

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL MINUTES

August 17, 2026

Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of Council was called to order by President Berry at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall, 4035 Broadway.

Roll was called and the following members were present:

Mohamed Omar, Melissa Anderson, George Holinga, Ted Berry, Randy Holt, Alan Sturm, Jodi Burroughs

1. Mr. Berry moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and approve as written; seconded by Mr. Holinga.

Mr. Omar	Yes
Ms. Anderson	Yes
Mr. Holinga	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Sturm	Yes
Ms. Burroughs	Yes

2. Mr. Berry recognized Visit Grove City for a quarterly report. Ms. Amanda Davis, Director, provided Council with the 2nd-quarter report, assisted by staff member Theresa Breckenridge.

3. The Chair read the agenda items and they were approved by unanimous consent.

The Chair recognized Mr. Holinga, Chair of Lands, for discussion and voting under said Committee.

1. Ordinance C-33-26 (Authorize the Annexation of 0.190+ acres of city-owned property located east of State Route 104 from Jackson Township to the City of Grove City) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Smith, Dir. of Law, explained that this is required by State Law and will enable the City to put a traffic signal at Hawthorn Parkway and S.R. 104.

There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Holinga moved it be approved; seconded by Mr. Berry.

Ms. Anderson	Yes
Mr. Holinga	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Sturm	Yes
Ms. Burroughs	Yes
Mr. Omar	Yes

2. Ordinance C-38-26 (Approve the rezoning of 3815 Grove City Road from C-2 (Retail Commercial) & PSO (Professional Services Offices) to C-2) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on

Sept. 21, 2026.

3. Ordinance C-39-26 (Approve a Special Use Permit for Automotive Repair Services for Rieser Brothers Auto Body located at 3815 Grove City Road) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on Sept. 21, 2026, as requested by the applicant.
4. Resolution CR-29-26 (Approve the Development Plan for the Addition to Rieser Brothers Auto Body located at 3815 Grove City Road) was given its reading and at the applicant's request, Mr. Holinga moved that it be postponed to Sept. 21; seconded by Mr. Berry.

Mr. Holinga	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Sturm	Yes
Ms. Burroughs	Yes
Mr. Omar	Yes
Ms. Anderson	Yes

5. Resolution CR-30-26 (Request an Updated Housing Analysis for the City of Grove City to evaluate housing needs, housing affordability, residential growth and future development trends) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Omar said he believes the resolution is straightforward in its request. He said the housing analysis was conducted in 2019.

Ms. Burroughs pointed out that Council approved funds in the 2026 budget for a housing analysis and believes that the Development Dept. is working on writing the RFP.

There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Holinga moved it be approved; seconded by Mr. Berry.

Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Sturm	Yes
Ms. Burroughs	Yes
Mr. Omar	Yes
Ms. Anderson	Yes
Mr. Holinga	Yes

The Chair recognized Ms. Burroughs, Chair of Safety, for discussion and voting under said Committee.

1. Ordinance C-34-26 (Amend various sections of Chapter 351 of the Codified Ordinances regarding Parking and the Parking of Recreational Vehicles) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Teaford, Dir of Safety, explained that this clarifies some parking issues, such as: there shall be no parking by a yellow-painted curb; and parking beyond the time limit posted on a sign. It prohibits trailers from parking on residential streets, except when they are being used for work, and requires a cone to be placed behind the trailer. Ms. Burroughs asked if campers can still be parked in driveways. Mr. Teaford said yes. This does not affect driveway parking.

There being no additional questions or comments, Ms. Burroughs moved it be approved; seconded by Mr. Holinga.

Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Sturm	Yes
Ms. Burroughs	Yes
Mr. Omar	Yes
Ms. Anderson	Yes
Mr. Holinga	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes

The Chair recognized Mr. Omar, Chair of Service, for discussion and voting under said Committee.

1. Ordinance C-35-26 (Authorize the Dedication and Acceptance of 5.10+ acres to become a Street in the public right-of-way and Rename the Street "Tournament Way") was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Smith, Dir. of Law, explained that this is a quirk in Ohio Law that requires this dedication and is a housekeeping measure.

There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Omar moved it be approved; seconded by Ms. Anderson.

Mr. Sturm	Yes
Ms. Burroughs	Yes
Mr. Omar	Yes
Ms. Anderson	Yes
Mr. Holinga	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes

The Chair recognized Mr. Sturm, Chair of Finance, for discussion and voting under said Committee.

