



FARMINGTON HILLS POLICE

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
JOHN PIGGOTT, CHIEF

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT RESPONSE

October 22, 2026

Reference Number: **1383-F-26**

Chance Ackley-Smith
[REDACTED]

Hello:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated September 30, 2026. Specifically, you requested the following from Police Department:

See Attached

Please be advised that in order to fulfill your request, it is estimated that the fee to search, retrieve, scan/copy, and redact the records that you are seeking will be **\$194.64**. Therefore, we are requesting a good-faith deposit of one-half the estimation which amounts to **\$97.32**. An estimated fee itemization form is included with this letter. Please note that this fee is only an estimate and the exact amount due will be determined upon completion of processing this request.

MCL 15.234, Sec. 4:

(8) In either the public body's initial response or subsequent response as described under section 5(2)(d), the public body may require a good-faith deposit from the person requesting information before providing the public records to the requestor if the entire fee estimate or charge authorized under this section exceeds \$50.00, based on a good-faith calculation of the total fee described in subsection (4). Subject to subsection (10), the deposit must not exceed 1/2 of the total estimated fee, and a public body's request for a deposit must include a detailed itemization as required under subsection (4). The response must also contain a best efforts estimate by the public body regarding the time frame it will take the public body to comply with the law in providing the public records to the requestor. The time frame estimate is nonbinding upon the public body, but the public body shall provide the estimate in good faith and strive to be reasonably accurate and to provide the public records in a manner based on this state's public policy under section 1 and the nature of the request in the particular instance.

If you wish for us to proceed with your request, please submit the deposit within 45 days to the Farmington Hills Police Department, Records Division, 31655 West Eleven Mile Rd, Farmington Hills, MI 48336. If paying by check, please make check payable to 'City of Farmington Hills' (Department only accepts cash or check). **Upon receipt of deposit, staff will commence with processing your request and estimate it will take 120 days from commencement to complete. The deposit is due no later than Monday, December 7, 2026.**

The City's specific protocol for responding to FOIA requests is set forth in the Public Summary and the City's Procedure and Guidelines available on its website at: www.fhgov.com. Paper copies of the aforementioned documents are also available at the City Clerk's Office.

If you have any further questions, you may telephone the Records Section at 248-871-2720 during our regular business hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Approved by:

F.O.I.A. Coordinator

[REDACTED]

From: Chance Ackley-Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 9:42 PM
To: FOIA Request PD
Cc: FOIA Request Clerk
Subject: FOIA Request: Flock Safety / ALPR program records: system exports

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

FOIA request under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, MCL 15.231 et seq.
Flock Safety / automated license plate reader (ALPR) program records: system exports.

I request copies of the following records held in the Farmington Hills Police Department's Flock Safety account. Each is data the system already stores; the Flock audit and reporting tools copy it to a CSV (or the format the system produces) with a standard export function, and that file is the copy I am requesting. For any item the system displays but does not export, a copy in whatever form the system provides is acceptable. Please provide each file by email or through your records portal, and your response by email (MCL 15.234(1)(c); MCL 15.235(10)). No paper copies or physical media are requested.

Time frame: items 1, 2 and 4, July 1, 2026 through the date the export is run; items 3, 5 and 6, as of the date the export is run. If the export tool limits each run to a fixed window (for example 30 days), please run consecutive exports so that the files together cover the period and send each file. It would help me to know the earliest date the tool will accept, so that I can request earlier periods separately.

1. Search audit (searches run by your users): all fields the export contains, including search ID, user, organization, total networks searched, time frame, license plate, reason, case number, filters, search time, and search type.
2. Network audit (searches of your cameras run by users of other organizations): all fields the export contains, including the searching organization, total networks searched, reason, search time, and search type.
3. Sharing configuration export as of the date the export is run, for each network the Farmington Hills Police Department operates: the organizations that share camera data with the Farmington Hills Police Department and the organizations the Farmington Hills Police Department shares its camera data with, together with the sharing-settings record showing whether statewide and nationwide sharing are enabled.
4. Change logs: the hot-list event log (creation, update, and deletion of hot lists and their entries, with user and date), and any event log or audit trail the system keeps of changes to users, sharing settings, or retention, if the system provides one.
5. The hot-list alert summary or alert export the system produces (alerts by hot list or topic and date), and any alert-disposition report the system produces. If individual alerts drawn from LEIN or NCIC lists are

withheld, the summary the system produces is sufficient for those.

