



LeRoy Police Department

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Jason T. Williamson, Chief of Police



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For Immediate Release:

July 11, 2023, Chief Jason Williamson

Grant Funds Received for additional Automated License Plate Reader cameras.

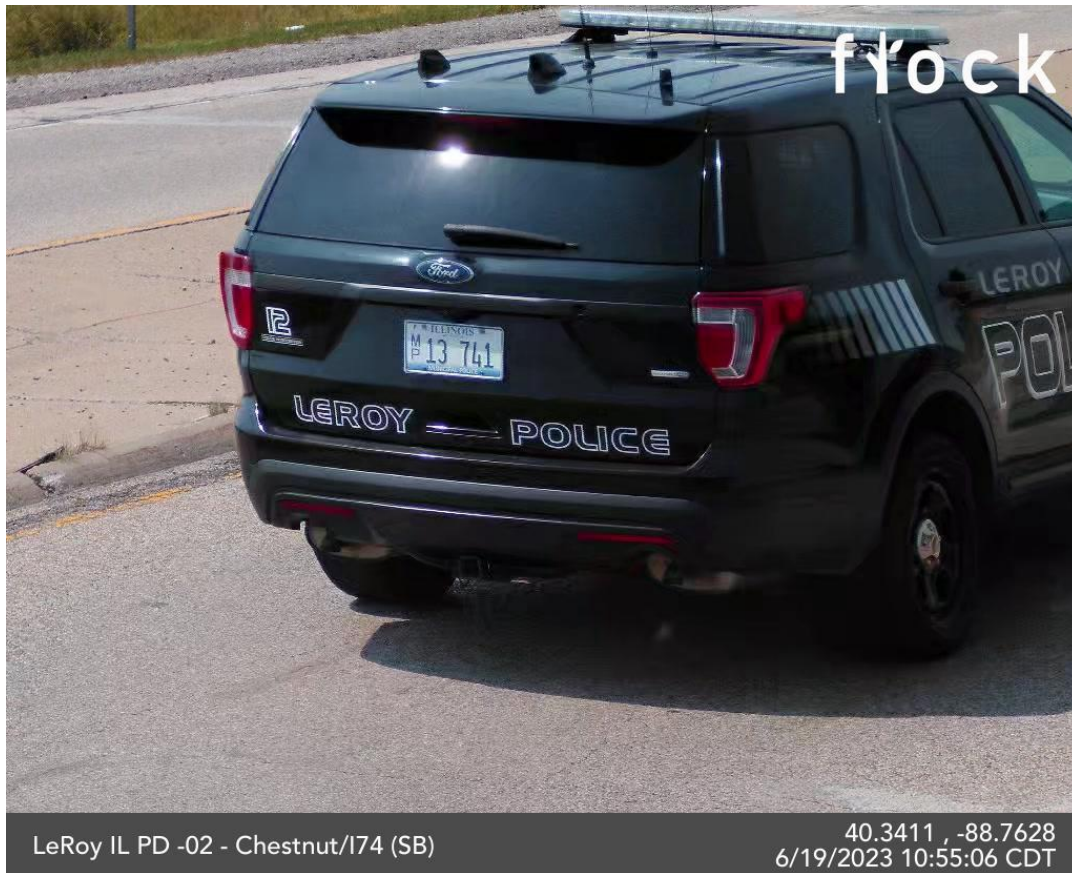
The LeRoy Police Department received a grant from the Illinois Secretary of State to fully fund the addition of four more locations for Flock Safety automated license plate reader (ALPR) cameras for four years. Chief Williamson announced this at the regular city council meeting on March 20, 2023, and the LeRoy Leader published an article about it. The LeRoy Police Department already has one location for the Flock Safety ALPRs that has been in use since Fall 2022. The cameras capture a photograph of the rear of passing vehicles, so to capture both directions two cameras are needed at one location. The additional locations selected for cameras will cover major entry and exit points to the city. This year the LeRoy Police Department was also awarded a \$4,000 grant from the McLean County Crime Detection Network for the two existing cameras to be applied to this year's payment. The cost of the two existing cameras in the one location is \$5,000 per year.

The cameras can't be used to issue citations and do not take identifiable pictures of the occupants of vehicles. The cameras read the rear license plate of all vehicles passing by, record it in a database along with vehicle make and color, and store it for 30 days before deleting it. Personal data from the secretary of state such as name, address, ect, associated with the license plates is not gathered or stored by the Flock Safety ALPRs. While reading the license plates, the camera system checks the plate against "hot" databases that includes suspended, revoked, and stolen license plates, stolen vehicles, wanted vehicles, missing persons vehicles, and amber alert vehicles. If the camera system detects a vehicle meeting one of those criteria, it alerts officers in real time through their in-car computer and department cell phone.

