THE EVERETT PRIVACY AND SAFETY ACT

Popular name: Protect our Privacy

Initiative Petition to the City Council of Everett, Washington

Full Ballot Initiative | City of Everett, Washington

Petitioner: Dr. Janice R. Greene, registered voter of the City of Everett

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To circulators and signers

This is a complete petition packet. It contains the petition form, the full text of the proposed ordinance, and signature sheets. Do not separate the pages. Under RCW 35.21.005 the full ordinance text must stay with the signature sheets, so circulate this packet as one bound document.

Sign only if you are a registered voter who lives in Everett. Use the residence address where you are registered to vote. Sign this measure only once. Signatures must be handwritten in ink. Typed names, electronic signatures, and email replies do not count.

Where to return completed sheets

Drop off, in care of UNIDOS Snohomish County:

LETI, 9930 Evergreen Way, Building Y, Everett WA 98204

Or drop off:

c/o Janice R. Greene, PhD, 3616 Colby Ave #251, Everett WA 98201

Additional local drop-off points are available. Email admin@onevoice-snoco.org or ask your circulator for the nearest one.

Return the original signed paper sheets. A scan or photo may help the campaign track returns, but only the originals count for filing.

Petition

INITIATIVE TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF EVERETT, WASHINGTON

The undersigned registered voters of the City of Everett petition the City Council to adopt the proposed ordinance set forth in this petition, the Everett Privacy and Safety Act, and if the Council does not adopt the ordinance without alteration, to submit the measure to the voters of the City of Everett as provided by Everett City Charter Section 11.2 and applicable Washington law.

Warning

Every person who signs this petition with any other than his or her true name, or who knowingly signs more than one of these petitions, or signs a petition seeking an election when he or she is not a legal voter, or signs a petition when he or she is otherwise not qualified to sign, or who makes herein any false statement, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Each signature shall be executed in ink or indelible pencil and shall be followed by the name and address of the signer and the date of signing.

Petitioner's proposed ballot title

The following is the petitioner's proposed ballot title. Under RCW 29A.36.071, the official ballot title for a city measure is prepared by the City Attorney and consists of three elements: a statement of the subject (not to exceed ten words), a concise description (not to exceed seventy-five words), and a question. The elements below are offered for the City Attorney's consideration.

Statement of subject: City of Everett automated license plate reader surveillance.

Concise description: This measure would prohibit City of Everett automated license plate reader surveillance systems used for mass vehicle tracking, require permanent deletion of previously collected data within City and contractor systems, restrict federal agency access to that data, and direct associated funds to community-based public safety programs.

Question: Shall the City of Everett prohibit automated license plate reader surveillance systems used for mass vehicle tracking, require permanent deletion of all previously collected data, and redirect surveillance funding to community safety programs?

The proposed statement of subject is eight words and the proposed concise description is forty-six words, within the ten-word and seventy-five-word limits of RCW 29A.36.071. The official ballot title is subject to preparation and revision by the City Attorney.

Ordinance summary

An ordinance of the City of Everett, Washington, adding a new chapter to Title 10 of the Everett Municipal Code (chapter number to be assigned by the City Clerk before filing; contact City Clerk, 2930 Wetmore Ave., Suite 1-C, Everett, WA 98201, (425) 257-8700) to prohibit automated license plate reader surveillance systems used for mass vehicle tracking, require deletion of previously collected data, restrict federal agency access to that data, and direct associated funds to community-based public safety programs.

Petitioner's fiscal estimate

Subject to City Finance review:

The two-year Flock Safety ALPR contract, signed June 2024, totaled $550,000. Available reporting indicates the contract was funded through grants, including grants associated with the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority and the U.S. Department of Justice, rather than general City funds (Source: Everett Herald coverage, 2026). The petitioner has not independently confirmed the full funding breakdown, and the City Finance Department is the authoritative source for the contract's funding sources and terms. Discontinuing the program avoids the estimated $275,000 annual cost of a renewed contract once the current grant period ends, but does not free up $275,000 in existing City funds for immediate reappropriation. Any amount available for the Community Safety Fund described in Section 7 depends on the contract's actual status and terms at the time this ordinance takes effect. The City Finance Department will confirm the contract's remaining term, any renewal terms, and the City's actual budgetary discretion over associated funds, and will prepare an independent fiscal impact statement for the ballot. This estimate is prepared by the petitioner and has not been reviewed by the City of Everett Finance Department.