6. User list export (authorized users and roles) as of the date the export is run.

These exports are copies of existing public records. Each entry is a writing (MCL 15.232(l)) recorded in the Farmington Hills Police Department's Flock account at the moment a search, alert, or change occurs; the Farmington Hills Police Department uses it in performing an official function, so it is a public record from the time it is created (MCL 15.232(i)) whether or not the Farmington Hills Police Department owns the server on which Flock stores it, and computer-stored data is not software (MCL 15.232(j)). I am not asking for a compilation, summary, or report (MCL 15.233(4)); furnishing a copy of an existing record is not creating a new one (MCL 15.233(1), (5)). If the Farmington Hills Police Department has already run any of these exports for its own audits under its ALPR policy, I request those existing files as well. If the Farmington Hills Police Department's position is that any item is not its public record, or does not exist until an export is run, please state that position and its basis in the written notice required by MCL 15.235(5), with the certificate described in MCL 15.235(5)(b) where you rely on non-existence.

If you believe individual case numbers, license plates, text prompts, or user names are exempt, please redact those fields within the CSV (replace the value and keep the column) rather than converting the file, leave every other field intact, including search time, organization, search type, total networks searched, time frame, filters, and the reason field (with any name or case number inside it redacted), and state the exemption relied on for each redacted field (MCL 15.244(1); MCL 15.235(5)(a), (c)). A role or pseudonym in place of a user name is acceptable.

Fees. I request a public-interest fee waiver or reduction under MCL 15.234(2): the records concern the operation and oversight of a public automated license plate reader program, and the findings will be published for the general public at no charge on a public website covering Michigan license plate reader programs, so furnishing them can be considered as primarily benefiting the general public. Running an export is labor directly associated with making a digital copy (MCL 15.234(1)(e)); labor for search, examination, and redaction may be charged only where failure to charge would result in unreasonably high costs because of the nature of this particular request and the public body specifically identifies the nature of those costs (MCL 15.234(3)). If you assess a fee, please send the estimate on your standard detailed-itemization form (MCL 15.234(4)), broken out by the numbered items above, and, if it exceeds \$50, the deposit notice under MCL 15.234(8), within the response period of MCL 15.235(2); I will narrow or confirm the request promptly. Thank you.

Chance Ackley-Smith



FOIA Fee Itemization Form**(Effective July 1, 2015)**

Component	Cost Calculations	Total
1. Labor Costs – Search, Location, and Examination of Records*	Enter the hourly wage of lowest paid employee capable of performing the search, location and examination \$ <u>20.77</u> per hour Multiply the wage by the fringe benefit multiplier (maximum of 50% of the hourly wage); OR, if the requested information is available online and the requestor request the documents to be provided in another format, the fringe benefit multiplier may exceed 50% (not to exceed actual cost) <u>50</u> % Multiply the hourly wage times the fringe benefit multiplier \$ <u>20.77</u> x <u>1.50</u> = \$ <u>31.16</u> If stipulated by the requestor, add the hourly overtime wage increment (but do not include in the calculation of fringe benefit costs) \$ <u>-</u> + <u>-</u> = \$ <u>-</u> Divide the resulting hourly wage by four (4) to determine the charge per fifteen (15) minute increment \$ <u>31.16</u> / 4 = \$ <u>7.790</u>	
	Number of 15 minute increments (partial time increments must be rounded down) multiplied by the permitted rate <u>3</u> x \$ <u>7.790</u> = \$ <u>23.37</u>	\$ <u>23.37</u>
2. Employee Labor Costs – Redaction*	If performed by the public body's employee: Enter the hourly wage of lowest paid employee capable of performing the redaction \$ <u>20.77</u> per hour Multiply the wage by the fringe benefit multiplier (maximum of 50% of the hourly wage); OR, if the requested information is available online and the requestor request the documents to be provided in another format, the fringe benefit multiplier may exceed 50% (not to exceed actual cost) <u>50</u> % Multiply the hourly wage times the fringe benefit multiplier	

