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Protesters target local Flock cameras



Protesters, including Kenny Bright on the far right, stand under a Flock camera near Five-Points intersection in Lafayette on Aug. 18. The cameras photograph vehicles and their license plate numbers. The data can be accessed by police investigating crimes. RON WILKINS/JOURNAL & COURIER

Law enforcement points out public’s misconceptions

Ron Wilkins
Lafayette Journal & Courier | USA TODAY NETWORK

LAFAYETTE – Cameras mounted on poles take photos of passing cars and their license plates and store the data that might be accessed over the next few days by police agencies investigating a specific crime.

These cameras locally are contracted with Flock for Lafayette, West Lafayette and Tippecanoe County police agencies. Flock cameras rapidly are being chal-

lenged as intrusive and warrantless searches, even though court decisions such as the United States v. Bucci rule it is not illegal and there is no expectation of privacy in public.

“They’re a warrantless, mass-surveillance system that’s been installed all around the country, and I’m against that,” Kenny Bright said as he and other protesters stood under a Flock camera near the Five Points intersection east of downtown.

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2 Lafayette businesses given Half Century Award

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Two longtime Lafayette businesses have received the Governor’s Half Century Award, recognizing more than 50 consecutive years of operation in Indiana.

Market Square Lanes and Brand Electric, both based in Tippecanoe County, were honored, according to a community announcement from State Sen. Ron Alting.

Market Square Lanes has served the Lafayette area since 1961, providing bowling and family entertainment.

Brand Electric, a family-owned company now in its third generation, has operated in Lafayette since 1973. The business provides electrical services for residential and commercial customers.

Alting said the two businesses reflect the area’s long-standing entrepreneurial tradition.

“As someone who has owned and operated my own small businesses, I am familiar with the entrepreneurial spirit that exists in the families that have operated Market Square Lanes and Brand Electric over the decades,” Alting said. “Congratulations to both these businesses on over a half century of operations and thank you for the services and jobs you provide to Tippecanoe County.”

The Governor’s Half Century Award is presented alongside the Governor’s Century Award. The honors recognize Indiana businesses that have operated for more than 50 or 100 consecutive years.

This story was produced with the assistance of artificial intelligence (AI). Journalists were involved in every step of the review, editing and publishing process. Learn more at cm.usatoday.com/ethical-conduct.

Arbor Chase vote delayed as safety concerns persist

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LAFAYETTE – After nearly an hour of discussion at Aug. 19’s Tippecanoe County Area Plan Commission meeting, a final decision on whether to approve a subdivision request for West Lafayette’s Arbor Chase neighborhood was delayed again amid conversations of safety and the future construction of neighboring roads.

The request, which would be the fifth phase for the subdivision, would add 57 single-family homes spread over 26.62 acres, according to plans submitted to the APC by Tippecanoe Development, owned by local developer Derrin Sorenson.

After being heard in July, commission officials agreed to hold off on a final decision until September, allowing the developer and representatives in city government to come together to discuss concerns voiced by first responders.

Given the subdivision’s size and a

lack of an existing major thoroughfare, West Lafayette Police Chief Adam Ferguson and Deputy Fire Chief Tony Shutter both said in July that it would create major delays in emergency situations for first responders.

Ryan Munden, an attorney representing Tippecanoe Development, said the developer and city representatives were able to sit down in August before the meeting, but no compromises were made.

“If safety is the issue, I would like you to know that we offered to agree not to pull any building permits until Navi Boulevard has been built to address that safety concern that was raised, but that was rejected,” Munden said. “We understand there are feelings and opinions and beliefs by the fire department that this subdivision prevents a safety concern. However, feelings, opinions and beliefs aren’t technical standards. Safety is addressed by the fire code, which

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Members of the Tippecanoe County Area Plan Commission discuss a proposed Arbor Chase subdivision request on July 15. A final decision on whether to approve the request was delayed again on Aug. 19. JILLIAN ELLISON/JOURNAL & COURIER

