A Statement from the Peapack & Gladstone Police Department on the use of Flock Camera technology.

The Flock Safety Camera System has proven to be a very valuable and effective tool for the Peapack & Gladstone Police Department. The Borough currently has two of these cameras deployed in the Borough. These cameras enhance the Department's ability to investigate crimes. They help identify motor vehicles associated with criminal activity and locate stolen vehicles. Flock Safety provides our officers with timely information that assists in protecting our community.

Like any law enforcement technology, Flock Safety cameras are a tool. The cameras are used to assist in increasing efficiency and are not a replacement for good, sound police work. This includes proper investigative procedures along with an officer's judgment. Information obtained through the system provides investigative leads. These leads must be evaluated and verified by our officers before any action is taken.

The Peapack & Gladstone Police Department, just like any other law enforcement agency or business, recognizes that the use of technology must be balanced with reasonable expectations of privacy for the public and the need for accountability. All access to the Flock Safety system and the information gathered by the cameras, is limited to authorized law enforcement personnel. The data is used only for legitimate law enforcement purposes and in accordance with Peapack & Gladstone Police Department policy and the New Jersey Attorney General's Office policy as well as all applicable laws. The system is not intended nor is it used to monitor the everyday activities of our citizens.

Our department is committed to ensuring that this technology is used appropriately. Officers are required to have a legitimate law enforcement purpose when accessing the system and the use of the system is subject to strict oversight and monitoring protocols.

Flock Safety cameras provide our officers with another resource to help solve crimes more efficiently. With these cameras, we can identify suspects and vehicles involved in criminal activity. There is potentially also the opportunity to prevent additional crimes from occurring. When used responsibly and with appropriate safeguards, this technology can significantly enhance public safety while maintaining the trust of the community we serve.

As Chief of Police, I am confident that the Peapack & Gladstone Police Department is using Flock Safety cameras responsibly, professionally, and for their intended law enforcement purpose. We will continue to evaluate our policies and practices to ensure that the technology is used in a manner that supports both public safety and the rights of the citizens we are sworn to protect.

Steven Ferrante
Chief of Police
Borough of Peapack & Gladstone