1. Ordinance C-40-26 (Appropriate \$40,511.71 from the General Fund for the Town Center Bourbon Festival) was given its first reading. Second reading and public hearing will be held on Sept. 07, 2026.
2. Resolution CR-31-26 (Authorize the City Administrator to seek financial assistance from the State Capital Improvement Program/Local Transportation Improvement Program for funding the Quail Creek Blvd. Extension Project) was given its reading and public hearing.

Mr. Hamons, Dir. of Service, explained that this will allow the City Administrator to request \$5 million for a \$6.6 million project. He said there will be a public hearing on this project on August 19 in the Council Chambers for anyone interested in seeing the proposal.

There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Sturm moved it be approved; seconded by Ms. Anderson.

Ms. Burroughs	Yes
Mr. Omar	Yes
Ms. Anderson	Yes
Ms. Holinga	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Sturm	Yes

The Chair recognized Ms. Anderson, Chair of Parks, for discussion and voting under said Committee.

1. Ordinance C-36-26 (Repeal Ordinance C-22-25, an ordinance to require no further investment of staff time or finance resources at the Brookpark Middle School location outside of required utility bills or contractual obligations without the approval of City Council and to require the City Administrator to engage in negotiations to terminate or renegotiate the Brookpark Lease Agreement with Southwestern City Schools to the mutual benefit of all parties) was given its second reading and, Ms. Anderson moved it be postponed to Sept. 21; seconded by Mr. Holt.

Mr. Omar	Yes
Ms. Anderson	Yes
Mr. Holinga	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Sturm	Yes
Ms. Burroughs	Yes

The Chair recognized Mr. Holt, Chair of Admin./Rules, for discussion and voting under said Committee.

1. Ordinance C-37-26 (Provide for the submission to the electors of the City of Grove City, Ohio, at the General Election to be held on November 03, 2026, the Initiative Amendments to the Grove City Charter to add a new Article titled Community Consent Amendment) was given its second reading and public hearing.

Mr. Smith, Dir. of Law, requested that this and Resolution CR-32-26 be postponed to Sept. 03. He explained that there is a Supreme Court decision pending on Charter language concerning how to determine the number of signatures required for such an initiative. He also shared that he and Mr. Omar met with the Protect Grove City group, and they are looking into possible amendments to the language of their petition. He said he makes no promises, but believes it is worth taking the time to attempt to work out a compromise. He has also asked the Ohio Attorney General for an opinion. Since we must act by Sept. 04, he is requesting the postponement to 09/03.

Mr. Omar commented that the discussion with the Protect Grove City group was good. He said he feels this is a call for residents to be heard; a call to build greater trust; and a call to sit at the table and have hard conversations. He said we are all about this community.

There being no additional questions or comments, Mr. Holt moved it be postponed to 09-03-26; seconded by Mr. Berry.

Ms. Anderson	Yes
Mr. Holinga	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Sturm	Yes
Ms. Burroughs	Yes
Mr. Omar	Yes

2. Resolution CR-32-26 (Oppose the proposed "Community Consent Amendment" to the Charter of the City of Grove City, Ohio, due to the Impact it will have on Churches, Parks, businesses, and Residential Development in the City and the Ability of the City to provide Essential Services and

Amenities to our Residents) was given its reading and Mr. Holt moved it be postponed to 09-03-26; seconded by Mr. Berry.

Mr. Holinga	Yes
Mr. Berry	Yes
Mr. Holt	Yes
Mr. Sturm	Yes
Ms. Burroughs	Yes
Mr. Omar	Yes
Ms. Anderson	Yes

The Chair asked that any new business brought before Council be presented at this time.

