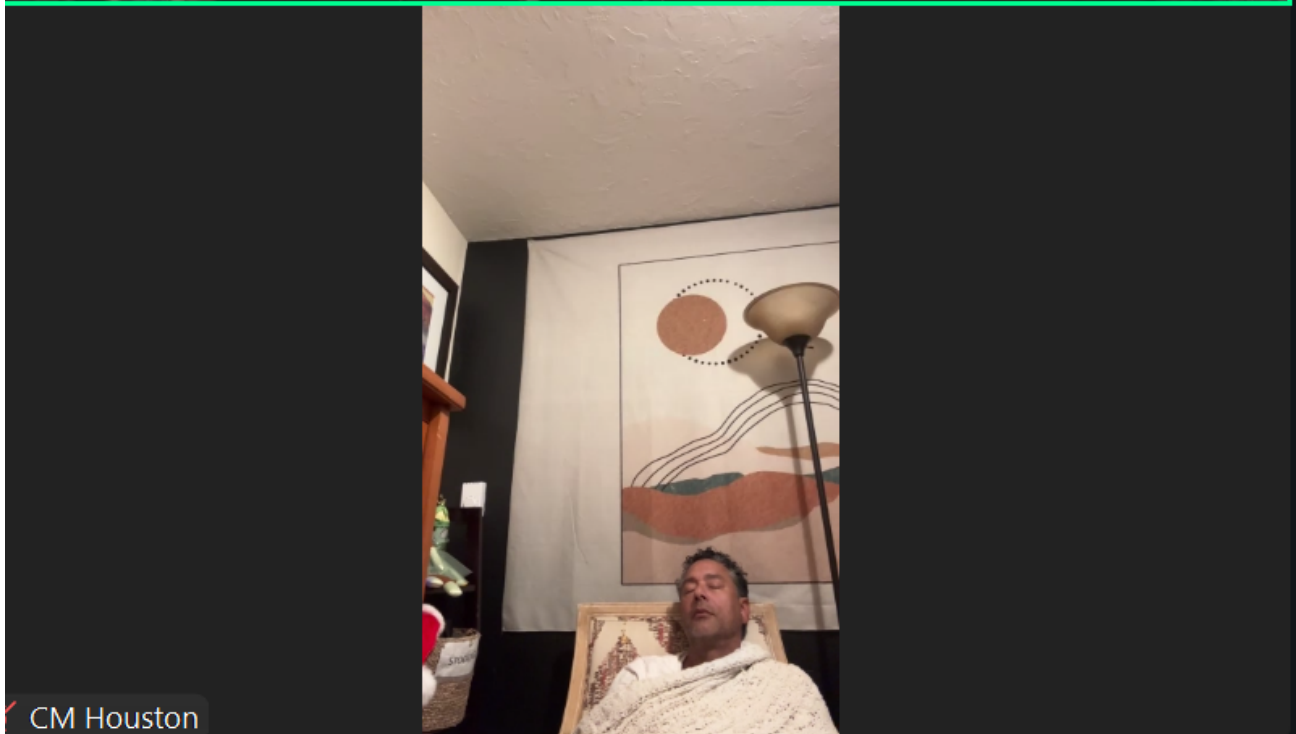






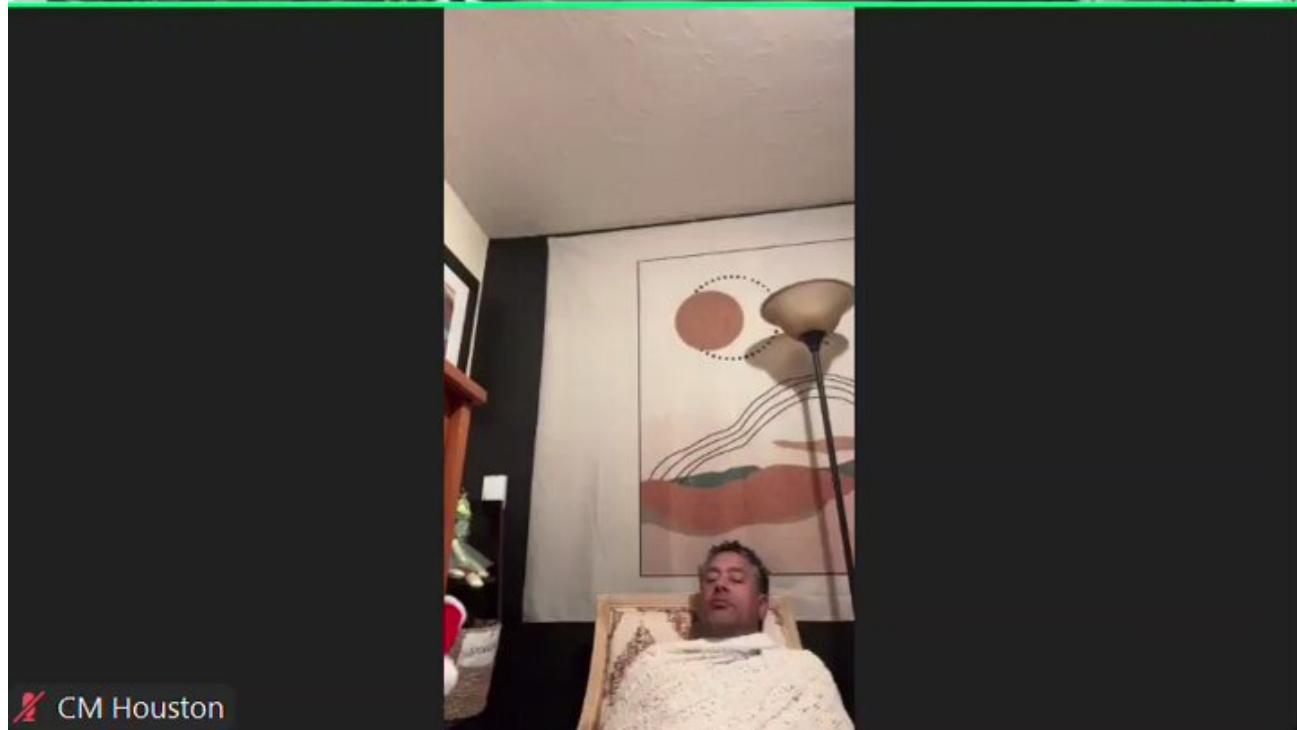


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CM Houston

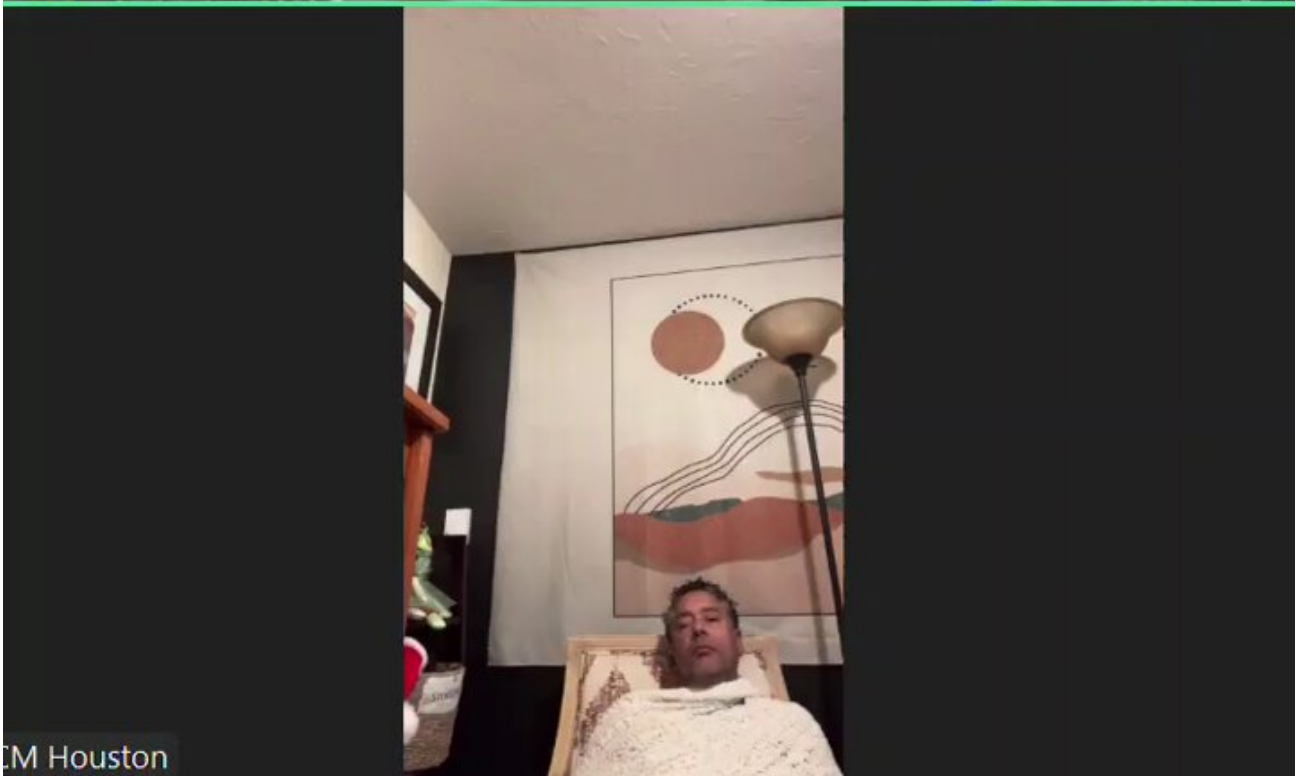


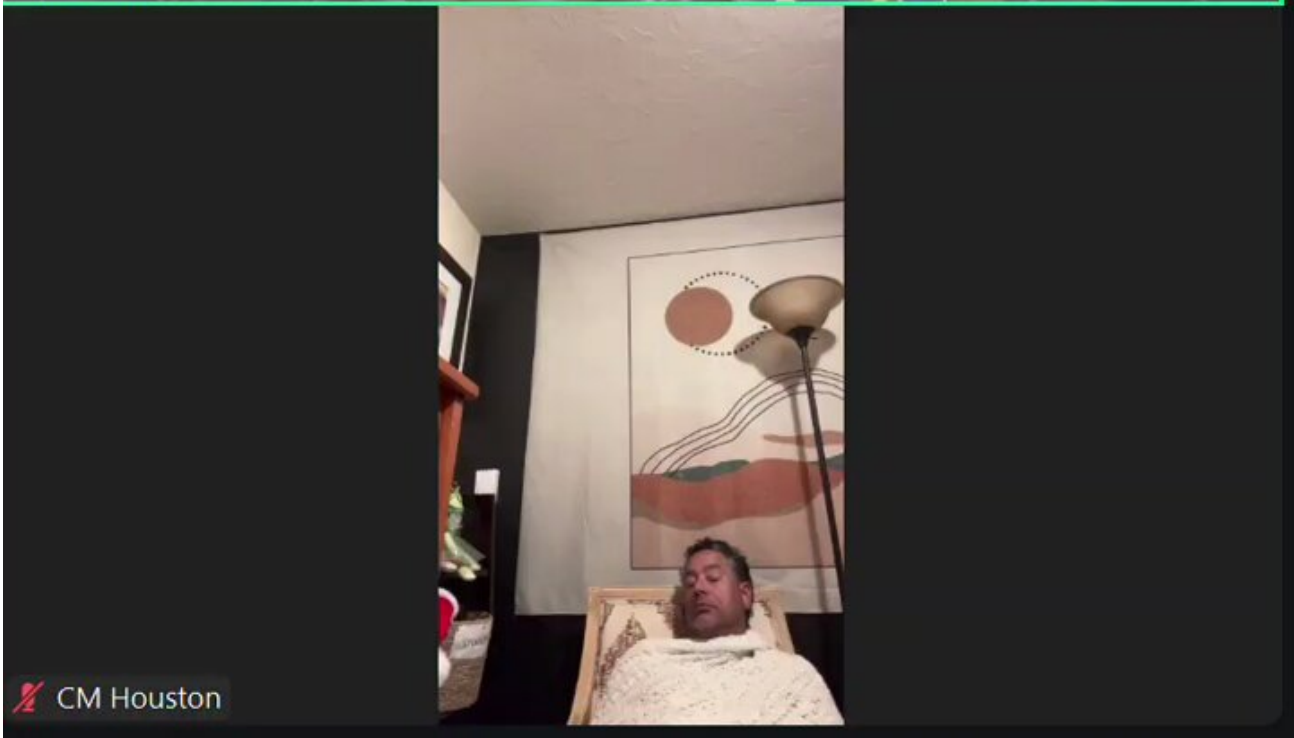


Statement from the Bikery



Chambers







Former and foundational Police Commissioner Jose Dorado

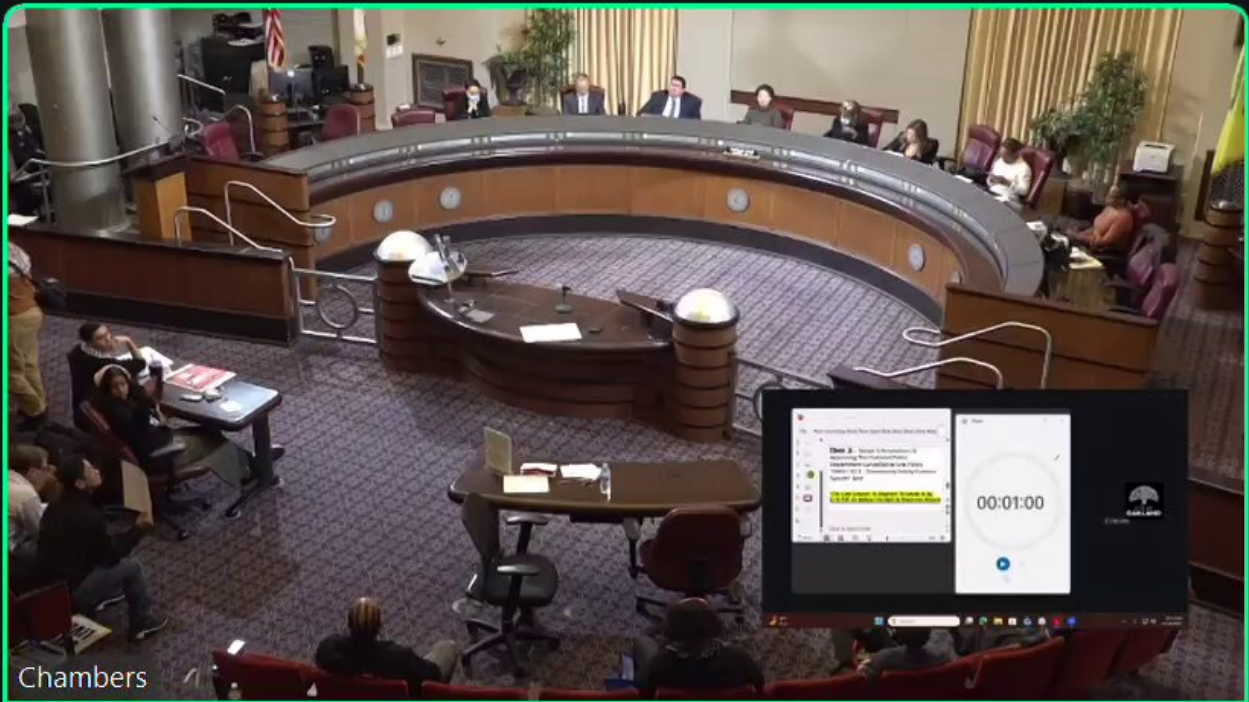


Chris Moore, the fifth person in favor of Flock to speak tonight, arguing that the overwhelming opposition to Flock is a minority



The first two zoom speakers have been in support of Flock, one was a member of EBRHA, however.





Chambers



Chambers



CM Houston



Lots of claims that opponents are spreading misinformation, and not one person has addressed any misinformatory statement



That was it for public speakers.

Now on to deliberation.

Wang asks why OPD bypassed the procurement process [one of the actions in the lawsuit]. Urquiza says that the system was already in place, and looking at others they couldn't have done it. But this doesn't explain why they didn't put it out to bid to prove that.

Wang asks how many cameras, its 290. Urquiza says they aren't asking for any additional ALPR, they are asking for 40 real time pan/tilt cams

Wang asks about the contractual requirement for judicial warrant handing over of data, to City Attorney.

OCA rep, Amidis Sotelo: "we don't know unless we get the subpoena, so it depends on what the subpoena asks for and basis, city would have to evaluate and how we respond..." Sotelo says that there's a provision in the contract to notify Oakland w/in 24 hrs.