In the event a crime occurs, police can check the local database for vehicles matching the suspect vehicle description. For example, if witnesses describe the suspect vehicle as a "Brown Ford SUV", police can search the database for all brown Ford SUVs in a given timeframe within the last 30 days. Other jurisdictions in our area using the cameras have already had great success in solving crimes quickly using the data in this manner.

Officers can only access the database for official purposes in the course of their duties. Whenever an officer accesses the database, they must log a law enforcement reason for the access. The log of officer activity is permanently retained and audited by the police chief. A policy regarding the use of ALPRs was adopted by LeRoy PD prior to the implementation of ALPRs in LeRoy. The policy is a LLRMI model policy.





City Council Approval:

The City Council unanimously approved the first two Flock Safety Cameras on April 4, 2022

The City Council unanimously approved two additional Flock Safety Cameras on March 6, 2023. This was later vacated when the two approved cameras were absorbed into a grant.

The City Council unanimously approved eight additional Flock Safety Cameras on March 20, 2023, upon a grant being awarded for the eight cameras from the Illinois Secretary of State and voided out the two approved at the March 6, 2023, meeting.

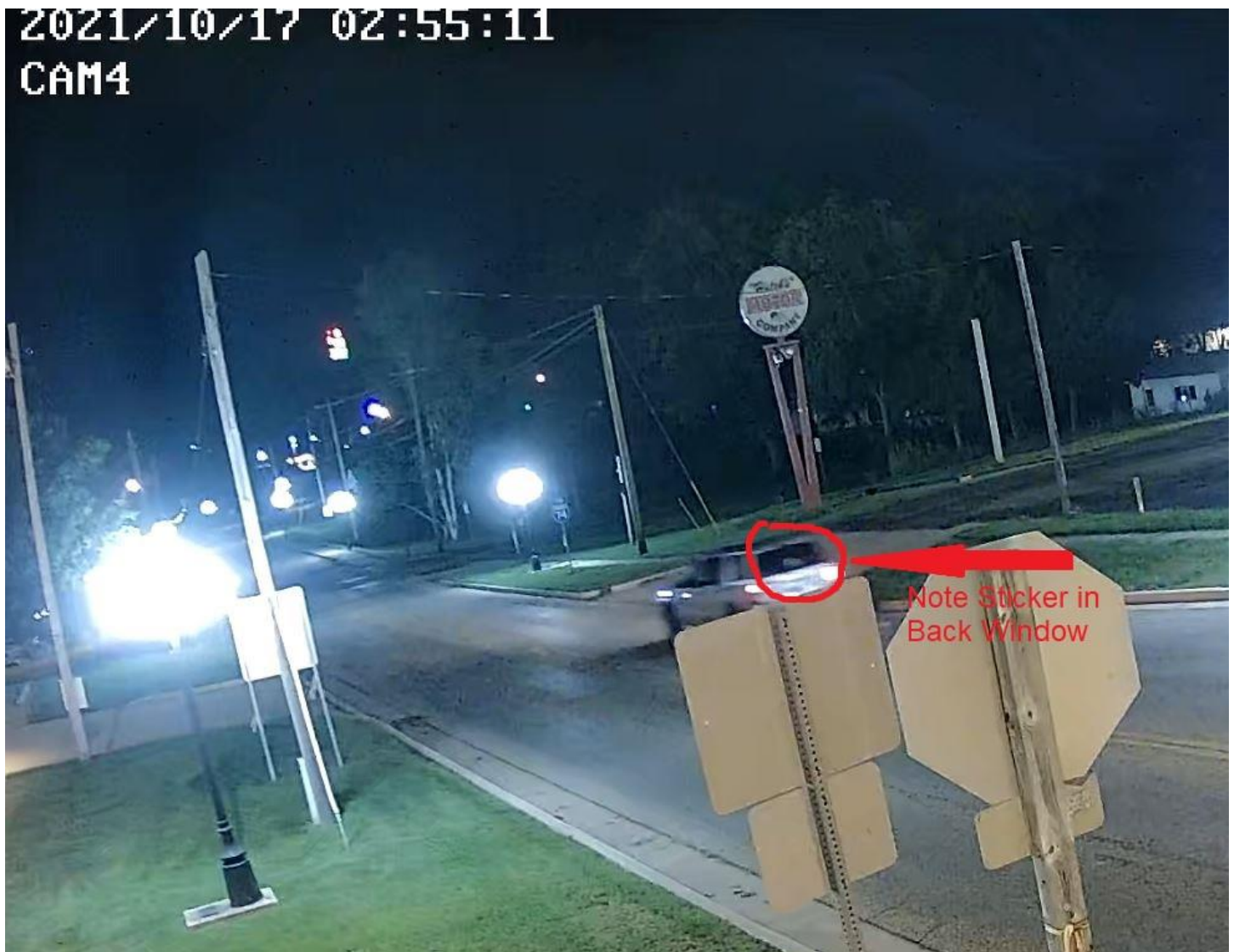
On Monday, June 19, 2023, the City Council unanimously approved the Intergovernmental Agreement with McLean County needed for County Highway Department permits on 2600 East (LeRoy/Lexington) North of LeRoy because it is a county highway right of way.