Sheet No. PSA-_____

THE EVERETT PRIVACY AND SAFETY ACT

Signature Sheet | Initiative Petition to the City Council of Everett

Every person who signs this petition with any other than his or her true name, or who knowingly signs more than one of these petitions, or signs a petition seeking an election when he or she is not a legal voter, or signs a petition when he or she is otherwise not qualified to sign, or who makes herein any false statement, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Each signature shall be executed in ink or indelible pencil and shall be followed by the name and address of the signer and the date of signing.

Petition ID: _____ Circulator: _____ Page 1 of 4

No.	Signature	Printed name	Residence address	City	Zip	Date signed
1				Everett		
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3				Everett		
4				Everett		
5				Everett		
6				Everett		
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13				Everett		

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Return completed sheets: Drop off c/o UNIDOS at LETI, 9930 Evergreen Way Bldg Y, Everett WA 98204, or drop off c/o Janice R. Greene, PhD, 3616 Colby Ave #251, Everett WA 98201. More drop-off points: admin@onevoice-snoco.org. Originals only.

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No.	Signature	Printed name	Residence address	City	Zip	Date signed
14				Everett		
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40				Everett		
41				Everett		
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FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE

Section 1. Title

This initiative shall be known and may be cited as the Everett Privacy and Safety Act.

Section 2. Findings and Purpose

The People of Everett find and declare:

(a) The freedom to move through one's community without government surveillance is a fundamental civil liberty. Mass tracking of vehicle movements without individualized suspicion is incompatible with that freedom.

(b) The City of Everett operates automated license plate reader cameras under a two-year, $550,000 contract with Flock Safety signed in June 2024. The City's active main license plate reader fleet has been publicly described by Mayor Franklin as consisting of 68 cameras; that figure reflects the active main fleet only and does not include inactive units, planning-stage units, or non-LPR devices (Source: Everett Herald, February 2026). Every vehicle passing an active camera is photographed, identified, and logged in a privately operated database.

(c) Records confirm that federal agencies, including U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Homeland Security Investigations, accessed Snohomish County Flock networks from April to June 2025. Everett's nationwide lookup feature was enabled during this period, exposing Everett residents' movement data to federal queries without local authorization. That feature was enabled by Flock, not by the City. (Source: Public records obtained by One Voice Snohomish County, 2025; Everett Herald coverage, May 2025.)

(d) A 2025 University of Washington Center for Human Rights report, titled Leaving the Door Wide Open, found that at least 18 Washington police agencies had their Flock databases searched by U.S. Border Patrol and ICE, often without local departments' knowledge. (Source: UW Center for Human Rights, Leaving the Door Wide Open, October 2025.)

(e) On November 19, 2025, the Everett City Council voted unanimously to seek a court judgment that Flock footage is not a public record (Source: Everett Herald, November 24, 2025). A Snohomish County Superior Court ruled in February 2026 that Flock footage constitutes a public record under Washington's Public Records Act, contrary to the City's position. In a separate matter, the Skagit County Superior Court reached a comparable ruling that was not vacated following the passage of Senate Bill 6002, confirming that the legislation did not automatically moot prior judicial determinations regarding Flock data as public records.

(f) Washington State's Senate Bill 6002, signed March 30, 2026, establishes minimum protections for ALPR data but does not ban mass surveillance systems, does not address federal access that has already occurred, and may be amended or repealed by the legislature at any time.

(g) Washington's Keep Washington Working Act (RCW 10.93.160 and RCW 43.17.425) and Senate Bill 6002 establish minimum statewide limits on certain immigration cooperation and automated license plate reader data practices. This ordinance supplements those protections by prohibiting mass vehicle surveillance within Everett and regulating the City's own data handling and contracting, consistent with the City's home rule authority under RCW 35.22.010 and RCW 35.22.020.

(h) Everett paused its camera network in February 2026 following the Snohomish County Superior Court ruling described in subsection (e), then reactivated the network in early April 2026 following the signing of Senate Bill

6002, without a public announcement, relying solely on administrative policy choices. (Source: Everett Herald, April 22, 2026.)

(i) With more than one in five Everett residents being foreign-born, and with documented federal immigration enforcement access to Flock networks statewide, the cameras create an environment of fear that damages trust between residents and local government.

(j) Everett's adopted 2026 budget closed a $7.9 million general government funding gap, and the City projects an additional shortfall of approximately $14 million for 2027 (City of Everett 2026 Budget Address, October 22, 2025; City budget projections as reported by the Everett Herald, 2025-2026). The annual cost of the Flock surveillance system represents public funds that could instead support proven, community-based public safety strategies.

