

CJ LESTER INVESTIGATES

Flock Interview & Site Visit Binder

Chief R. Scott Freeman · Conyers Police Department

Monday, October 12, 2026 · 1:30 PM

1194 Scott St SE, Conyers, GA 30012

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1. Day-of Plan

Arrive by 1:25 PM. Out of class at 12:45 PM. Night shift afterward: plan food and rest.

Time (approx.)	Part	Notes
1:30	Welcome, sign forms	GCIC + CPD ALPR awareness statements
1:45–3:15	One-on-one interview with Chief Freeman	Recorded audio + video. Approval questions FIRST.
3:15–3:45	Real Time Crime Center tour	General shots only; screens off or out of frame
3:45–4:15	Staff conversations	Ask name, title, and permission to use both
4:15–4:35	Audit and success demos	NOTES ONLY. No recording.
4:35–5:15	IACP briefing (40 min)	Confirm how you may use it before it starts
5:15–5:30	Exterior/facility shots, wrap-up	Collect documents from walk-out list

If time runs short: protect the interview and walkthrough. Ask for written answers to remaining questions. The IACP briefing is the easiest to move.

2. Packing Checklist

- ☐ This binder, printed
- ☐ Two pens
- ☐ Phone fully charged + charger or battery pack
- ☐ Camera / video device charged; storage cleared
- ☐ Microphone (lapel mic if you have one) + spare batteries
- ☐ Tripod or phone stand
- ☐ Signed copies of both awareness forms (and a blank set)
- ☐ Printed copy of the chief's email approving recording
- ☐ Printed copy of your email clarifying the ALPR form (and his reply, if received)
- ☐ Printed key pages: contract signature page, billing schedule, procurement policy pages
- ☐ Community response chart (to share with the chief)
- ☐ Water and a snack (long afternoon, then night shift)

3. Agreements and Ground Rules

Topic	What was agreed
Recording	Approved: interview audio/video; exterior shots of ALPR cameras (in the community, none at CPD); general facility shots with displays off or out of frame.
Not recorded	Demonstrations of successes and audit practices, where names or sensitive info may be heard. Take notes only.
New requests	Anything else you want to film: ask on site; the chief will approve it in writing.
Document hold	Documents the chief sends directly are held until after the Oct. 12 interview. Does NOT cover your Open Records responses or the contract you already reported on.
ALPR awareness form	Do not touch, log into, search, photograph, or record any system or screen. Do not publish license plate data or identifying info. Your clarifying email: the form does not restrict reporting on policies, procedures, operations, audits, contracts, or the interview.
Story review	No pre-publication review of the article. You may check specific facts and quotes with the chief.
IACP briefing	Not publicly available. Ask before it starts: quote it, describe it, or background only?

Start of interview (say on the recording): "Chief, this interview is on the record and being recorded on audio and video, correct?"

4. Key Facts Reference Sheet

All from City of Conyers Open Records responses unless noted. Verify any number before quoting.

Fact	Detail	Source
Contract signed	Sept. 30, 2025, by Chief R. Scott Freeman and Flock CLO Dan Haley; PO number line blank	CH-277-2026, p. 9
Contract term	10 years (120 months), then auto-renews in 24-month terms	CH-277-2026, p. 2
Total cost	\$6,857,386; Year 1 \$296,403 → Year 10 \$891,000; Year 2 \$447,758	CH-277-2026, pp. 3–4
Discounts	Multi-year \$2,052,614; platform \$350,000; prof. services \$99,800	CH-277-2026, p. 4
Equipment	52 LPRs; 35 PTZ LTE + 35 solar video cams; 10 community partnership cams; 10 gateways; 3 drones + radar; gunshot detection; Flock911; Nova; FreeForm	CH-277-2026, p. 2
Schools	~120 streams, up to 4 schools; RCPS "highest priority"; MOU "pending"	SOW Sept. 24, 2025
Exit clause	City can end without penalty if council does not fund it (MSA 11.15)	CH-277-2026, p. 26
Data retention	30 days; Flock may use anonymized data to train AI (MSA 4.3)	Order form; MSA
Earlier deals	2020: 4 cams, \$8K/yr, signed by then-Deputy Chief Freeman. 2021: 12 cams, \$33K PO. Mar. 16, 2022: council approved 20 cams + Raven (\$80K yr 1). Late 2024: drone deal \$300K/2 yrs	CH-259-2026
City's answer (CH-290)	Not sole source: "a cooperative purchasing contract through the state." No records produced for co-op contract number, council approval, cost analysis, or multi-year determination (clarification requested).	CH-290-2026
Year 1 payment	Invoice INV-76257 (10/8/25): \$296,403 less \$63,668.09 credit = \$232,734.91, paid by ACH 10/14/25. PO# blank. Coded 20-50-930-54-000-5210; "DRONE" handwritten. No Year 2 invoice produced.	CH-290-2026
Purchasing policy	Over \$25K: competitive bidding. Bids/proposals: City Manager + Council approval. Cooperative: prior Council approval. Sole source: written determination + CFO/City Manager approval, public record. Multi-year: written determination. No provision found giving the chief signing authority.	CH-283-2026, Policy pp. 6, 16, 18, 29, 36, 37
Budget	FY2026 Police Technology line \$492,401. FY2027 (Ord. 1475, June 17, 2026): Police \$11,891,284; Technology \$2,741,515; RTCC \$101,052; spending authority to City Manager	CH-283-2026
SRO agreement	2025–28; RCHS + C.J. Hicks; signed by Mayor, attested by Clerk, approved as to form by City Attorney; video sharing rules under FERPA	CH-283-2026, Part 5
City Manager	Kameron Kelley (former IT director, then chief of operations)	City website
July 2026 case	CPD dispatch supervisor charged by GBI with ALPR misuse under O.C.G.A. § 35-1-22	News reports

