

From: [Bernard Dennler](#)
To: [Taryn Scott](#)
Subject: Fwd: Flock Mass Surveillance
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2024 11:20:06 AM

From: Jason L. <jaylach@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 11:03:45 AM
To: First Selectman <selectman@colchesterct.gov>
Cc: Rosemary Coyle <rcoyle@colchesterct.gov>; Denise Turner <dturner@colchesterct.gov>; Art Shilosky <aShilosky@colchesterct.gov>; Cliff O'Donal <codonal@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Flock Mass Surveillance

BOS Members -

I am writing to express my disapproval of the Flock mass surveillance system up for approval at tonight's BOS meeting. I also wish to express my extreme discontent that our town's leaders would even consider such a thing. Even more worrisome is the fact that this request has seemingly originated from the very people who have sworn to uphold and protect our God given natural rights.

The right to be left alone is both literally and metaphorically the most intimate of those God given rights. To bring a system into our town that tracks and records our every movement, and then makes that information available to both law enforcement and private citizens, is an infringement of our privacy the likes this country would have readily, and forcibly, rejected a mere 3 decades ago. For our elected leaders, and those sworn to protect our rights, to attempt to bring such an infringement into the community they serve is a failure of their moral obligation to their constituents so big that it lacks the proper words required to verbalize.

What is this Flock mass surveillance system? It is, as the name says, a centralized network of mass surveillance cameras -- not just here in Colchester, but connected to every other Flock network across the nation. It tracks the comings and goings of every single person's license plate caught on camera, with or without their consent, and then makes those actions available through a centralized database for every single one of Flock's customers to search and catalog. That information is also available to private citizens, allowing them to create "hot lists" of license plates that will notify you when and where that plate is seen.

Is this level of intrusion even legal? While you will all no doubt argue it is, can something be legal when it restricts and conflicts the principles of a free society? I, along with some of the leading voices in this space (such as the ACLU) argue no. This attempt is merely yet another manipulation of higher laws to human ends -- security over privacy. An extension of every program the NSA ever put into place. A local continuation of The Patriot Act.

And yes, I know.. if I've done nothing wrong, why do I care. We've heard that story a time or

two. And really, it's simple -- our rights are guaranteed whether or not you want or agree. The police, the ones sworn to uphold our rights, don't get to decide those very rights no longer get to exist. And they certainly don't get to do that while gaslighting the citizens of Colchester into believing that somehow giving up even more of their liberty will lead to their personal safety.

Nearly every fight this nation has ever made has been made with one goal in mind -- to protect our civil liberties. To allow them to be so casually erased now is to erase every step of progress this nation has made towards becoming a more perfect union for everyone.

"Liberty can't be measured, diminished, materialized... It's all or nothing. If you sacrifice a little bit of Liberty for a lot of security you'll end up with neither. Liberty is all or nothing."

Please ensure this email makes it into correspondence for tonight's BOS meeting.

Thank you.

Jason LaChapelle
Highwood Circle

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Bernie Dennler
First Selectman

Town of Colchester
127 Norwich Ave
Colchester, CT 06415
Phone: 860-537-7222

“Colchester, Connecticut: Where tradition meets tomorrow.”

From: Jason L. <jaylach@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2024 11:04:05 AM
To: First Selectman <selectman@colchesterct.gov>
Cc: Rosemary Coyle <rcoyle@colchesterct.gov>; Denise Turner <dturner@colchesterct.gov>; Art Shilosky <aShilosky@colchesterct.gov>; Cliff O'Donal <codonal@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Flock Mass Surveillance

BOS Members -

I am writing to express my disapproval of the Flock mass surveillance system up for approval at tonight's BOS meeting. I also wish to express my extreme discontent that our

town's leaders would even consider such a thing. Even more worrisome is the fact that this request has seemingly originated from the very people who have sworn to uphold and protect our God given natural rights.

The right to be left alone is both literally and metaphorically the most intimate of those God given rights. To bring a system into our town that tracks and records our every movement, and then makes that information available to both law enforcement and private citizens, is an infringement of our privacy the likes this country would have readily, and forcibly, rejected a mere 3 decades ago. For our elected leaders, and those sworn to protect our rights, to attempt to bring such an infringement into the community they serve is a failure of their moral obligation to their constituents so big that it lacks the proper words required to verbalize.

What is this Flock mass surveillance system? It is, as the name says, a centralized network of mass surveillance cameras -- not just here in Colchester, but connected to every other Flock network across the nation. It tracks the comings and goings of every single person's license plate caught on camera, with or without their consent, and then makes those actions available through a centralized database for every single one of Flock's customers to search and catalog. That information is also available to private citizens, allowing them to create "hot lists" of license plates that will notify you when and where that plate is seen.

Is this level of intrusion even legal? While you will all no doubt argue it is, can something be legal when it restricts and conflicts the principles of a free society? I, along with some of the leading voices in this space (such as the ACLU) argue no. This attempt is merely yet another manipulation of higher laws to human ends -- security over privacy. An extension of every program the NSA ever put into place. A local continuation of The Patriot Act.

And yes, I know.. if I've done nothing wrong, why do I care. We've heard that story a time or two. And really, it's simple -- our rights are guaranteed whether or not you want or agree. The police, the ones sworn to uphold our rights, don't get to decide those very rights no longer get to exist. And they certainly don't get to do that while gaslighting the citizens of Colchester into believing that somehow giving up even more of their liberty will lead to their personal safety.

Nearly every fight this nation has ever made has been made with one goal in mind -- to protect our civil liberties. To allow them to be so casually erased now is to erase every step of progress this nation has made towards becoming a more perfect union for everyone.

"Liberty can't be measured, diminished, materialized... It's all or nothing. If you sacrifice a little bit of Liberty for a lot of security you'll end up with neither. Liberty is all or nothing."

Please ensure this email makes it into correspondence for tonight's BOS meeting.

Thank you.

Jason LaChapelle
Highwood Circle

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.