1. Mr. Jeff Buskirk, Clayburn Dr., shared his concerns over the Charter Amendment – due to the risk of entanglement. He said once you become encircled by Columbus or another municipality, you lose control of the surroundings and the development that continues to take place around you. You lose the revenue. He believes that if the charter amendment passes, developers will look elsewhere, and ultimately, we will be encircled. He doesn't believe the Charter amendment would get the outcome that those who initiated it are looking for.
2. Mr. Greg Laws, E. Gay, voiced opposition to the Charter Amendment. He said he is a business owner here and has been meeting with other owners to discuss the outcomes that this would have. He said the restrictions and penalties in the Amendment would inhibit growth not just for new businesses but for existing businesses as well. With stifled growth, there will be a tremendous impact on the schools, parks & rec., and safety divisions, as taxes will be greatly affected. He said Grove City has already stopped the data center subject with the moratorium. This has nothing to do with data centers. It has everything to do with growth and the future of our city. He asked that the Data Center Committee be allowed to do its work. He said their opposition is strong in that this will inhibit growth and have unintended consequences. He moved here over 50 years ago for the Grove City Dream. He said they, as business owners, want to keep that dream alive.
3. Mr. Steve Funk, White Road, said this is his home and shared his concern over the Charter Amendment being far more than data centers. He said if we stop development, we will have many problems. He said there is a 12-month moratorium on data centers, and the Committee should be allowed to do its job and share its findings.
4. Ms. Shawn Conrad, Wintercreek, spoke as the President of the Chamber, and said the Board and its members have taken this very seriously. They will meet tomorrow morning and will establish their final statement on this matter.
5. Mr. Michael Farnsworth, Annabelle Ct., commented that if this Charter Amendment gets passed, it will create a higher tax burden on our residents. He said that if we delay projects or drive away good companies, it will strangle the City's future revenue growth. He said the City's revenues are already flattening. He said he doesn't want to drive away good companies and listed Tosoh, Mt. Carmel, Ohio Health, and Children's Hospital that could have been curtailed by such an amendment. He said there is already a process in place with a strong zoning process, a good Council, Planning Department, and Planning Commission. He asked that everyone vote no on this amendment.
6. Mark Ramach, McKinney Rd., said he loves everything about Grove City, but does not want a data center down the road from his home. He said he doesn't care if an inch more of a hospital wants to be built or another future business; he can vote in November to allow data centers or not.

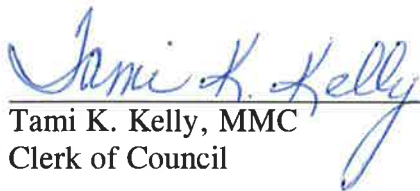
He said he will be a yes vote. He said that if there is concern about some of the language, let's get everyone on board.

7. Ms. Jen Belt, Kingslet Ct., thanked Mr. Smith and Mr. Omar for inviting them to the table and they look forward to speaking more to them.
8. Mr. Jacob Block, Southwest Blvd., spoke as the Founder and CEO of American Nitrile. He said that during the pandemic, the Country faced a terrifying reality: we were entirely dependent on foreign nations for our critical protective equipment. He set out to change that and has invested several hundred million dollars in Grove City. He said they are at a critical point and the Charter Amendment will have a significant impact on many existing businesses. He said citizens of Grove City are being duped. The Amendment is being aggressively marketed as an anti-data-center bill, but its actual text casts a dangerously wide net. Sweeping up critical community anchors, such as the local hospital and major manufacturers like American Nitrile, puts those operations directly in the crosshairs. He said if this amendment passes, standard, routine business decisions will become political circus acts. He said that if they expand their business or increase water use by 10%, they would be forced to pay for a citywide election. This is the most extreme, anti-business legislation ever considered in the State.

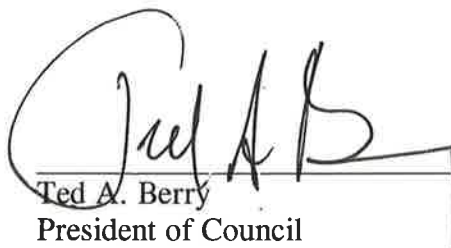
The Chair recognized members of Administration and Council for closing comments.

1. Mayor Stage clarified with the Dir. of Law that the Community Consent Amendment Petition that has been filed cannot be altered or amended before going to the voters. Charter Amendments get on the ballot in two (2) ways – by petition of registered voters or by the Council adopting an ordinance to submit a question to the voters. If the current petition is withdrawn, Council could include different language in its ordinance. He then reported on the Back to School Event and the Bourbon Fest that went very well. He applauded the Building Division and Service Dept. for assisting Upper Arlington with storm recovery. He then read an article about why Trader Joe's chose Polaris over Grove City, citing population as the reason. The Mayor said that is why the City struggles to get some of the businesses our residents would like to see.
2. Mr. Teaforde reported on the City's Flock Technology, how it is used, and how the information is safeguarded and accounted. Chief Scott shared a slideshow to explain the Flock System. He said it is critical for the Safety Dept. to earn the public's trust. He said they do not spy on people. He explained Flock is used only for legitimate law enforcement purposes and does not use facial recognition, monitor individuals, check speeds, or issue traffic citations. Access is limited to trained personnel, searches are logged and the department conducts quarterly audits to ensure appropriate use. The Chief emphasized that while Flock provides investigative leads, information from the system must still be verified through normal investigative procedures. He also shared several local examples in which Flock helped Grove City officers locate suspects, recover stolen vehicles, find missing individuals and safely apprehend wanted persons.
3. Mr. Todd Hurler provided an update on Cell Towers. He said we have two new towers – one behind Walmart and one coming online near Holt Road. He said we are at the mercy of what providers want to spend on service coverage.
4. After other closing comments from Council and Administrative staff, a motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous consent.

Adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



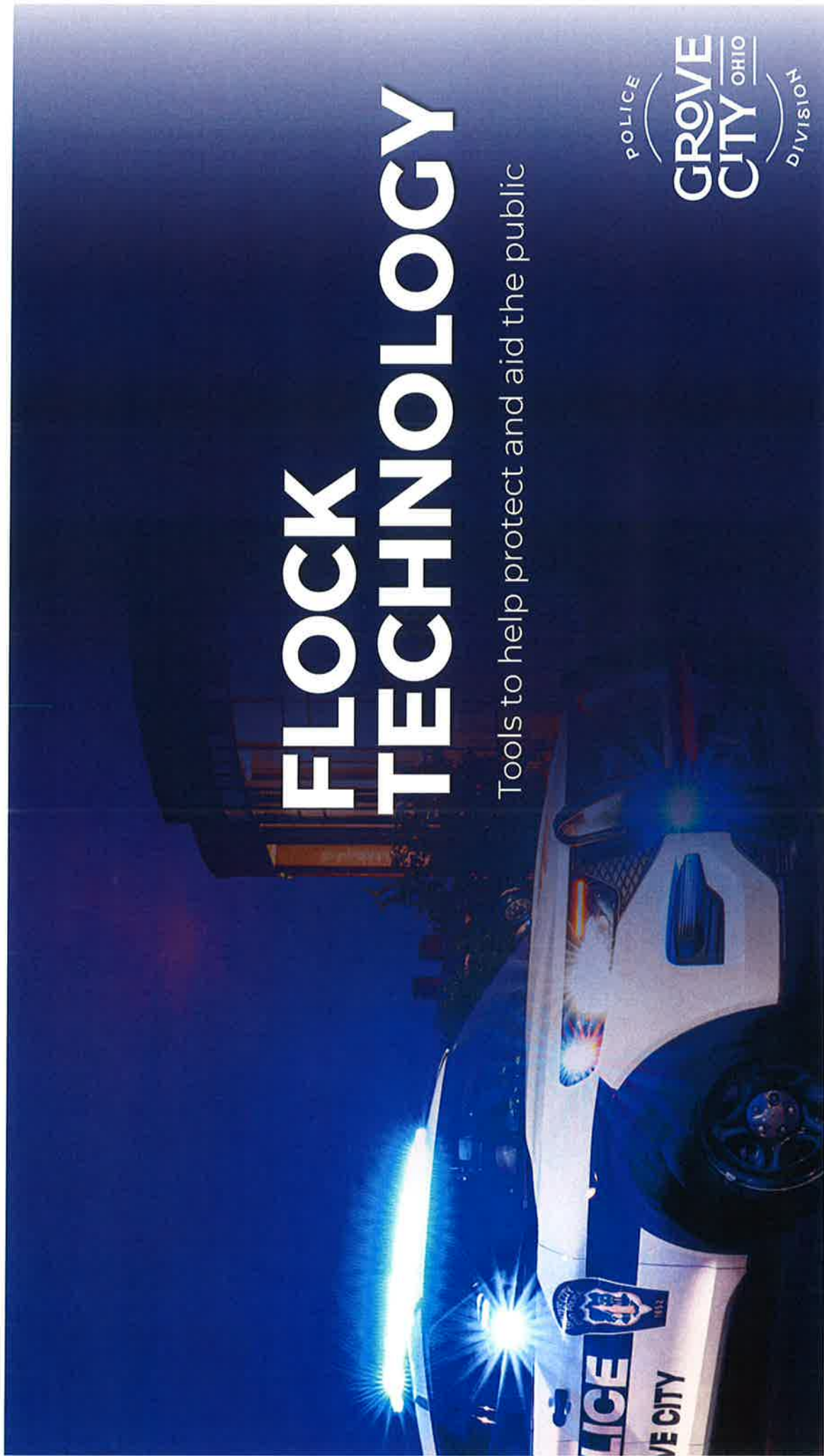
Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council



Ted A. Berry
President of Council

FLOCK TECHNOLOGY

Tools to help protect and aid the public



WHAT ARE FLOCK CAMERAS?

