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# The Columbus Dispatch

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## City limits plate reader sharing

### Columbus police clarify policy amid ICE worries

**Jordan Laird**  
Columbus Dispatch  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Amid concerns that federal immigration authorities could access Columbus' license plate camera data, as they have elsewhere, the Division of Police has clarified how it's restricting data sharing.

The division paused nationwide sharing of its Flock Safety license-plate

reading camera data on June 3, according to Sgt. James Fuqua, a division spokesperson. At the same time, Columbus Police kept sharing one-to-one with vetted agencies but revoked one-to-one sharing with any law enforcement agency that the Department of Homeland Security lists as having a 287(g) agreement to work with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Columbus is still sharing its data with a statewide search network,

according to Fuqua. So any agency that can access that statewide network, even if they have a contract with ICE, could access Columbus' data.

Columbus' move to restrict data sharing came after Dayton suspended its Flock program entirely because the police department there discovered Dayton's data was accessed for immigration-related searches thousands of times. At a June 1 Columbus City Council meeting, multiple members raised concerns about Flock and member Emmanuel Remy announced he asked

police to audit its Flock system to make sure data isn't getting to immigration authorities.

Remy, who chairs the public safety committee, told The Dispatch on June 22 that the restrictions on data sharing are a good step forward by the police and he's still hoping for an audit to be completed by the end of July.

"I'm appreciative they've reacted to what we've asked for and that is just making sure we're closing any potential

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### WHITEHALL SPECIAL ELECTION



Mayor Michael Bivens speaks during a special recall election party at Flavor 91 Bistro in Whitehall on June 23.

PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA MADAR/COLUMBUS DISPATCH

## Mayor narrowly survives recall; 2 council races hinge on ballots

**Shahid Meighan**  
Columbus Dispatch  
USA TODAY NETWORK

In a very tight special recall election, Whitehall residents on June 23 voted to keep Mayor Michael Bivens by a nearly 100-vote margin.

The status of the two at-large Council members facing recall, Amy Harcar and Lori Elmore, was less certain, however, according to unofficial results from the Franklin County Board of Elections.

Harcar appeared to have retained her seat by 29 votes, according to unofficial results.

Elmore appeared to have been ousted by a narrow six-vote margin, 1,081 to 1,075.

However, Elections Director Antone White said 31 outstanding ballots remain to be verified and counted. They include 29 provisional ballots, one overseas ballot, and an absentee ballot that

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Council member Lori Elmore speaks to reporters during a special recall election party at Flavor 91 Bistro.

## 6 Medicaid providers charged with fraud

### Attorney general alleges \$300,000 in false billing

**Haley BeMiller**  
State Bureau  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Six Ohio Medicaid providers are accused of stealing more than \$300,000 from the program, the latest effort by state officials to crack down on alleged fraud.

Attorney General Andy Wilson said the providers, including three from Cincinnati and the Columbus area, are facing fraud and theft charges. The move came weeks after U.S. Attorney General Todd Blanche visited Columbus to announce indictments against 14 people accused of defrauding Ohio Medicaid and other government programs.

"Medicaid fraud steals from taxpayers and vulnerable Ohioans," Wilson said in a June 23 statement. "If you try to cheat this program, you will be held accountable."

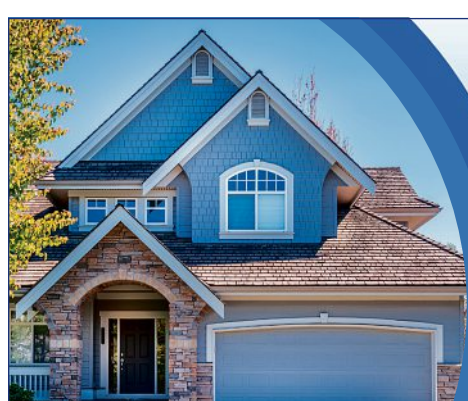
The cases include:

- A Westerville woman accused of billing Medicaid for nearly \$200,000 in behavioral health services for children that never occurred.

- A Columbus man who prosecutors allege had falsified timesheets to claim he provided home health care services to a client after the services ended.

- A Cincinnati woman accused of stealing \$110,000 by billing more in-home services than she conducted.

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