



BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

Flock Safety Cameras

Contract Renewal — Administration Recommendation & Internal Review

Presented to the CMSD Board of Education · October 2026

Division of Innovation & Student Experiences · Department of Safety & Security

201

cameras district-wide

~62

school buildings covered

100%

on CMSD property



What the Board Will Be Asked to Approve

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS

We plan to bring a one-year '26-27 renewal of the Flock Safety camera contract for Board consideration, with an annual cost of \$603,000.

Why a one-year term is the responsible next step:

1

Proven coverage

The system provides districtwide property surveillance coverage across CMSD property and entrances.

2

An Internal Audit found no significant control deficiencies in the areas examined

Internal Audit reviewed governance, access, privacy, and monitoring and identified no significant control deficiencies.

3

Access materially tightened

CMSD revoked nationwide sharing; external access is now limited to the Cleveland Division of Police.

4

Time to formalize before a longer commitment

One year allows CMSD continue to monitor and review the Flock partnership before any multi-year agreement is considered.



What Flock Is & How CMSD Uses It

An automated license-plate reader (ALPR) system CMSD uses to protect students, staff, and District property.



Cameras on our property

201 cameras at ~62 buildings, placed to cover parking lots, bus loops, and every entrance. They face inward onto District property — not the street.



Alerts and investigations

The system flags vehicles tied to stolen-car, AMBER Alert, warrant, and watchlist hits in real time, and lets trained users search historical detections for a defined incident.



Clear limits on use

Used only for legitimate public-safety purposes. It is not authorized for general surveillance of lawful activity or for employee-productivity monitoring.

Why CMSD has more cameras than the City

The City places a few cameras at targeted high-crime spots on public streets. CMSD covers every entrance of every participating building — and many buildings have more than one way in — so full coverage takes more cameras, all pointed inward at District property.



What the System Protects — and What's at Stake

The case for renewal is what the system does for safety every day — and what the District would lose without it.



Coverage in critical areas

Cameras watch the parking lots, bus loops, and entrances of ~62 school buildings — deterring and documenting break-ins, vandalism, and trespassing on District property.



Real-time safety alerts

The system flags stolen vehicles, AMBER Alert and active-warrant hits, and watchlisted vehicles near schools — giving staff and police early warning.



A record that solves incidents

When an incident happens, investigators have a factual vehicle record. Documented CMSD uses include break-ins, stolen cars, and trespassing on campus.

What losing Flock would cost

Without Flock the District loses what makes them useful for safety: automated alerts on stolen vehicles, AMBER Alerts, and warrants, and the searchable license-plate record investigators rely on. Rebuilding camera surveillance capability under a new system would require lead time and expense, with a gap in video surveillance of school property during that time period.



Where the Contract Stands Today



June 30, 2026

Prior contract with Flock ended. Services continued by Flock on a temporary basis.



Now

Extension through October so there is no gap in coverage while awaiting contract approval.



October 2026

A new one-year contract may go to the Board for a public vote as soon as 10/27/26.

The community asked three direct questions — here are the direct answers:

Status today?

Expired June 30; cameras operating under a requested short-term extension.

When is renewal?

One-year contract to the Board for a vote as early as October Business Meeting.

Audit results?

Internal Audit review complete and found no significant deficiencies within the scope of its review.



What Changed in July 2026

The most important fact for the Board: CMSD closed off nationwide access to its camera data — and the audit verified it.

1

Before July 2026

Through a Flock network-sharing arrangement, 533 outside organizations had sharing relationships with CMSD data. In June, 92% of searches touching CMSD data came from non-CDP Ohio or out-of-state agencies.

2

The action (July 6–7)

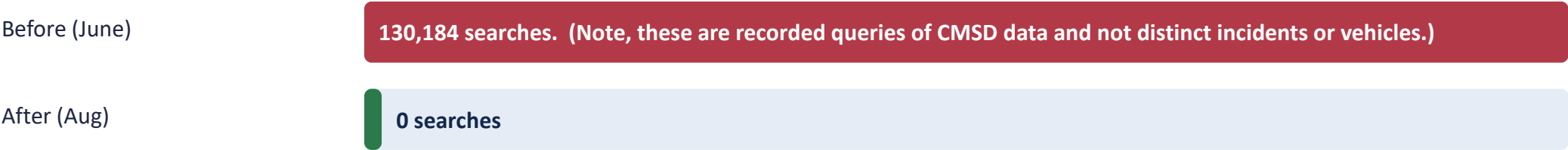
In an administrative review, CMSD revoked all external search and alert access — with the single exception of the Cleveland Division of Police (CDP).

3

Verified result

From July 7 through August 28, Internal Audit found zero searches by other Ohio or out-of-state organizations. All activity was attributable to CMSD or CDP.

Searches of CMSD data by outside agencies (non-CDP), per month



92% of search activity touching CMSD data was external before the change — 0% after the change in system controls.



How the Data Is Protected

Controls confirmed in CMSD policy and the Internal Audit review of the Flock system.



Access is limited

Data is restricted to authorized CMSD staff and the Cleveland Division of Police. No federal, out-of-state, or ICE-cooperating (287(g)) agencies.



Credentialed users only

Only approved, individually credentialed users who complete District training may search. No open or anonymous browsing.



Purpose-limited

Every search must be tied to a defined investigation or public-safety reason. Disclosure of data requires a valid court-issued search warrant.



Fully logged

Each search records the user, time, and stated reason. Audit logs are retained indefinitely so activity stays reviewable.



Defined retention

Camera footage auto-deletes after 30 days. Data is encrypted in storage and in transit, with multi-factor sign-in.