Fact	Detail	Source
Georgia law	O.C.G.A. § 35-1-22: law-enforcement purpose only; misuse is a high and aggravated misdemeanor; agencies must keep written policies; plate data exempt from Open Records	Statute
Courts	Norfolk, VA: judge ruled for city Jan. 2026; appeal to 4th Circuit (argument week of Dec. 8). Chatrie v. U.S. (June 29, 2026): geofence data is a search	News reports

5. Interview Outline: One-on-One With Chief Freeman

About 90 minutes, recorded on audio and video. Follow this order; pull extra questions from Section 6 as time allows.

Opening (3 min)

Goal: Set the record and the tone.

- ☐ Start recording. Say: "Chief, this interview is on the record and being recorded on audio and video, correct?"
 - ☐ "Please say and spell your full name and title."
 - ☐ Thank him for the time and the visit.
 - ☐ Explain the plan: "I'm bringing residents' questions and what the city's records show, and I want to hear your explanation."
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Segment 1: Background (5 min)

Goal: Let him explain the program in his own words.

- ☐ Why did Conyers start using Flock in 2020? What problem were you trying to solve?
- ☐ How has the program grown from 4 cameras to the current agreement?

Listen for: The department's own reasons. Specific numbers you can check later.

Transition: "Let's talk about how the newest agreement was approved."

Segment 2: How the Contract Was Approved (20 min)

Goal: Get a clear, on-camera answer on the approval path. This is the core of the reporting.

- ☐ The city says this was a cooperative purchase through the state. Which state contract was used?
- ☐ The purchasing policy requires prior City Council approval for cooperative purchases. When did council approve it?
- ☐ The city produced no cost analysis or multi-year written determination, which the policy requires. Do they exist?
- ☐ What gave you authority to sign the agreement for the city? Is there a written delegation?
- ☐ Who at the city reviewed it before you signed: the City Manager, the city attorney?
- ☐ The SRO agreement was signed by the Mayor and approved as to form by the City Attorney. Why was this one handled differently?
- ☐ Why a 10-year term instead of a shorter one?

Listen for: Dates, document names, and who decided. If an answer is general, ask: "Can you show me that in writing?"

Transition: "Now let's look at the cost."

Segment 3: Cost and Funding (10 min)

Goal: Confirm what has been paid and where the money comes from.

- ☐ Year 1 was \$232,734.91 after a credit, coded to account 20-50-930-54-000-5210. What is that account?
- ☐ "DRONE" is handwritten on the invoice. What does that note mean?
- ☐ Has the Year 2 payment of \$447,758 been invoiced or paid?
- ☐ Costs rise to \$891,000 by Year 10. How does the city plan to pay for that?

Transition: *"Residents' biggest concern after cost was misuse."*

Segment 4: Misuse and Oversight (15 min)

Goal: Learn how abuse is prevented and caught today.

- ☐ After the July arrest, what changed in how access is monitored?
- ☐ How often is access audited, and by whom? Have other problems been found since July?
- ☐ How many people can search the system, and how many are not sworn officers?
- ☐ What happens when an audit flags a search?

Listen for: He may not discuss the July case's personnel details. Ask about policy and process instead.

Transition: *"Let's talk about where the data goes."*

Segment 5: Data and Sharing (15 min)

Goal: Find out who can see Conyers data and how long it is kept.