(k) Neighboring and regional jurisdictions have reached similar conclusions. Mountlake Terrace canceled its Flock Safety contract in December 2025, and Lynnwood terminated its contract in February 2026, both citing privacy concerns and community opposition (Source: Everett Herald, December 8, 2025, and February 23, 2026). Redmond, Stanwood, and Sedro-Woolley have separately paused or shut down Flock systems following discovered privacy violations or community concern.

(l) Proven public safety tools, including community policing, youth programs, mental health co-responder teams, and targeted investigative methods, do not require mass surveillance of every resident's movements.

Purpose: This initiative protects the privacy, civil liberties, and safety of all Everett residents by prohibiting mass vehicle surveillance, requiring permanent deletion of previously collected data within city and contractor systems to the fullest extent the City can compel, restricting federal agency access to ALPR data, and directing resources to evidence-based community safety programs. It establishes permanent, voter-approved protection that cannot be reversed by administrative decision or contract renewal. This ordinance is a complete and independent legal framework, enforceable on its own terms from the effective date forward. Its authority derives from the City's home rule powers under RCW 35.22.010 and RCW 35.22.020 and from the voters' initiative authority under Everett City Charter Section 11.2. All provisions of this initiative are directed to a single purpose: protecting Everett residents from the harms of mass vehicle surveillance and its associated risks to privacy, civil liberties, and community trust.

Section 3. Definitions

As used in this ordinance:

(a) "Automated license plate reader" or "ALPR" means any system that automatically captures, processes, stores, or analyzes images of license plates or associated vehicle data for the purpose of tracking or identifying vehicle movements.

(b) "Flock cameras" means ALPR systems and associated surveillance infrastructure deployed, operated, or maintained under any contract or arrangement with Flock Safety, LLC, or any affiliated or successor entity, that continuously photograph and record vehicles without individualized suspicion.

(c) "Mass vehicle surveillance" means the automated, indiscriminate collection of license plate or vehicle data from members of the general public using public roadways, without individualized suspicion of criminal activity targeting a specific person or vehicle.

(d) "Similar ALPR surveillance systems" means any fixed technology that automatically captures, stores, and analyzes license plate data for the purpose of tracking vehicle movements across the city, regardless of vendor or brand.

(e) "City" means the City of Everett, Washington, and all its departments, officers, agents, and contractors acting on its behalf.

(f) "Federal agency" means any agency, bureau, office, or instrumentality of the United States government, including but not limited to ICE, CBP, the Department of Homeland Security, and any fusion center receiving or transmitting federal data.

(g) "Nationwide lookup" or "regional lookup" means any feature, tool, or setting within an ALPR system that allows agencies outside the City of Everett to query Everett's camera network, or that allows Everett to query camera networks outside the city.

Section 4. Prohibition on Mass Vehicle Surveillance

(a) General Prohibition. No city department, officer, employee, contractor, or agent shall install, operate, maintain, or use any Flock camera or similar ALPR surveillance system for mass vehicle surveillance within the city limits of Everett. This ordinance governs the City's own conduct and contracting; it does not purport to regulate ALPR use by private persons or businesses not acting on the City's behalf.

(b) Existing Systems. Any Flock cameras or similar systems currently operating within Everett shall be deactivated within 30 days of the effective date. Physical removal from all public property shall occur within 90 days of the effective date or upon lawful termination of any applicable vendor contract, whichever occurs later, provided that deactivation is not delayed pending contract resolution.

(c) Contracts. The City shall take all lawful steps necessary to terminate or allow to expire any existing contracts with Flock Safety or any entity operating ALPR systems for mass vehicle surveillance, consistent with the terms of those contracts. No new contracts for such systems shall be entered into.

(d) No New Systems. No ALPR system for mass vehicle surveillance shall be installed, procured, or piloted within Everett after the effective date of this ordinance, regardless of funding source, including grant funding from state or federal agencies.

Section 5. Permitted Uses

Nothing in this ordinance prohibits:

(a) Mobile license plate readers used during active criminal investigations with documented reasonable suspicion of a specific individual's involvement in criminal activity, where use is limited to the duration and scope of that investigation and subject to department policy requiring supervisory authorization. Data collected under this exception shall not be retained longer than the duration of the investigation plus 90 days after final disposition, consistent with case records requirements, and shall otherwise be subject to the deletion requirements of Section 6;

(b) Fixed cameras at secure government facilities that alert security personnel only to vehicles on a specific, documented watchlist related to that facility's security, that do not transmit data to any external database, and that do not record or retain data on vehicles not on the watchlist;

(c) Toll collection systems operated by state or regional transportation authorities for the sole purpose of toll payment processing;

(d) Red light and school zone speed enforcement cameras operated by WSDOT or its authorized agents solely for traffic safety enforcement; or

(e) Video surveillance cameras operated by private businesses on their own property that are not connected to law enforcement databases and do not transmit data to any government entity without a valid court order.

