

March 1st, 2026

Respected Members of the Commerce City Council,

I write to you as pastor of Our Lady Mother of the Church, a parish comprised of thousands of Commerce City residents deeply invested in our community, and as a faith leader with Together Colorado. We have long appreciated the ways we've been able to partner with the City to serve the needs of our parishioners and the broader community. Over recent weeks, many parishioners and community members have expressed deep concern and fear regarding the proposed renewal and expansion of the Flock Safety camera surveillance contract in our city.

Our faith teaches that society must protect the family as the foundational unit of our common life and defend the dignity of every person. When public policies or technologies threaten to harm or divide families, we must speak with clarity and compassion. Across Colorado and nationally, we have witnessed how data collected through similar surveillance systems has been shared with federal agencies such as ICE due to lack sufficient safeguards. Insufficient safeguards and oversight from elected officials create fear and distrust, especially among immigrant families who already live under the shadow of uncertainty.

As a pastor, I have seen firsthand the lasting pain caused when parents are detained without the chance to prepare their children, or when spouses are separated suddenly and without answers about what comes next. These realities do not promote safety; they erode the very fabric of trust and stability that holds a community together. We have asked City staff, via formal CORA requests on 2/20 to the City Clerk, and 2/23 to the Police Department, for records of safeguards and policies governing Commerce City's relationship. To date, we have not received any information.

For these reasons, I urge the Commerce City Council to proceed with great care and moral responsibility. Before considering any renewal of the Flock Safety contract, we ask that the Council:

- Conduct a comprehensive public audit of all city surveillance contracts to create full transparency and accountability.

- Ensure that the audit includes a review of every instance in which Commerce City license plate data has been accessed, identifying which agencies accessed it and under what circumstances.
- Establish clear guardrails and oversight mechanisms to ensure that surveillance technology is never used in ways that harm or endanger our residents or their families.

Every person in Commerce City should be able to move freely in their community without fear that their information will be shared beyond the City's control. Our city has the opportunity to lead with wisdom and justice, protecting both public safety and the sacred dignity of our people.

I pray that your deliberations will be guided by a spirit of transparency, compassion, and service to the common good. It is your sacred responsibility to help safeguard the fragile trust and partnership that exists between community members and the city. May your decisions strengthen the bonds of trust within our community and uphold the moral responsibility we all share to protect families and promote human dignity.

Respectfully,

Monsignor Jorge De Los Santos
Pastor at Our Lady Mother of the Church
Faith Leader with Together Colorado
Commerce City, Colorado