- ☐ Which outside agencies can search Conyers data? About how many?
- ☐ Can an officer in another state search Conyers cameras without a Conyers case number?
- ☐ Is any data shared with federal immigration authorities?
- ☐ The contract lets Flock use anonymized Conyers data to train its AI. Are you comfortable with that?
- ☐ Which systems feed into Flock Nova? Does the department use the FirstTwo feature?

Transition: *"Several residents asked about schools and drones."*

Segment 6: Cameras, Schools, and Drones (10 min)

Goal: Get specifics on where cameras are and what they see.

- ☐ How are camera locations chosen?
 - ☐ Has a school camera agreement been signed? Which schools? Inside or outside? Live, or emergencies only?
 - ☐ What can police see through the 10 cameras on private business property?
 - ☐ How will the drones be used? Is drone footage kept or shared?
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Segment 7: Residents and Rights (10 min)

Goal: Answer residents' privacy and fairness questions.

- ☐ Can residents get footage after a crash or crime without hiring a lawyer?
 - ☐ How often does Flock produce false matches? What happens to someone wrongly flagged?
 - ☐ Do officers need a case number or reason before searching? Is that in the written policy?
 - ☐ Residents raised the Fourth Amendment most often. How does the department weigh their privacy?
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Segment 8: Results and the Future (5 min)

Goal: Ask for evidence of results and plans for new rules.

- ☐ Can you share specific cases solved and numbers on arrests or recoveries?
 - ☐ If Georgia lawmakers tighten the rules in 2027, how would that affect this contract?
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Closing (5 min)

Goal: End on residents' voices and set up follow-up.

- ☐ "What would you say to residents who feel they never had a say in this decision?"
 - ☐ "Is there anything I didn't ask that residents should know?"
 - ☐ Confirm documents he will provide (Section 9 walk-out list).
 - ☐ "I'll check specific facts and quotes with you before publishing. What's the best way to reach you?"
 - ☐ Thank him. Stop recording.
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If time runs short: Never skip Segment 2. Shorten Segments 6–8 and ask for written answers to anything left.

6. Interview Question Bank

Check the box when asked. Parts 1 and 2 are the priority.

Part 1: Must-ask (approval, cost, misuse)

- ☐ 1. Did the Sept. 30, 2025 contract go to the Mayor and Council for a vote? If not, why not?

- ☐ 2. The city says this was a cooperative purchase through the state. The purchasing policy requires prior City Council approval for that. When did council approve it, and which state contract was used?

- ☐ 3. The city produced no cost analysis or multi-year written determination. The policy requires both. Do they exist?

- ☐ 4. What gave you authority to sign a \$6.86 million contract? Is there a written delegation?

- ☐ 5. Who at the city reviewed the contract before you signed it: the City Manager, the city attorney?

- ☐ 6. The school agreement was signed by the Mayor and approved by the City Attorney. Why was the Flock contract handled differently?

- ☐ 7. Why commit to 10 years instead of a shorter term?

- ☐ 8. The cost rises from \$296,403 to \$891,000 a year. How will the city pay for that growth?

- ☐ 9. Year 1 was paid from account 20-50-930-54-000-5210, not the Police Technology line, and "DRONE" is handwritten on the invoice. What is that account? Has the Year 2 payment of \$447,758 been invoiced or paid?

- ☐ 10. After the July arrest, what changed in how access is monitored?

- ☐ 11. How often is Flock access audited, and by whom? Have any other misuse cases been found?

- ☐ 12. How many people can search the system, and how many are not sworn officers?

Part 2: Data and sharing

- ☐ 13. Which outside agencies can search Conyers' Flock data? About how many?

- ☐ 14. Can an officer in another state search Conyers cameras without a Conyers case number?

- ☐ 15. Is any data shared with federal immigration authorities?

☐ 16. The contract lets Flock use anonymized Conyers data to train its AI. Were you aware of that, and are you comfortable with it?

☐ 17. Which systems are connected to Flock Nova, and why include court and code enforcement data?

☐ 18. Does the department use the FirstTwo feature, which shows residents' names, phone numbers, and ages by location?

Part 3: Cameras, schools, and drones

☐ 19. How are camera locations chosen?

☐ 20. Has a school camera agreement been signed? Which schools?

☐ 21. Would school cameras be outside only, or inside buildings? Can police view them live, or only in emergencies?

☐ 22. What can police see through the 10 cameras on private business property?

☐ 23. How will the drones be used? Is drone footage kept or shared?

Part 4: Residents and rights

☐ 24. Can residents get footage after a crash or crime without hiring a lawyer?

