

PLATE READERS

Who reads plates around campus, and what Pitt's rules leave out.

Pitt only ruled out Flock

WHAT PITT SAID

“UPPD does not have an agreement or contract with **Flock**”

Pitt Police, via SGB, Sept. 14, 2026

What about Motorola?

Around the Union and the Cathedral, DeFlock shows 12 plate readers: 8 tagged Motorola, 3 Flock, 1 Genetec. One sits on Bigelow by the Cathedral lawn.

The city doesn't use Flock either, but has run other plate readers since 2006.

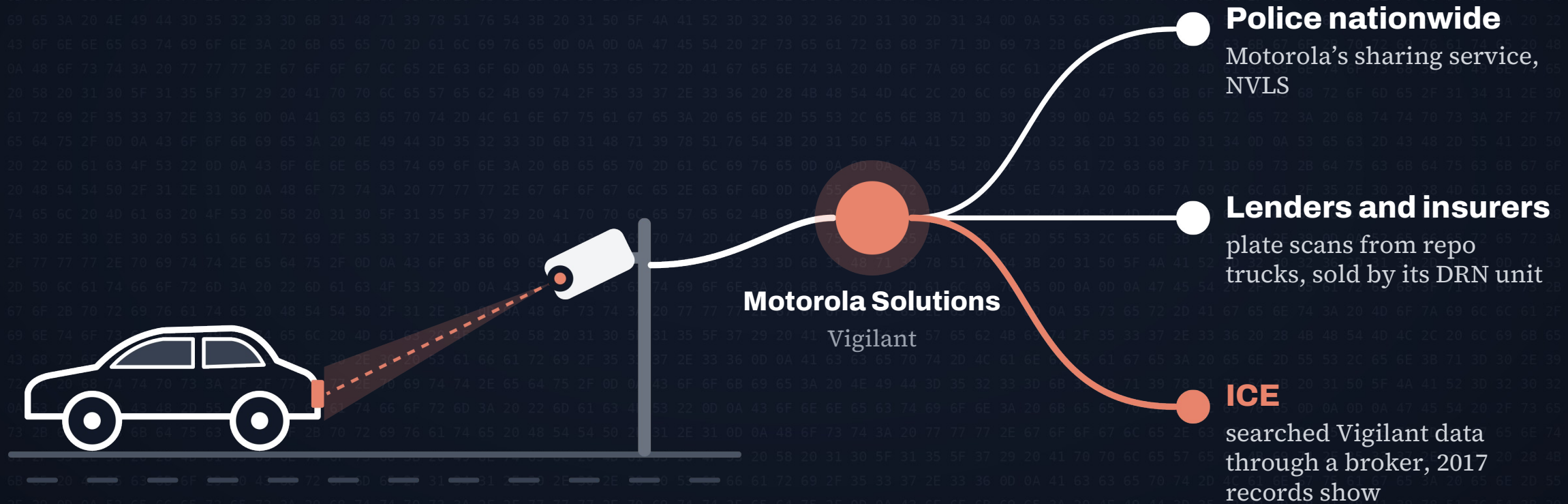
The DA's office has added more than 3,000 plate readers countywide since 2016, and Oakland cameras with Pitt and UPMC.

The question isn't whether it's Flock. It's who runs these, and who sees the data.

SGB press release, Sept. 14, 2026; NextPittsburgh, Sept. 23, 2026; TribLive, 2026; KDKA; DeFlock, Oct. 2026, crowdsourced.

Where Motorola's plate data can go

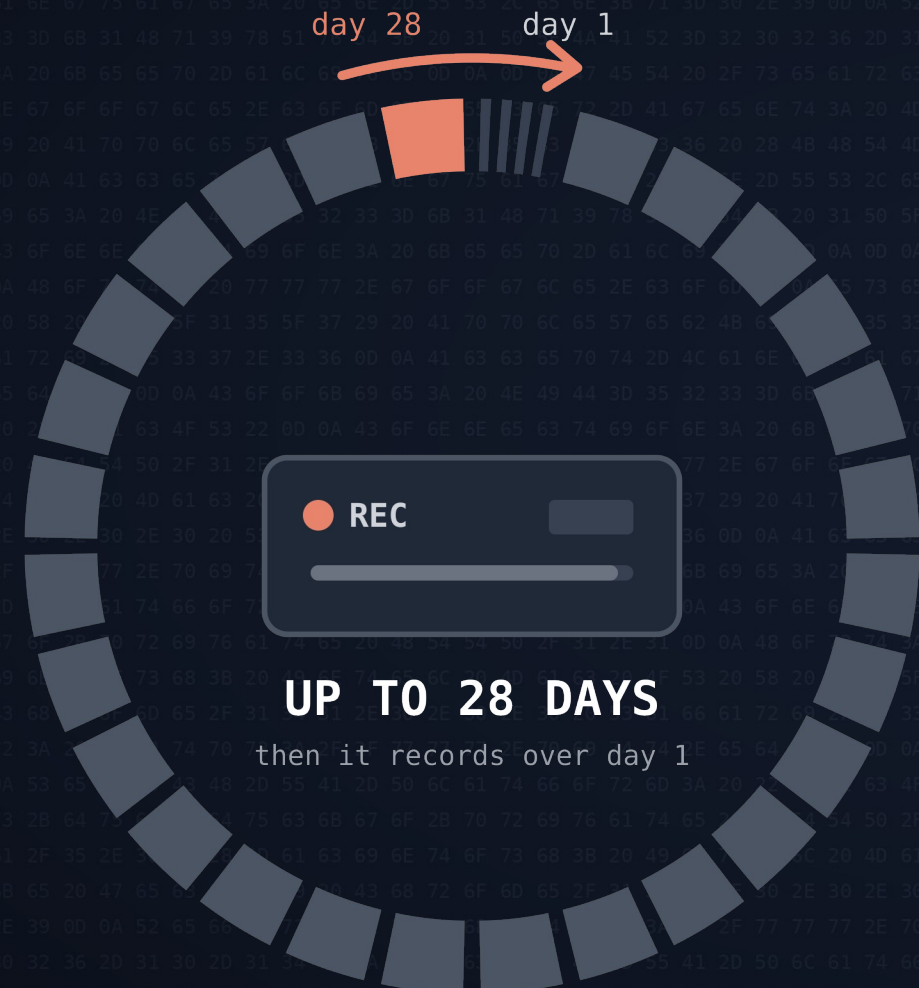
We don't know who runs these. Here's what Motorola's system connects to.