Sotelo: "you can't really answer that unless we were to get a subpoena, so its too broad a question

Sotelo says that there could be situations where an image is a public record...in Ca law there is a balance in public interest...it depends on the nature of the specific document asked for...it depends on situation

Fife: "I have not seen a connection with causation from this technology being able to solve issues that make people feel unsafe...I am struggling with a maybe correlation with cameras and a very real possibility of our data falling into the hands of bad actors w/track record"

Fife says that Latino people are being targeted by Trump because w/in 20 years white people will be a minority, "so that scares the crap out of billionaires...we see this from this President who is taking money from these investors in this technology"

Fife: "And I would like the city to do its due diligence and put this out to a competitive bid, so we're not giving a sole source contract to an organization that's been rejected by 27 cities across the country."

Fife says there's nearly two dozen other potential contractors to take on the bid and we

should "not support this billionaire that's moving us towards a fascist state"

Brown: "this item is incredibly controversial...I have been listening to every issue, and I definitely hear you, and at the same time I'm listening to the feedback of the voices of the people that didn't make it into the room"

Brown: "as a result of some of this technology we have been able to solve some of the crime...I lost my parents at an early age, and if there had been a technology that could solve the crime..."

Brown is sort of dismissing the reality of 130 speakers, here, saying there's a lot of people who did not know about it and/or could not make it.

Brown asks Urquiza to walk the Council through the claims of the misuse of the data

Urquiza says that he's not concerned about the issues, he says LA has Flock and doesn't have any issues and ICE hasn't appeared again in requests. An easier thing to say here is that no agency has to be honest about why they are searching.

Brown asks how the technology will be specifically used...Urquiza says that the data will be used to solve robberies.

Urquiza noticed its a focused approach, arguing that with the private cameras there are too many barriers to immediate use, saying they lost a robbery suspect because of how much time it took.

Brown: "are there loopholes when it comes to keyword searches"

Urquiza: if a state agency doesn't follow state law, there'd be consequences...he says that they are proactively not accepting sharing requests from the agencies that the PAC said had violated the law [but that obviates what he just said, since there were no legal consequences]

Wang: "which agencies did you stop sharing agreement with..." Urquiza says there's 20...

Brown asks about report backs, Urquiza says there's a lot of information to audit..."we're trying to figure out the best way to audit that information". OPD does not have a process to

audit the sharing requests.

Brown: "one thing I would be interested in is a semi annual report about the agencies that have accessed the data and key word searches"

Houston: "the issue that I have what I heard tonight is just the total opposite what I've heard you tell me in the meetings..."

Houston: "is this something that the police department really needs to combat crime?"

I honestly believe one person incorrectly stated that Flock uses facial recognition, but the CMs have really gone to the well on that one over and over again, perhaps because they know its easily refuted

Urquiza says that the community camera system isn't shared, and private cameras aren't stored unless needed for evidence

Houston: "I'll move this item, I'm good"

Wang asked about cyber security/hacking and Urquiza introduced Flock's representative Trevor Chandler, to laughter from audience

Chandler says they are certified under ISO 27701..."we are FBI CGIS certified, that's the Criminal Justice Information Services... certified to handle highly sensitive information"

Urquiza says that they would take the units down if compromised "what happened in Evanston is they chose to end their contract...there was a disagreement about cause..." he seems to be saying it was a miscommunication, tech took it down before resolution

Fife: "I think we can move to action...I want to reiterate that there were 30 billion dollars allocated to immigration and customs enforcement to increase their detentions"

Fife put a motion to put the contract out for bid.

Houston is now asking Urquiza for a "success story" for Flock.

Urquiza says that there was one in San Leandro..."there have been many". Someone from

crowd yelled out, "how many"

Wang says that the City Attorney's office reviewed her amendments, Brown asks if the damages part of it will be approved by Flock. Chandler says they've agreed to similar agreements in other cities.

None of the CMs have mentioned today's lawsuit, nor any of the content

Wang's amendments are pretty ancillary, mostly covered by state law and/or already in contract

Wang says "it's our job to hash it out in committee"...[but Wang is on the record for asking that this go straight to council and avoid committee at Rules]

Fife reminds that there is a substitute motion, which is to send the RFP be done. City Attorney says that this contract would have to fail today, then it could come back with RFP

They are voting on whether they are going to forward the contract to Councilk: Brown no; Fife, no; Houston, yes, Wang, yes. The motion fails with two nos, and two ayes.

A total surprise to me, but the Flock contract failed at Committee.

Source: https://x.com/Oak_Observer/status/1990990265860174246

Thread: <https://twitter-thread.com/t/1990990265860174246>