☐ 25. How often does Flock produce false matches, and what happens to someone wrongly flagged?

☐ 26. Do officers need a case number or reason before searching? Is that in the written policy?

☐ 27. Residents raised the Fourth Amendment most often. How does the department weigh their privacy?

☐ 28. Has the city attorney reviewed the program in light of the Norfolk lawsuit or the Supreme Court's Chatrue decision?

☐ 29. Is this technology replacing any officer positions?

Part 5: Results and the future

☐ 30. Can you share specific cases solved because of Flock, and numbers on arrests or recoveries?

☐ 31. What does the IACP's new guidance say, and does Conyers follow it?

☐ 32. If Georgia lawmakers tighten the rules in 2027, how would that affect this contract?

☐ 33. What would you say to residents who feel they never had a say in this decision?

☐ 34. Is there anything I didn't ask that residents should know?

Tips: Ask approval questions while he's fresh. Follow up on vague answers: "Can you show me that in writing?"
After a tough question, let the silence sit.

7. Tour, Demonstration, and Staff Questions

The audit and success demos are NOTES ONLY. Use the fill-in note sheets in Section 10.

Real Time Crime Center

- ☐ 1. What's the official name of this room now, and when was the upgrade finished?
- ☐ 2. What did the upgrade cost, and where did the money come from?
- ☐ 3. How many people work here, and what are their job titles?
- ☐ 4. What hours is it staffed? Is someone here around the clock?
- ☐ 5. Are the people who search Flock sworn officers, civilians, or both?
- ☐ 6. What systems come into this room: Flock cameras, city cameras, business cameras, school cameras, drones?
- ☐ 7. How many Flock cameras are live right now, by type?
- ☐ 8. Are any school or business camera feeds connected yet? How many?
- ☐ 9. Walk me through the exact steps of a Flock search. What must be entered first: a case number, a reason, both?
- ☐ 10. Can someone search without a case number? What happens if they try?
- ☐ 11. Who approves a search, or does each person decide on their own?
- ☐ 12. Can this system search cameras in other cities? Can other agencies search Conyers cameras?
- ☐ 13. How is a drone launched, and who decides?
- ☐ 14. How do you handle a live 911 call with Flock911?

Audit demonstration (notes only)

- ☐ 15. What does an audit check? What would trigger a red flag?
- ☐ 16. How often are audits run: daily, weekly, monthly?

☐ 17. Who runs them? Is it someone outside the person's own chain of command?

☐ 18. Is the audit done by a person, Flock's automated tool, or both?

☐ 19. How quickly would a pattern like the July case show up today, compared with then?

☐ 20. Since July, have audits found any other problems? How many?

☐ 21. What happens when a red flag is found? Who decides the consequence?

☐ 22. Can I get a copy of a blank audit form, or a redacted audit summary?

Success demonstration (notes only)

☐ 23. Was Flock the only lead in this case, or one of several?

☐ 24. What crime was it, and roughly when? (Month and year are enough.)

☐ 25. Would you have solved it without Flock? How much longer would it have taken?

☐ 26. Has a Flock alert ever pointed to the wrong person or car? What happened?

☐ 27. Is this case public record now, so I can look up the court file?

Staff conversations

☐ 28. Can I use your name and title? How do you spell your name?

☐ 29. How long have you worked here, and how long with Flock?

☐ **30.** Walk me through a normal shift. When do you use Flock, and for what?

☐ **31.** What training did you get before you were given access?

☐ **32.** Do you know your searches are audited? How does that feel day to day?

☐ **33.** Has a Flock alert ever been wrong? What happened?

☐ **34.** What's a case where Flock made the difference?

☐ **35.** What do you wish residents understood about how this works?

8. IACP Briefing Questions

Before it starts: "Can I quote or describe this briefing, or is it background only?"

Usage agreed: ☐ Quote ☐ Describe ☐ Background only

☐ 1. Which of these principles does Conyers already follow?

☐ 2. Which ones would Conyers need to change something to meet?

☐ 3. Is following these principles required, or voluntary?

☐ 4. Is there a public version of these principles I can link to for readers?

