

University of Minnesota ALPR data requests

Background

In November 2025, I discovered six Flock Safety automated licence plate reader (ALPR) cameras installed around the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities campus in Minneapolis. Minnesota has an ALPR law that requires camera locations and other data to be public, and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) maintains a [public list](#) of ALPR cameras registered by law enforcement agencies. The locations in question are not on BCA's list. I believe they were requested and paid for by U of MN Police Department (UMPD), though the University has resisted my efforts to confirm this.

Known locations

Flock cameras in the UMN campus area that are not publicly disclosed by a law enforcement agency:

- Washington Ave, east of 19th Ave S
- 15th Ave SE at 8th St SE
- 15th Ave SE at Como Ave
- University Ave SE, west of Huron Blvd SE
- Huron Blvd SE at Fulton St SE (northbound)
- Huron Blvd SE at Fulton St SE (southbound)

Evidence

Gopher State One Call has tickets from Flock at two of these camera pole locations, with dates and a "For" field tying them to the University:

University Ave, W of Huron Blvd; installed around 2024-12-16: <https://mn.itic.occinc.com/SearchByStateTicketView?msgNo=243460996&revNo=1&state=mn> "for: UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA CAMPUS"

Washington Ave, E of 19th Ave S; installed around 2025-07-17: <https://mn.itic.occinc.com/SearchByStateTicketView?msgNo=251952229&revNo=1&state=mn> "for: UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA TWIN"

UMPD filed the required biennial ALPR audit report with the state in October 2025: <https://www.lrl.mn.gov/docs/2025/mandated/251639.pdf>

Notable claims in the audit report:

1. UMPD "had 10 active stationary ALPR units and no mobile Flock units, at the time of this audit."
2. "UMN Police Department now compiles monthly reports that contain the requirements of 13.824 Subd. 5. (...) These public logs of use are readily available through a proper records request through the UMN Police Department." As shown below, I was in fact denied access to these logs.
3. "UMN Police Department has made the required notification to the Bureau of Criminal

Apprehension. This was validated on the BCA website." According to my BCA data request below, this is incorrect and UMPD never notified BCA. There is no mention of UMPD on the BCA website, so it's unclear what the auditor actually validated.

Claims

University of Minnesota Police Department has filed an audit with the state containing false statements, and are violating MN statute 13.824 by denying access to data that is legally required to be public.

BCA data request

Reference number RR006239-111625 Submitted via GovQA.us portal

Initial request, November 16:

I am aware of several Flock Safety-branded stationary Automated License Plate Reader cameras installed in Minneapolis that I did not see listed on BCA's public registry of ALPRs: <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/bca/data-and-reports/agencies-use-lprs-lpr> These camera locations include:

- Washington Ave, east of 19th Ave S
- 15th Ave SE at 8th St SE
- 15th Ave SE at Como Ave
- University Ave SE, west of Huron Blvd SE
- Huron Blvd SE at Fulton St SE

For the cameras at the locations above, could you please provide:

1. Law enforcement agency responsible for the camera
2. Communications (emails or other records) from law enforcement agencies notifying BCA that the camera was installed, as required by MN Statute 13.824 subd. 8. If these records are not public, then please provide the date when BCA was notified
3. If known, the date that the camera was initially installed

First reply, November 19

On 11/19/2025 9:11:22 AM, BCAMN Support wrote:

Subject: Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Data Request ::
R006239-111625

RE: Reference #R006239-111625 / Date of Request: November 16, 2025

Dear (MM),

The MN Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) has reviewed your request and determined that we have no responsive data, as we have not received notification from Minneapolis PD to add those specific cameras. We suggest contacting MPD for the data you are seeking.

The BCA considers this request closed. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Bureau of Criminal Apprehension/AA
MN Department of Public Safety

Followup inquiry, November 19

On 11/19/2025 6:25:24 PM, (MM) wrote:
My request was not specific to Minneapolis PD. I now believe these cameras were installed by University of Minnesota PD, even though I do not see UMN PD listed on your public website.

In UMN PD's October 15, 2025 ALPR audit by MNSec, the report states:

"UMN Police Department has made the required notification to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. This was validated on the BCA website. UMN Police Department was found to be compliant with this part of the statute." <https://www.lrl.mn.gov/docs/2025/mandated/251639.pdf>

Can you please provide the data I requested for UMN PD, or confirm that the audit report is in error and BCA was never notified of these cameras?

Second reply, November 21

On 11/21/2025 2:26:20 PM, BCAMN Support wrote:

Subject: Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Data Request ::
R006239-111625
Body:

RE: Reference #R006239-111625 / Date of Request: November 16, 2025

Dear (MM),

This email is in response to your correspondence dated November 19, 2025. The BCA has searched its repositories and has determined we have no responsive data to your request.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to reply to this email.

Sincerely,

(TB)
Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
MN Department of Public Safety

U of MN Police data request #1

Request 25-1829, submitted via <https://umn.nextrequest.com/>

Initial request, November 16:

For the following items, the most current available data going back to September 1, 2025 for the Twin Cities campus/metro area:

1. Public audit log of Automated License Plate Reader cameras under the control of UMPD, including all items described in MN Statute 13.824 Subd. 5.
2. Vendor names for each ALPR camera under UMPD's control
3. Records of instances where UMPD's ALPR data was shared with other law enforcement agencies, including: the partner agency requesting the data, dates of request and fulfillment, type of case and case number if known, scope of requested data (locations, time spans, number of license plate numbers queried and any other parameters)
4. Records of instances where UMPD requested ALPR data from other law enforcement agencies, including: the partner agency the data was requested from, dates of request and fulfillment, type of case and case number, scope of requested data (locations, time spans, number of license plate numbers queried and any other parameters)

Reply, request closed, December 5:

Dear (M), Thank you for submitting your public information request to the University of Minnesota. The information you requested is already publicly available at the following link: UMPD Flock Transparency webpage:

<https://transparency.flocksafety.com/university-of-minnesota-mn-pd-twin-cities>. Other information you request is protected pursuant to MN Stat. 13.824 and MN Stat. 13.37 (security information). As a result, we are closing this request.

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss this further, feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

University of Minnesota

U of MN Police data request #2

U of MN Police data request #2

Before receiving the reply for request #1, I realized I might have better success with a more targeted request since my main interest was in the locations themselves.

Request 25-1865

Initial request, November 20:

Current and previous locations since January 1 2023, including dates at those locations, of any fixed stationary automated license plate readers or other surveillance devices with automated license plate reader capability used by University of Minnesota Police Department. This includes the 10 Flock Safety cameras disclosed in the October 15, 2025 audit of UMPD's Flock ALPR system (see attached), as well as devices from different vendors or devices otherwise not covered by the attached audit.

Note that this is related to a previously submitted request 25-1829. I am submitting this separate, more targeted request hoping that it may be fulfilled more quickly.

Reply, December 5:

RE: PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

Dear (M),

Thank you for submitting your public information request to the University of Minnesota.

The information you have requested is protected pursuant to MN Stat. 13.37 (security information) and cannot be released.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

(LBK)

University of Minnesota

Followup, requesting more info on December 5:

Hi,

Pursuant to MN Stat. 13.37 Subd. 2(b), could you please provide a short description explaining the necessity for the classification of ALPR camera locations as security information?

Dozens of agencies around the state publish their camera locations through BCA, what is different about UMPD's camera installations?

Thank you,
(MM)