Recent cases prior to Flock Safety ALRPs:

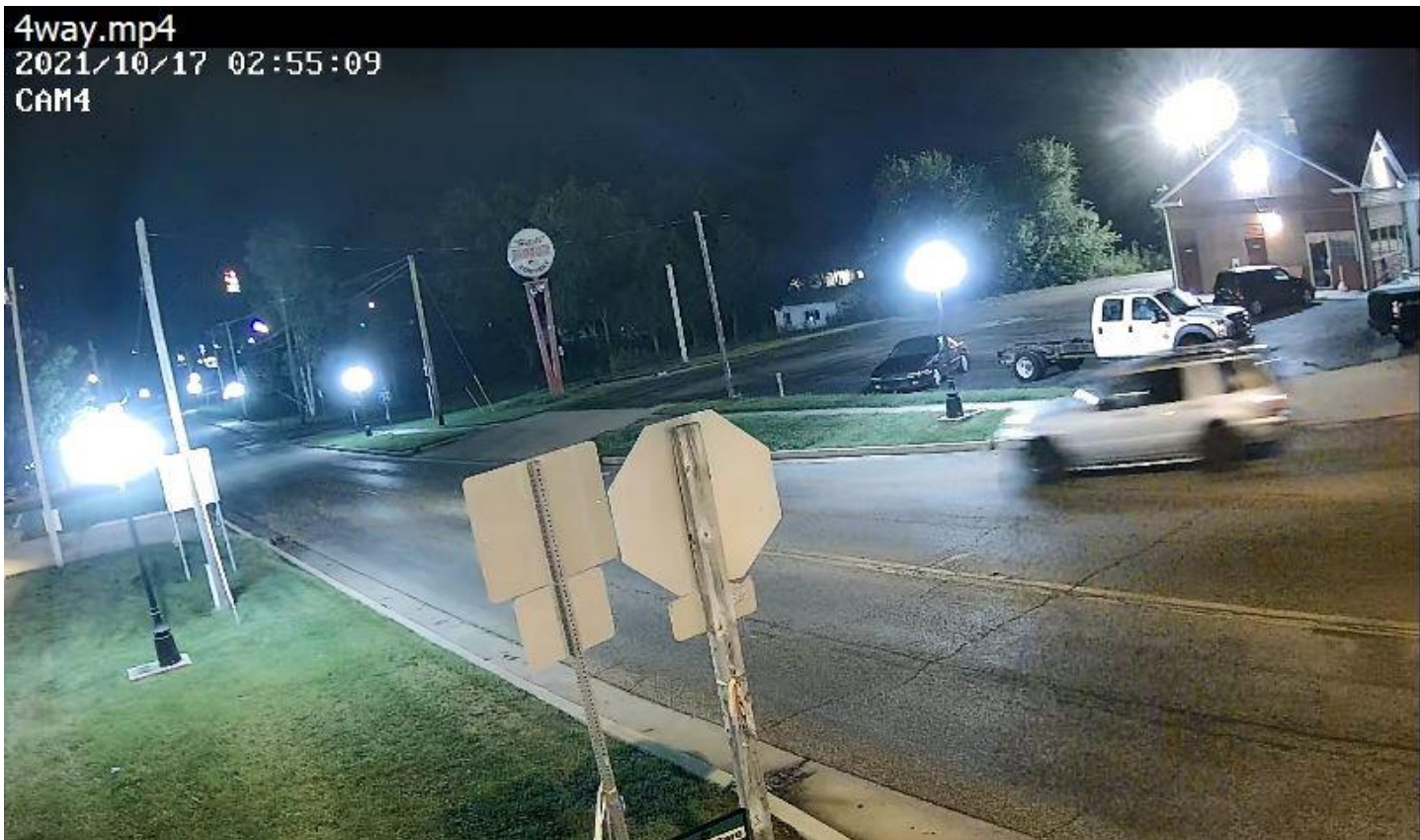
The Flock cameras would have helped solve some serious cases much more quickly and efficiently. Two examples are:

10/2021 Car Burglary Spree. Report # 202113588. LeRoy residents had \$7000 worth of property stolen from their unlocked vehicles. One suspect was seen in a citizen's security video appearing to be holding a firearm while burglarizing a car in LeRoy and had stolen a firearm from a Colfax burglary earlier in the evening. LeRoy PD arrested two suspects but only after hundreds of hours of investigation involving the entire LPD and detectives from 4 other agencies that experienced similar crimes by the same suspects. The suspects had already sold most of the stolen property at their ongoing yard sale by the time law enforcement caught up with them. Other public safety video cameras in LeRoy captured video of the suspect vehicle but not the license plate. This was helpful but not definitive. The suspects could have been immediately identified and property recovered if the flock cameras were in place at the time.