Key points from the briefing

9. Walk-Out List and Accuracy Checks

Documents to request before you leave

- ☐ Written Flock / LPR use policy (SOP)
- ☐ Recent audit summaries (redacted)
- ☐ Data on cases or arrests connected to Flock
- ☐ Breakdown of cameras by type and location (general areas are fine)
- ☐ Any signed school camera agreement
- ☐ Blank audit form
- ☐ Written approvals for any additional filming (signed on site)
- ☐ Copies of both signed awareness forms

Accuracy checks during the visit

- ☐ Repeat numbers back: "So that's 52 cameras, correct?"
- ☐ Ask: "Is that written down somewhere I can get a copy of?"
- ☐ Clarify the source: Conyers policy, Flock's rule, or state law?
- ☐ Ask: "Is that an exact number or an estimate?"
- ☐ Check wording: "Can I describe what I saw here as ...?"
- ☐ Confirm spelling of every name and title
- ☐ Note the time at each stop

10. No-Recording Note Sheets

For the audit and success demonstrations, where you can't record. Just fill in the blanks. You don't need full sentences.

How to use these sheets

- ☐ **Write numbers first.** Numbers are the easiest facts to lose: how many, how often, how fast.
- ☐ **Grab one exact quote.** When someone says something strong, write it word for word in the quote box, even if it's short.
- ☐ **Use your shorthand:** CF = Chief Freeman, FL = Flock, aud = audit, # = number, w/ = with, w/o = without, * = important, ? = ask again.
- ☐ **Don't write names of residents or plate numbers.** Your access form doesn't allow it, and you can't publish them.
- ☐ **Put a ? next to anything unclear,** then ask about it during the recorded interview.
- ☐ **Right after each demo,** step into the hallway and record a 2-minute voice memo of what you saw (prompts at the bottom of each sheet).

Note Sheet A: Audit Demonstration

NOTES ONLY. No recording. No resident names or plate numbers.

Time started: _____ Room / location: _____

Who showed it (name and title):

OK to use their name? Circle one: Yes / No / Not sure

What tool or screen did they use? (Flock's audit tool, a report, a spreadsheet?)

How often are audits run? (daily / weekly / monthly / other)

Who reviews the audits? Is it outside the person's chain of command?

What triggers a red flag? (list each thing they mention)

What happens after a flag? Who decides the consequence?

How fast would a pattern like the July case show up now?

Problems found since July (number and type, no names):

Can I get a copy of a blank audit form or a redacted summary? Circle one: Yes / No / Not sure

EXACT QUOTE (word for word):

Anything to ask again on the recording (?):

Voice memo prompts (right after): 1. What did I see? 2. What numbers did they give? 3. What surprised me? 4. What did they say they'd send me? 5. What do I still need to ask?

Note Sheet B: Success Demonstration

NOTES ONLY. No recording. No resident names or plate numbers.

Time started: _____ Room / location: _____

Who showed it (name and title):

OK to use their name? Circle one: Yes / No / Not sure

Type of crime (theft, assault, missing person, etc.):

Month and year it happened:

Was Flock the only lead? Circle one: Only lead / One of several / Not sure

How did Flock help? (step by step, in a few words)

Would they have solved it without Flock? How much longer would it have taken?

Is the case public record now (court file I can look up)? Circle one: Yes / No / Not sure

Has a Flock alert ever pointed to the wrong person or car? What happened?

Numbers mentioned (arrests, recoveries, cases):

EXACT QUOTE (word for word):

Anything to ask again on the recording (?):

Voice memo prompts (right after): 1. What case was it? 2. How did Flock help? 3. What numbers did they give? 4. What can I verify in court records? 5. What do I still need to ask?

Note Sheet C: Anything Else Off the Recording

Use for tour stops, side conversations, or anything said while the recorder is off.

Stop 1 · Time: _____ **· Who:** _____ **· OK to name?** Yes / No

What was said or shown (key points):

Numbers:

Exact quote:

Follow up / ask again:

Stop 2 · Time: _____ **· Who:** _____ **· OK to name?** Yes / No

What was said or shown (key points):

Numbers:

Exact quote:

Follow up / ask again:

11. Notes

Stop / time: _____

Notes (continued)

Stop / time: _____

Notes (continued)

Stop / time: _____

12. After the Visit

- ☐ Back up all audio and video the same day (two places)
- ☐ Write a quick summary of the visit within a few hours, while it's fresh
- ☐ Tue, Oct 13, 3:00 PM: get transcript, send to Claude with notes; post short Facebook teaser
- ☐ Release hold: chief's documents may now be used, with his context
- ☐ Thu, Oct 15, 3:00 PM: main story first draft
- ☐ Check specific facts and quotes with the chief (not the full story)
- ☐ Fri, Oct 16, 2:00 PM: final edit; schedule Sat, Oct 17, 7:00 AM in Webador + Facebook
- ☐ Send a thank-you email to the chief and staff
- ☐ Follow up on any documents promised but not handed over

Possible follow-up stories