Motorola pitches police on billions of scans beyond their own.

ACLU, Aug. 2026, on Motorola, NVLS and DRN; Baltimore Brew, Mar. 2026, on ICE records the ACLU obtained.

Pitt's time limit is a hard drive



UP TO 28 DAYS

then it records over day 1

Pitt's 2019 camera policy keeps footage as long as the recorder has room: up to 28 days.

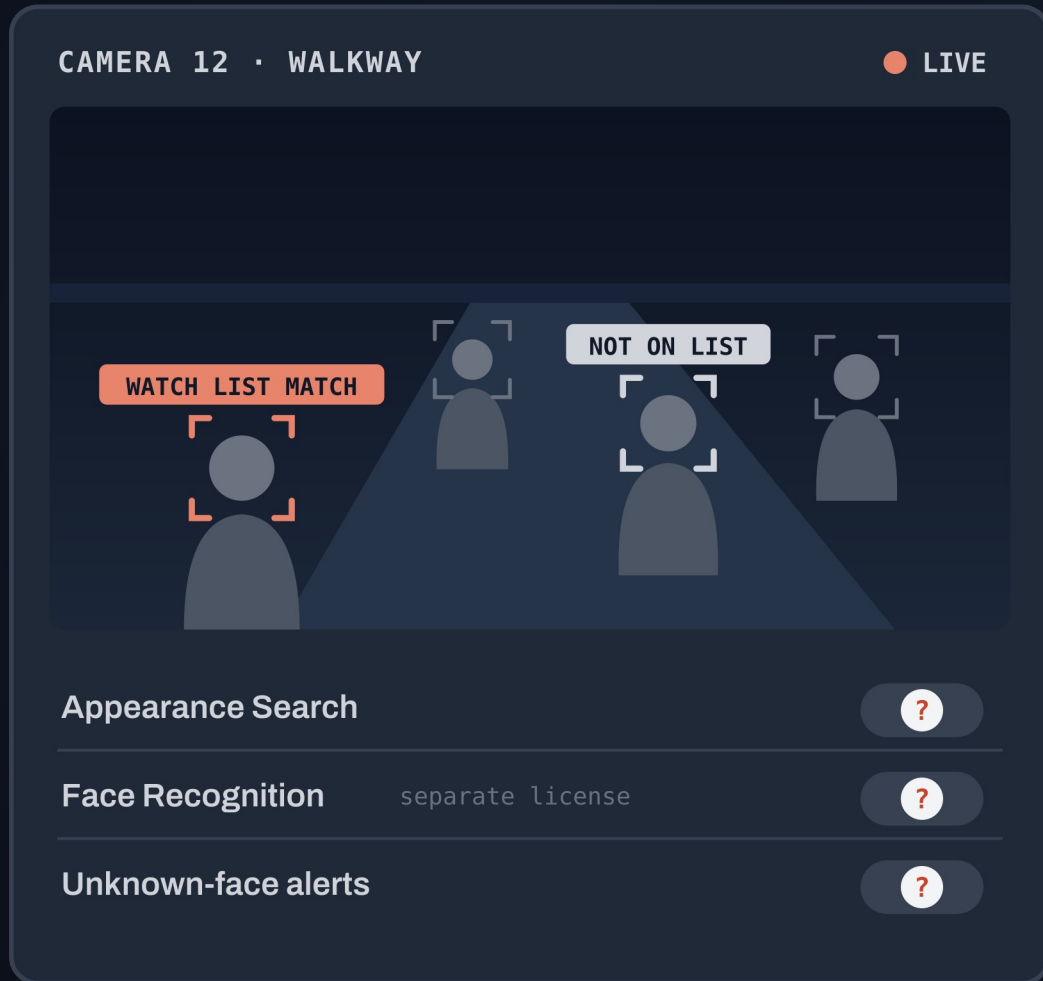
It allows hidden cameras with no notice, and never mentions plate readers, face recognition or cloud vendors.