LeRoy PD Public Safety Camera records the burglaries suspect vehicle.



4way.mp4
2021/10/17 02:55:09
CAM4



02/2020: Gun store Burglary. LeRoy PD case # 202002599. LeRoy PD could have solved this case immediately and recovered our victim's guns if we had the Flock cameras in place at the time. Arrests were only made months later by the ATF due to the suspects committing additional similar crimes. Public safety cameras in Kiwanis Park (placed there after repeated vandalism of City Christmas decorations) captured video of the suspect vehicle but not the license plate. More than half of the 9 Glock handguns stolen from this LeRoy burglary are still unaccounted for. Others have been recovered in the Peoria area being used by felons.

LeRoy PD Public Safety Camera – Suspect Vehicle recorded, but insufficient to generate any workable leads.



LeRoy ALPR Successes:

11/01/2022 Stolen Vehicle from Macon County (IL) Report # 202214089.

On the morning of Tuesday, November 1, 2022, about 8:30 AM, A stolen vehicle out of Macon County hit on a LeRoy PD Flock Safety ALPR, travelling Southbound. On duty officers received an alert from Flock. LeRoy PD officers were unable to locate the vehicle and broadcast to area law enforcement agencies about the stolen vehicle. A DeWitt County Sheriff's Deputy located the vehicle South of LeRoy, in DeWitt County, and tried to stop it. The vehicle fled and crashed. The two occupants ran into a cornfield. LeRoy PD, Clinton PD, McLean County Sheriff's Deputies, and Heyworth PD assisted the DeWitt County Sheriff's Department in quickly setting up a containment perimeter. Two subjects were eventually arrested, one possessed methamphetamine. One suspect was previously convicted of committing car burglaries in LeRoy. It was determined later that morning that the suspects had stolen gas from a LeRoy gas station just prior to being detected on the LeRoy PD Flock camera. That case was able to be closed by arrests as a result of the earlier incident.



DESCRIPTION

Image captured by Flock camera "02 - Chestnut/I74 (SB)", which is part of the LeRoy IL PD network, owned by the LeRoy IL PD organization, and was uploaded by jwilliamson@leroy.org (vehicle_make: Mercury, vehicle_type: Sedan, color: blue, back_rack: undefined, bumper_stickers: undefined, top_rack: undefined, window_stickers: undefined, ocr: [REDACTED] license_plate_state: illinois, license_plate_type: regular)

10/06/2022 Report 202212725. The suspect vehicle in a catalytic converter theft was captured on the LeRoy Flock Cameras. No other information is being released at this time as this is still a pending criminal case.

10/14/2022 Stolen Vehicle from Bloomington detected. Report 202213088. On the morning of October 14, 2022, at approximately 4:15 AM, a vehicle stolen from Bloomington hit on the LeRoy PD Flock Cameras. An LPD officer located the vehicle. The vehicle fled at a high rate of speed. The officer terminated the effort to stop the vehicle for public safety reasons. The vehicle and driver were apprehended later in Bloomington.

10/27/2022 Stolen Vehicle from Decatur Apprehended. Report 202213817. On the afternoon of October 27, 2022, at approximately 12:40 PM, a Stolen Vehicle from Decatur hit on the LeRoy PD Southbound camera. LeRoy PD located the vehicle at the Shell Truck Stop in LeRoy.

5/07/2023 Stolen Vehicle from Bloomington Detected. Report 202305368. This vehicle hit twice on a Sunday afternoon and then evening. The vehicle was later located abandoned at Moraine View State Park, and is the suspect vehicle in a violent crime within McLean County. No other information is being released due to the ongoing investigation.

June 22, 2023, 7AM.

Illinois State Police, McLean County Sheriff's Department, and LeRoy PD were all dispatched to I74 W/B MM 150 for a DUI that drove off the road, through a fence and was driving through the field. Police were unable to locate the vehicle but the LeRoy PD Flock camera captured an image of the truck with the damage described and the license plate, which LeRoy PD provided to the state police.

Notable Recent Flock Safety Success in Rantoul:

Rantoul: May 31, 2023, Child Abduction suspect vehicle detected in Rantoul by their Flock Safety Cameras. The vehicle was located, the suspect arrested, and the child was rescued.

[Rantoul Police rescue missing Tennessee child; woman arrested | WCIA.com](https://www.wcia.com/news/local/rantoul-police-rescue-missing-tennessee-child-woman-arrested)