	$\underline{\$ 20.77} \times \underline{1.50} = \underline{\$ 31.16}$ If stipulated by the requestor, add the hourly overtime wage increment (but do not include in the calculation of fringe benefit costs) $\underline{\$ \quad} + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\$ \quad}$ Divide the resulting hourly wage by four (4) to determine the charge per fifteen (15) minute increment $\underline{\$ 31.16} / 4 = \underline{\$ 7.79}$	
	Number of 15 minute increments (partial time increments must be rounded down) multiplied by the permitted rate $\underline{10} \times \underline{\$ 7.79} = \underline{\$ 77.79}$	<u>\$ 77.79</u>
2. Contracted Labor Costs – Redaction*	If performed by Contracted Labor (Only permitted if the public body does not employ a person capable of redacting the records as determined by the FOIA Coordinator): Name of person or firm contracted: _____ Enter the hourly rate charged by the contractor (may not exceed six (6) times the State minimum wage (i.e. \$8.15x6=\$48.90) \$ _____ per hour Divide the hourly rate by four (4) to determine the charge per fifteen (15) minute increment \$ _____ / 4 = \$ _____	
	Number of 15 minute increments (partial time increments must be rounded down) multiplied by the permitted rate $\underline{\quad} \times \underline{\$ \quad} = \underline{\$ 0.00}$	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
3. Non-Paper Physical Media	Actual and most reasonably economical cost of: Flash Drives \$ _____ x number used _____ = \$ _____ Computer Discs \$ 0.56 x number used _____ = \$ _____ Other Media \$ 0.54 x number used _____ = \$ _____	<u>\$ _____</u>
4. Paper Copies	Actual total incremental cost of duplication (not including labor) up to a <u>maximum of 10 cents per page</u>: Letter paper (8 1/2" x 11") number of sheets <u>0</u> x \$0.05 = \$ 0.00	

	Legal paper (8 1/2" x 14") number of sheets ____ x \$0.05 = \$ ____ Actual cost of other types of paper: Type of Paper: ____ number of sheets ____ x \$ ____ = \$ ____ Type of Paper: ____ number of sheets ____ x \$ ____ = \$ ____ (NOTE: Must print double-sided if available and costs less.)	\$ 0.00
5. Labor Cost – Duplication Copying, and transferring records to non-paper physical media	Enter the hourly wage of lowest paid employee capable of performing the duplication, copying, or transferring digital records to non-paper physical media \$ 18.77 per hour Multiply the wage by the fringe benefit multiplier (maximum of 50% of the hourly wage); OR, if the requested information is available online and the requestor request the documents to be provided in another format, the fringe benefit multiplier may exceed 50% (not to exceed actual cost) 0 % Multiply the hourly wage times the fringe benefit multiplier \$ 18.77 x 1.50 = \$ 28.15 If stipulated by the requestor, add the hourly overtime wage increment (but do not include in the calculation of fringe benefit costs) \$ - + - = \$ - Divide the resulting hourly wage by 4 to determine the charge per fifteen (15) minute increment \$ 28.15 / 4 = \$ 7.03 (NOTE: May use any time increment for this category)	
	Number of 15minute increments (partial time increments must be rounded down) multiplied by the permitted rate x \$ 7.03 = \$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
6. Mailing	Actual cost of mailing records in a reasonable and economical manner: Cost of mailing: \$ ____ Cost of least expensive form of postal delivery confirmation: \$ ____ Cost of expedited shipping or insurance only if specifically stipulated by the requestor:	

	\$ _____	\$ <u>0.00</u>
	Subtotal	\$ <u>194.64</u>
Waivers and Reductions	Subtract any Fee Waiver or Reduction: \$20.00 for indigency or nonprofit organization as further described in the Public Body's procedures and guidelines. Any amount determined by the Public Body due to the search and furnishing of the Public Record determined to be in the public interest. \$ _____ The reduction amount due to the late response of the Public Body. 5% of fee x _____ days late = _____ % reduction (maximum reduction is 50%)	-\$ <u>0.00</u>
Deposit	Subtract any good-faith deposit received: \$ <u>0.00</u>	-\$ <u>0.00</u>
	Total Due	\$ <u>194.64</u>

*Note: Labor costs for search, location, examination and redaction (categories 1 and 2 on the itemization form) may not be charged unless the failure to charge a fee would result in unreasonably high costs to the public body because of the nature of the request in the particular instance, and the public body specifically identifies the nature of these unreasonably high costs.

The Court of Appeals has interpreted this provision to require that the determination be made relative to the usual or typical costs incurred by the public body in responding to FOIA requests. The key factor in determining whether the costs are "unreasonably high" is the extent to which the particular request differs from the usual request. *Bloch v Davison Cmty Schools*, (Mich.App. Apr. 26, 2011), 2011 WL 1564645.