Section 6. Data Protection and Deletion

(a) Mandatory Deletion. All data collected by Flock cameras or any ALPR mass surveillance system within Everett and held within City systems, City contractor systems, or any system over which the City has contractual deletion authority shall be permanently and irreversibly deleted within 30 days of the effective date.

(b) Scope of Deletion. Deletion applies to all data in any form within city-controlled or contractually accessible systems, including images, metadata, database records, backup files, and any copies held by contractors operating on the City's behalf. The City shall exercise all available contractual rights to demand deletion of Everett data from any vendor-held infrastructure, including Flock Safety's systems, and shall document those demands in writing. This ordinance does not purport to compel deletion of data held in systems over which the City has no contractual or legal authority.

(c) Washington Public Records Act Compliance. Any outstanding public records requests for ALPR data received before the effective date shall be processed consistent with Washington's Public Records Act (Title 42 RCW) obligations as modified by Senate Bill 6002's ALPR-specific public records exemption, effective March 30, 2026, which limits disclosure of ALPR data except as required in a judicial proceeding. The City Attorney shall advise on any PRA obligations, including any applicable SB 6002 exemption, that must be satisfied or accounted for before or concurrent with deletion. No data subject to an outstanding, valid, and timely disclosure obligation under a court order or judicial proceeding shall be deleted before that obligation is resolved consistent with applicable law.

(d) No Transfer Before Deletion; Subject to Legal Process. No data collected by Flock cameras within Everett shall be transferred to, shared with, or retained by any federal agency, private contractor, or third-party database after the effective date and before deletion is complete, except pursuant to a court order or other binding legal process issued by a court of competent jurisdiction before the effective date. The City Attorney shall promptly notify the City Council of any such legal process and its scope.

(e) City Attorney Certification. Within 45 days of the effective date, the City Attorney shall file a written certification with the City Clerk confirming, based on information reasonably available to the City at the time of certification: (1) all ALPR mass surveillance data within City systems and City contractor systems has been permanently deleted; (2) written demands for deletion have been transmitted to all vendors holding Everett data, including Flock Safety; (3) no copies of such data are known to exist within city or city-contractor systems; and (4) all applicable contracts have been terminated or non-renewal notices issued.

(f) Independent Audit. The City Council shall commission an independent audit of data deletion compliance within city and city-contractor systems. The audit report shall be made publicly available within 90 days of the effective date and posted to the city website.

Section 7. Community Safety Reinvestment

(a) Community Safety Fund. To the extent that discontinuing the Flock camera program results in avoided costs or unspent City funds, consistent with the fiscal estimate above and the confirmed grant funding of the current contract, those amounts shall be available for appropriation by the City Council to a Community Safety Fund through the annual budget process, consistent with the City's budget authority under applicable law.

(b) Permitted Uses. The Community Safety Fund shall be used exclusively for evidence-based public safety programs, including: youth programs, mentorship, and after-school activities; mental health co-responder teams and addiction treatment services; neighborhood policing and community engagement programs; small business security grants for voluntary, consensual on-site cameras not connected to city databases; public space improvements in high-crime areas; and sworn officer recruitment and retention.

(c) Annual Review. The City Council shall hold at least one public hearing each year to review the effectiveness of Community Safety Fund expenditures and receive community input on funding priorities.

(d) Transparency. All Community Safety Fund expenditures shall be published on the city website within 30 days of disbursement.

Section 8. Federal Agency Data Restriction

(a) No Everett city employee, contractor, officer, or agent shall provide, assist, or enable access to any vehicle tracking data, ALPR data, or related surveillance records to any federal agency for use in civil immigration enforcement, regardless of whether such data was collected before or after the effective date of this ordinance. Data collected before the effective date remains subject to the deletion requirements of Section 6.

(b) No Everett employee shall conduct searches of any ALPR database on behalf of a federal agency or at a federal agency's direction for civil immigration enforcement purposes.

(c) This section is consistent with and supplements the framework established by Washington's Keep Washington Working Act (RCW 10.93.160 and RCW 43.17.425, as those sections may be renumbered or amended) and Senate Bill 6002, and shall be interpreted to provide the maximum protection permitted by law.

