



Alyssa Goelzer / The Forum

A Flock Safety camera, which helps police track vehicles involved in crimes, is mounted on a light pole on Monday, July 14, 2025, in Moorhead.

MOORHEAD INSTALLS LICENSE PLATE READERS

Fargo, West Fargo also use cameras to track suspects

BY APRIL BAUMGARTEN
The Forum

MOORHEAD

The Moorhead Police Department has installed license plate readers it says will help “enhance public safety and crime-solving capabilities.”

The department announced Monday, July 14, it has installed eight Flock Safety cameras, city spokeswoman Kelly Kuntz said. Using \$29,300 from the city budget, Moorhead put the cameras up between March 21 and May 29, she said.

Moorhead joins Fargo and West Fargo in using the license plate cameras and readers. Motion-activated Flock cameras take images of vehicles and alert law enforcement agencies in real time if those vehicles are involved in a crime.

“Flock cameras are not used to monitor or track individuals unless authorized by a search warrant based on probable cause or vital circumstances,” the Moorhead Police Department said.

Along with reading license plates, the cameras can determine the make, model, color and unique features of a vehicle, including damage and “after-market alterations,” the Moorhead Police Department said.

“This advanced technology enables us to capture objective evidence while safeguarding individual privacy,” the release said. “The Moorhead Police Department, in accordance with Minnesota law, has established policies to ensure the responsible use of Flock technology. This valuable tool will aid in

criminal investigations, and we are committed to adhering to all state statutes to prevent any misuse of the system.”

Fargo installed the cameras in June 2024, and West Fargo followed suit several months later. Law enforcement agencies that use Flock can connect with other agencies that use the technology to locate suspects, the Fargo Police Department said.

In Moorhead, Flock cameras detected 190,030 unique vehicles in the last 30 days, according to the release. Using information from the cameras, officers conducted 56 vehicle searches in that period, the release said.

The department said it used the technology to find a stolen rental vehicle.

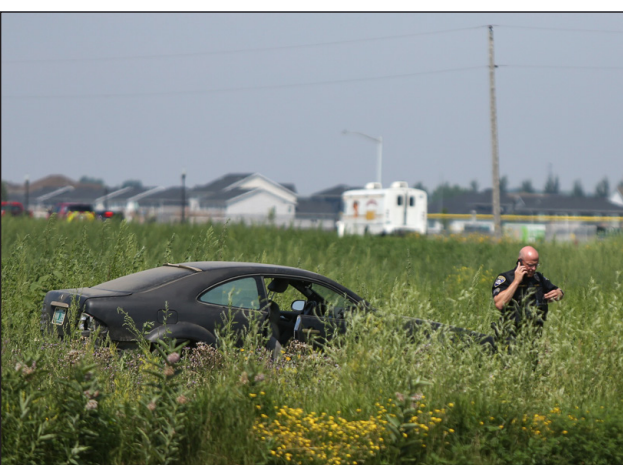
The Moorhead Police Department said it

deletes data from Flock after 30 days “unless associated with a specific criminal case.”

The department said it would not sell information gathered by Flock to third parties. It also cannot use the cameras for immigration enforcement, traffic enforcement, harassment or racial, gender or religious discrimination, the release said.

“The Moorhead Police Department is committed to transparency and ensuring the proper use of Flock Safety technology to enhance public safety while respecting individual privacy,” the agency said in its release.

Readers can reach Forum reporter April Baumgarten at 701-241-5417 or abaumgarten@forumcomm.com. Follow her on the social platform X @ [aprilbaumsaway](https://twitter.com/aprilbaumsaway).



Chris Flynn / The Forum

A police officer inspects the vehicle of a suspect on Monday, July 14, 2025, that fled on foot to a nearby home in south Moorhead.

STANDOFF

CONTINUED from A1

they were “somewhat unaware” he had entered their home, Empting said.

As of 11:30 a.m., police were focused on the home and said they believed the man was still inside. The scene had been contained

to the house, but Empting said police established three perimeters to contain the area.

