



2640 Fountain View Drive ■ Houston, Texas 77057 ■ 713.260.0600 P ■ www.housingforhouston.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Riz Quadri / Etched Communication
rizvan@etchedcomm.com 409-626-1351

Empowering Safer Communities: Houston Housing Authority Launches New Crime-Fighting Program in Collaboration with The City of Houston and Flock Safety

Houston, TX - [August 16, 2023] - The Houston Housing Authority (HHA) is pleased to announce its collaboration with Flock Safety, a leading provider of License Plate Recognition (LPR) technology, aimed at bolstering the safety and security of Affordable Housing residents. Through this partnership, HHA and Flock Safety will work together to implement the Flock security systems across all HHA properties, reinforcing their commitment to proactive crime prevention and community well-being.

"I am thrilled to announce our collaboration with Flock Safety. This partnership along with the City of Houston Police Department represents our unwavering dedication to the safety and security of our community. By deploying state-of-the-art LPR systems, we are taking proactive steps to prevent crime and improve the safety of our residents. Together, we are creating a safer environment where our communities can thrive," said HHA President and CEO, David A. Northern Sr.

This advanced technology will serve as an invaluable tool in solving crimes, particularly those involving vehicles, providing law enforcement agencies with concrete evidence, fostering public trust in the collective efforts aimed at effectively preventing and combating crime.

"As a leader of the House Judiciary Committee on Crime, I have been actively engaged with public safety legislation and programs for more than two decades and have effectively utilized federal dollars that have prioritized initiatives that help to secure our neighbors and neighborhoods. My work in Congress has played a pivotal role in advancing crime-fighting strategies and in promoting collaboration between law enforcement and community organizations. I recently introduced the Stop Human Trafficking in School Zones Act, a vital measure aimed at shielding our children from the clutches of ruthless criminals. HHA's safety initiative is another step in making sure our kids can grow up in a safe environment and I am proud of the great work they are doing to ensure the safety and well-being of families and children residing in affordable housing," said Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.

"By deploying the cutting-edge security systems, we will enhance our existing safety measures and enable real-time alerts to law enforcement authorities whenever stolen vehicles, wanted suspects, or vehicles associated with missing persons or children are detected," Northern added.

HHA's partnership with law enforcement is designed to provide a safer environment for residents, businesses, and visitors. Houston Police Chief Troy Finner agrees stating, "The Houston Police Department is proud of our collaboration with the Houston Housing Authority as they utilize technology to increase

the safety and security for their residents and the City of Houston. The implementation of LPR technology across HHA properties will greatly assist our law enforcement efforts in solving crimes and thereby increasing public safety. This innovative technology provides us with a valuable tool that increases HPD's ability to address crime. We appreciate this partnership and remain committed to working together to create One Safe Houston."

"I applaud the Houston Housing Authority and Flock Safety for their collaborative efforts to enhance community safety. This demonstrates a commitment to leveraging technology for the well-being of our residents. By implementing advanced LPR systems, we are advancing the safety and security of our neighborhoods. This initiative aligns perfectly with our city's mission to create a safer, more prosperous Houston for all," said Mayor Sylvester Turner.

HHA's primary goal is to ensure the safety and security of community members. These systems prioritize privacy and respect civil liberties by not capturing images of people or faces. License plates and vehicle characteristics are the sole focus, ensuring data privacy is protected. Flock Safety employs robust encryption measures and implements an automatic data deletion policy after 30 days, ensuring the security and privacy of the collected data. It is important to note that HHA and its residents retain complete ownership of the data collected by their devices, with stringent control over access.

Transparency and accountability are paramount to Flock Safety. They have developed the LPR Transparency Portal, a platform that provides law enforcement, city leaders, and government officials with access to policies, usage guidelines, and public safety outcomes related to LPR technology. Additionally, Flock Safety ensures responsible use of their platform through comprehensive training for users and ethical guidelines that prohibit the use of collected data for third-party repossession, traffic enforcement, revenue collection, or collaboration with federal government agencies for immigration enforcement.

###

About Houston Housing Authority (HHA):

Houston Housing Authority (HHA) provides affordable homes and services to more than 60,000 low-income Houstonians, including over 19,000 families housed through the Housing Choice Voucher Program as well as another 4,200 living in 22 public housing, mixed income, rental assistance demonstration and tax credit developments, and an additional 716 in project-based voucher developments around the city. For more information, visit www.housingforhouston.com.

About Flock Safety:

Flock Safety is a leading provider of License Plate Recognition (LPR) technology that aims to eliminate non-violent crime. By focusing on capturing license plates and vehicle characteristics while prioritizing privacy, Flock Safety provides law enforcement agencies with objective evidence to solve crimes. Their commitment to transparency and accountability ensures responsible use of their platform, fostering public trust.