(d) Nothing in this section prohibits the City Attorney from complying with a valid court order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction that requires production of specific ALPR records. Upon receipt of any such order, the City Attorney shall promptly notify the City Council of the order's scope and, to the extent permitted by law, seek to narrow or quash it. Compliance with a court order under this subsection shall be the minimum necessary to satisfy the order and does not authorize any broader disclosure.

Section 9. Enforcement and Oversight

(a) Enforcement Authority. The City Attorney shall serve as the primary enforcement officer responsible for ensuring compliance with this ordinance.

(b) Resident Complaints. Any Everett resident, or any person who regularly works, attends school, or travels within Everett, may file a written complaint with the City Attorney alleging a violation. The City Attorney shall investigate and provide a written response within 30 days of receipt.

(c) Penalties. First violation: written notice of violation and a 30-day correction period. Subsequent violations: a civil fine of $1,000 per day per camera or system operating in violation. Violations by city officers or employees in their official capacity: referral to the appropriate city disciplinary authority and, where conduct may constitute a violation of state law, referral to the Snohomish County Prosecutor for review under applicable provisions.

(d) Fund Allocation. All civil fines collected under this section shall be deposited into the Community Safety Fund established in Section 7.

(e) Private Right of Action. Any Everett resident aggrieved by a violation of this ordinance may bring a civil action in Snohomish County Superior Court to enforce its provisions. A prevailing plaintiff shall be entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

Section 10. Anti-Circumvention

No city department, contractor, or agent shall circumvent this ordinance by:

(a) Contracting with a third party to operate ALPR mass surveillance systems on the City's behalf in ways that would violate this ordinance if performed directly by the City;

(b) Accepting grant-funded, donated, or no-cost ALPR systems on the theory that Section 4(d)'s prohibition does not apply because the City did not pay the acquisition cost directly;

(c) Accessing another jurisdiction's ALPR database on behalf of a federal agency or in furtherance of civil immigration enforcement; or

(d) Enabling any nationwide, regional, or cross-jurisdictional lookup feature in any permitted system described in Section 5.

Section 11. Relationship to State Law

This ordinance is intended to operate consistently with Washington Senate Bill 6002 (Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6002, 2026 Regular Session, adding a new chapter to Title 10 RCW) and all other applicable state law. SB 6002 establishes statewide restrictions on automated license plate reader use, retention, and data sharing, but the enacted text contains no express preemption clause and no language declaring the state's intent to occupy the field of automated license plate reader regulation. To the extent this ordinance provides greater protection of privacy and civil liberties than the statewide baseline established by SB 6002, it shall govern the conduct of the City of Everett, its departments, officers, agents, contractors, and use of city resources within city limits pursuant to the City's home rule authority under Article XI, Section 11 of the Washington Constitution and RCW 35.22.010 and RCW 35.22.020. Nothing in this section asserts any authority beyond that allowed by state law. Rather, this ordinance shall be construed to supplement state law to the fullest extent permitted, and if any application is found preempted in a particular circumstance, the remaining applications shall continue in full force and effect.

Section 12. Severability

If any provision of this ordinance is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, that finding shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 13. Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect 30 days after certification by the City of Everett following voter approval at the November 3, 2026 general election.

Section 14. Voter-Enacted Status and Amendment Protection

This ordinance is enacted by the voters of Everett through the initiative process under Everett City Charter Section 11.2 and shall be treated as voter-adopted law for all purposes. If the City Council proposes to amend or repeal this ordinance, the Council should: (1) hold at least one public hearing specifically noticed as addressing this ordinance, with opportunity for resident testimony; (2) consider written findings explaining the reasons for the proposed action, including whether it is necessary to protect public safety or to comply with a specific requirement of state or federal law; and (3) provide clear public notice of the proposed changes and vote in a public meeting. These expectations express the voters' intent that any future changes be made with transparency and meaningful public participation. Nothing in this section limits the authority of the voters of Everett to amend or repeal this ordinance at any time through the initiative process provided in Charter Section 11.2.

Circulator statement

The person who circulates this petition may complete the following. This statement supports the integrity of the signature collection and does not replace any requirement of law.

I am the circulator of this signature sheet or sheets. To the best of my knowledge, each signature was made in my presence by the person whose name it purports to be, and each signer had an opportunity to read the full text of the measure that accompanies this petition.

Circulator signature: _____ Date: _____
Printed name: _____
Address: _____