It covers about 1,400 cameras on the Oakland campus, as of 2022.

It promises to track new developments. This is one.

Pitt Integrated Security Department, Video Surveillance Installed on University Premises, Jan. 7, 2019; University Times, Mar. 31, 2022.

Pitt's own cameras



ISD runs Pitt's cameras, and put up 98 new Avigilon cameras in early 2020 alone.

Avigilon, Motorola's video brand, sells face recognition as an add-on: put a face on a watch list, and it alerts on every match.

Pitt's 2019 policy never mentions face recognition or training it on footage.

At Duke, footage of 2,000 students became a dataset used worldwide.

Pitt Public Safety, 2020 Employees of the Quarter; Avigilon Unity Video face recognition guide; The Duke Chronicle, June 2019.

Harrisburg is already moving

9 bills to limit or ban plate readers by early September, seven of them in six weeks.



“not something in the public interest”

Gov. Josh Shapiro, Democrat

“to the technology and activity, not merely to one company or brand”

Sen. Doug Mastriano, Republican, on what his bill would cover

Both parties want limits. Pitt doesn't have to wait.

Spotlight PA via LevittownNow, Sept. 17, 2026; Axios Pittsburgh, Sept. 2, 2026; Williamsport Sun-Gazette, Sept. 2026.

Write it down

Every plate reader, any brand.

An update to the 2019 policy covering every plate reader and face-recognition tool Pitt runs, buys data from, or shares footage with.

We take it to the Integrated Security Department, which owns and manages Pitt's cameras, alongside SGB, which is already asking about Flock.

Even the city writes down 10 days.

Camera ownership: Pitt Police via SGB, Sept. 14, 2026. City retention: NextPittsburgh, Sept. 23, 2026. Penn State runs its Flock pilot under a written campus police policy.

PITT CAMERAS

WHAT THEY KEEP ON YOU

PLATE READERS ?

any Pitt runs, any brand

FACE RECOGNITION ?

Avigilon add-on: on or off

KEPT FOR ?

a rule, not a hard drive

SHARED WITH ?

which agencies and networks

OUTSIDE REQUESTS ?

HIDDEN CAMERAS ?

YEARLY PUBLIC COUNT ?

AI TRAINING ON FOOTAGE ?

TIME LIMIT IN WRITING

DISK SIZE



KEEP THIS RECEIPT

Pick one before you leave

WRITE

A letter to Public Safety on the camera policy, or an op-ed for The Pitt News.
pittnews.com: op-ed and letter form

One evening

MAP

Log plate readers you pass on DeFlock, with the maker and who runs them.
deflock.me/report

Ten minutes

SPEAK

Come with us to SGB's open floor, Tuesdays at 8:45 PM in Nordy's Place.
sgb.pitt.edu

One Tuesday

TABLE

Two of us, one hour, one ask. Towers, WPU or the Quad.
[Email us if you'd like to be part of tabling](#)

One hour

Want to get involved? Email us at digitalrightsatpitt@protonmail.com

Sources

The Pitt News, “Pitt community members weigh in on concerns over Flock cameras,” Aug. 25, 2026.

NextPittsburgh, “Pittsburgh doesn’t use Flock cameras, but license plate readers are already here,” Sept. 23, 2026.

TribLive, Tarentum joins the DA’s plate-reader platform, 2026; KDKA, DA, Pitt and UPMC add Oakland cameras.

DeFlock map, campus view, Oct. 2026; OpenStreetMap node 13667988001, Bigelow Blvd., added Mar. 21, 2026.

ACLU, “Beware of Other License Plate Surveillance Companies Besides Flock,” Aug. 2026.

Baltimore Brew, Mar. 4, 2026, citing ACLU FOIA records on ICE and Vigilant data.

Pitt Integrated Security Department, Video Surveillance Installed on University Premises, Jan. 7, 2019.

University Times, “Oakland campus’ 1,400 security cameras help deter and investigate crime,” Mar. 31, 2022.

Pitt Public Safety, 2020 Employees of the Quarter (Avigilon installs); Avigilon Unity Video face recognition guide.

Spotlight PA via LevittownNow, Sept. 17 and Sept. 29, 2026.

Axios Pittsburgh, Sept. 2, 2026; Williamsport Sun-Gazette, Sept. 2026.

StateCollege.com, Penn State’s plate-reader pilot under its police policy, 2026.

The Duke Chronicle, “A Duke study recorded thousands of students’ faces,” June 2019.

SGB, “Press Release: Pitt Police Comments on Flock Camera Concerns,” Sept. 14, 2026; meeting times, sgb.pitt.edu.