Technology that captures a still image of a vehicle's make, model and license plate located in public spaces

One Tool Among Many

Flock helps officers
generate potential leads
after a crime or
community alert

Not Facial Recognition

cannot detect people,
gender or race

Not Traffic Enforcement

cannot detect speed or
issue tickets

Not Live Surveillance of Residents

only accessed in a
legitimate public safety
or investigative need



HOW WE USE THEM

Flock provides leads; officers still verify information and conduct investigation

01	Vehicle Passes Camera	Camera reads plate and captures vehicle attributes at a fixed location
02	Alert or Search	Hit may match a stolen vehicle, wanted person, missing person or active case
03	Officer Verifies	Officers confirm the alert and apply normal investigative standards
04	Investigation Proceeds	Information becomes a lead; it is not a stand-alone basis for guilt

Common Public Safety Uses include



Stolen vehicle recovery



Missing/endangered persons



Wanted individual



Robbery, burglary, theft and hit-skip leads

WHY LAW ENFORCEMENT USES FLOCK CAMERAS

Crime Does Not Stop at Jurisdiction Lines



Reduces Anonymity

Offenders may travel outside familiar areas to avoid recognition by local officers or residents

Addresses Mobile Crime

Many offenders intentionally commit crimes outside their home communities to reduce the likelihood of being recognized

Creates Early Alerts

Flock cameras identify vehicles and license plates involved in criminal activity and alert us BEFORE they commit their next criminal activity

WHO CAN ACCESS THE DATA?

Access is limited, documented and
tied to law enforcement purpose

Authorized Access

- ✓ Authorized law enforcement users only - data is owned by GCPD
- ✓ Searches require a valid investigative/public safety reason
- ✓ Search activity is logged for audit and review
- ✓ Information sharing follows strict policy and law

Not Authorized

- ✗ Curiosity searches or personal use
- ✗ Monitoring lawful First Amendment activity
- ✗ Use as automated ticketing or speeding enforcement
- ✗ Access without accountability or review
- ✗ Immigration enforcement

DATA RETENTION AND SAFEGUARDS

Retention

Data is retained for 30 days, after which data is automatically deleted unless it has become evidence in a criminal investigation and is retained in accordance with applicable law and evidence procedures.

Safeguards in place

- Department policy governs use
- Authorized users receive required training
- Every search is logged
- Commander audit searches
- Unauthorized use is subject to discipline/criminal charge
- Access is limited to legitimate law enforcement purposes

COST & VALUE

Cost

- Annual subscription: \$100,250
- Number of Cameras: 33
- Grant funds were used for the first 2 years
- Currently funded through the general fund

Value

- Fast investigative leads
- Stolen vehicle recovery
- Support for missing persons alerts
- Better regional coordination
- More efficient use of officer time

EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL USE

1. After receiving information about a Kentucky bank robbery suspect, officers entered the suspect vehicle into Flock. When the vehicle approached Grove City, detectives were able to begin surveillance and take the suspect into custody immediately after the robbery.
 2. Following an attempted robbery involving FedEx drivers and stolen cell phones, investigators used Ring doorbell footage to identify suspect vehicles. Flock helped confirm those vehicles, connect the suspects to the crime, and support robbery charges against individuals from Detroit.
 3. Flock alerts helped Grove City detectives track a vehicle connected to a multi-state theft ring. Information was shared with Hilliard Police, who later located the suspects after a gym locker theft and made arrests before the group could continue committing crimes throughout the area.
1. Flock cameras helped officers track a missing Grove City man with dementia in Reynoldsburg. He was returned home safely.

**“THE BASIC MISSION FOR
WHICH THE POLICE EXIST IS TO
PREVENT CRIME AND
DISORDER” - SIR ROBERT PEEL**

CITY OF GROVE CITY, OHIO
COUNCIL CAUCUS NOTES

August 17, 2026

Council met at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall, 4035 Broadway.

Council Members reviewed the Agenda items.

Ms. Kelly submitted two (2) Liquor Permits for Broadway Standard and CVS on S.R. 665 for Council consideration. She reported that the Safety Division had no objections. Council agreed not to request hearings for these permits.

Ms. Kelly reminded Council that they received a request from Real Talk, Real Support to support their local event from the Opioid settlement funds. Since the two coordinators are City employees, the Law Director was asked whether there was any conflict. Mr. Smith stated that there were no ethics issues or conflicts.

Council retired to the Chambers to begin the Regular meeting.



Tami K. Kelly, MMC
Clerk of Council



Ted A. Berry
President of Council