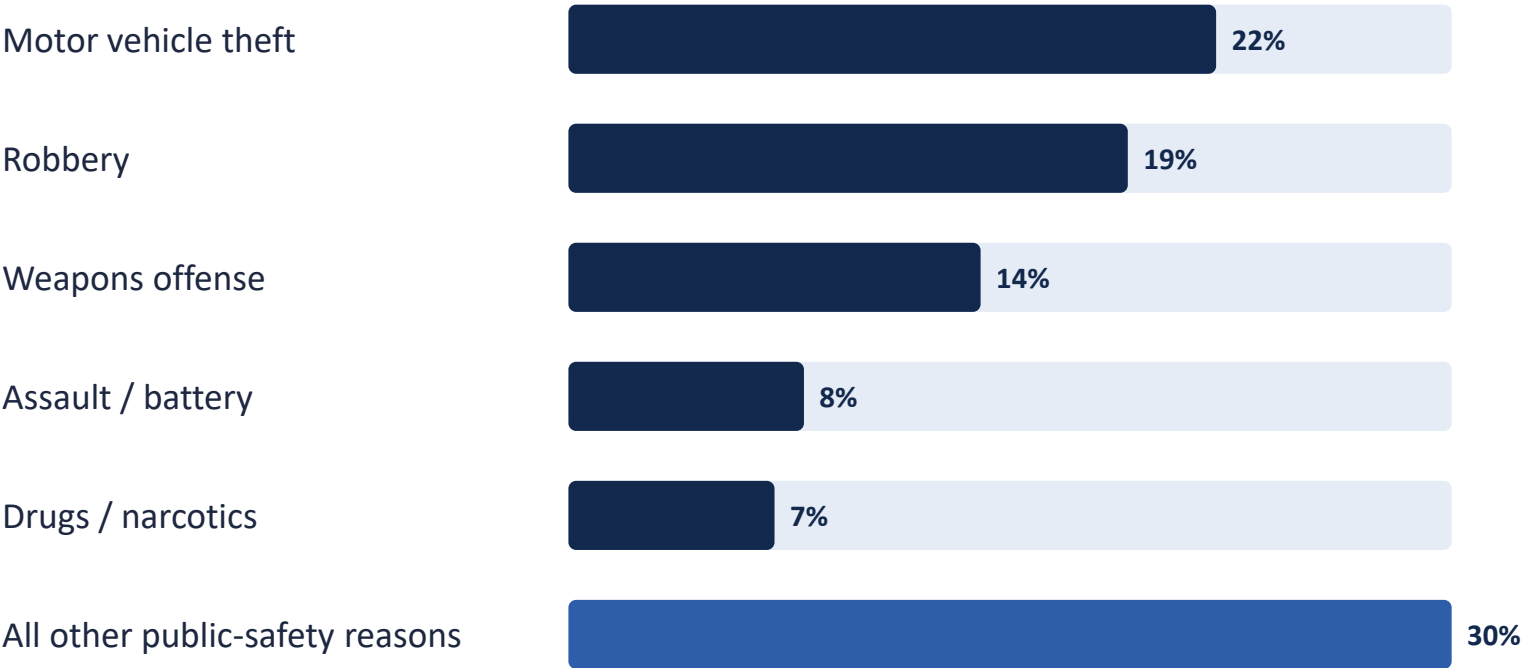
Not sold; categories disabled

Flock does not sell CMSD data, and immigration- and reproductive-rights search categories are disabled in the system.



What the Cameras Help Investigate

Stated reasons for the 16,047 searches of CMSD data since the July change (CMSD and CDP), July 7–Aug 28, 2026.



CMSD's own use

CMSD staff ran 60 searches in this window — for break-ins, vandalism, stolen cars, suspicious vehicles, and trespassing on District property.

 **No immigration enforcement**

Internal Audit tested all 16,047 searches for federal and immigration-enforcement terms and found none.



What Internal Audit Found

The Board requested the review. Internal Audit completed it and issued a draft report.

Reviewed — no issues identified

- ✓ Governance and oversight
- ✓ Access and security controls (MFA, admin access)
- ✓ Data retention and privacy
- ✓ Monitoring and audit logging
- ✓ Vendor controls (reviewed Flock's SOC 2 Type II report)



The bottom line

No significant control deficiencies were identified.

Post-change testing confirmed zero searches by other Ohio or out-of-state agencies, and no federal or immigration-enforcement terms in any of the 16,047 searches tested.

One recommendation: formalize and document continuous monitoring (periodic access, search-log, training, and sharing reviews).



A Closer Look at Cost



THE COMMUNITY ASKED

“Why not buy our own cameras instead of paying Flock every year?”



We costed out the alternative

Replacing all 198 cameras with CMSD-owned CCTV would cost about \$346,500 up front — \$1,500 per camera plus \$250 each to install — then owned outright, with no annual subscription.



What that number leaves out

But standard CCTV only records video — it does not read license plates or send the stolen-vehicle, AMBER, and warrant alerts Flock provides. Licensing, upkeep, and replacement also apply.



Regarding the cost difference as compared to the city of Cleveland

Flock has advised that their pricing has increased since the city’s most recent contract was signed. They have indicated that our contract prices, stable since 2023, cannot be reduced further for this new contract to match the CDP’s pricing.



Approve One Year — With Stronger Controls

A one-year renewal keeps schools covered and commits the District to five things during the year:

1 Keep access tight

Maintain external search and alert access for the Cleveland Division of Police only.

2 Formalize oversight

Stand up quarterly reviews of users, permissions, searches, audit logs, training, and sharing relationships.

3 Track outcomes

Begin consistent tracking of Flock-assisted investigations and their results.

4 Validate pricing

Confirm CMSD is receiving competitive pricing and document the basis for any difference.

5 Close the audit loop

Report back to the Board on the audit recommendation before seeking any further renewal.