Around noon, a Forum reporter observed a SWAT team vehicle driving away from the residence and an ambulance approaching the house. Shortly after, the



Tasha Carvell / The Forum

Clay County Sheriff Mark Empting speaks during a press conference Monday morning, July 14, 2025, in Moorhead.

Moorhead Police Department announced on Facebook that a man had been taken into custody and a shelter-in-place order for the area had been lifted.

Empting said the deputy who attempted to stop the driver had some knowledge of who the driver might be based on

previous contact with law enforcement, but Empting did not identify the man Monday morning.

Empting said an explosive detection dog sniffed the backpack that was thrown out of the car window, but he did not share the results of that check.



Contributed / East Central Judicial District

In a screenshot from courtroom video, Alexis Engelking addresses the court during her felony change of plea hearing Monday, July 14, 2025, at the Cass County Courthouse.

Woman sentenced for 1 of 2 embezzlement charges

Engelking to spend 5 days in jail for embezzling from Fargo Linoleum

BY TASHA CARVELL
The Forum

FARGO — More than a year after she was charged with felony theft for stealing money from Fargo Linoleum, a Fargo woman has been sentenced to five days in jail in the case.

Alexis Engelking, 34, entered an Alford plea to the embezzlement charge Monday, July 14, meaning she maintains her innocence but acknowledges prosecutors have enough evidence to secure a conviction should the case go to trial.

Engelking worked as an accountant at the downtown flooring store in 2023 and 2024. An investigation began when the company’s owner, Robert Bye, contacted police after consultants determined Engelking had been altering her salary and writing herself checks from Fargo Linoleum accounts. Court documents said Engelking took \$12,000 from the company without authorization.

During Monday’s hearing, Engelking and her attorneys claimed Engelking had a verbal agreement with the owners of Fargo Linoleum for a loan by way of an advance which she would pay back, but Judge Nicholas Chase noted there was nothing in the police incident reports to indicate the owners were aware of any agreement of that kind. Prosecutors pointed to an interview Engelking did with detectives last April during which she admitted she’d written the checks without authorization and did not appear to mention any agreement.

When Engelking told Chase it would be hard to prove the verbal agreement she had with the owners of Fargo Linoleum, Chase responded quickly.

“People do it all the

time actually,” Chase said. “I have people in here prove oral contracts all the time.”

Engelking’s attorneys continued to frame the case as a misunderstanding that happened when Engelking took another job.

“She has absolutely no criminal history. She’s a mother and she was in a hard spot, and she made the wrong decision to switch jobs without communicating when she had money outstanding in a verbal agreement,” Engelking’s attorney, Alexis Madlom, told the court, adding that Engelking had since paid back all the money she owed.

Engelking voluntarily did 30 days of home detention and monitoring prior to Monday’s hearing as a good faith action to try to avoid jail time in the case, her attorneys said.

Chase asked prosecutors why they were requesting 30 days of jail time, and they referenced another theft case Engelking has pending, which was filed last month. She is accused of embezzling funds from a different employer in that matter.

Chase said he wouldn’t consider the second charge because it was unproven conduct, but said he was unpersuaded by the claims made in her statements in court, which he said he found “not credible,” or by her attorney’s claims that Engelking had properly acknowledged wrongdoing.

“I’m not sure what Ms. Engelking is acknowledging she did wrong other than poor communication,” he said.

Chase said the 30 days of home detention she already served should, however, be included in her sentence, which he set at 35 days.

Engelking was ordered to self-surrender to the Cass County Sheriff’s Office by 7 p.m. Monday to serve her remaining five-day sentence. She is scheduled to appear Wednesday morning to be arraigned on the second embezzlement case.

Readers can reach Forum reporter Tasha Carvell at tcarvell@forumcomm.com.

CORRECTION

A story that ran in the Life section of the July 14 issue had incorrect dates for the

Downtown Fargo Street Fair. The event runs July 17-19.

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