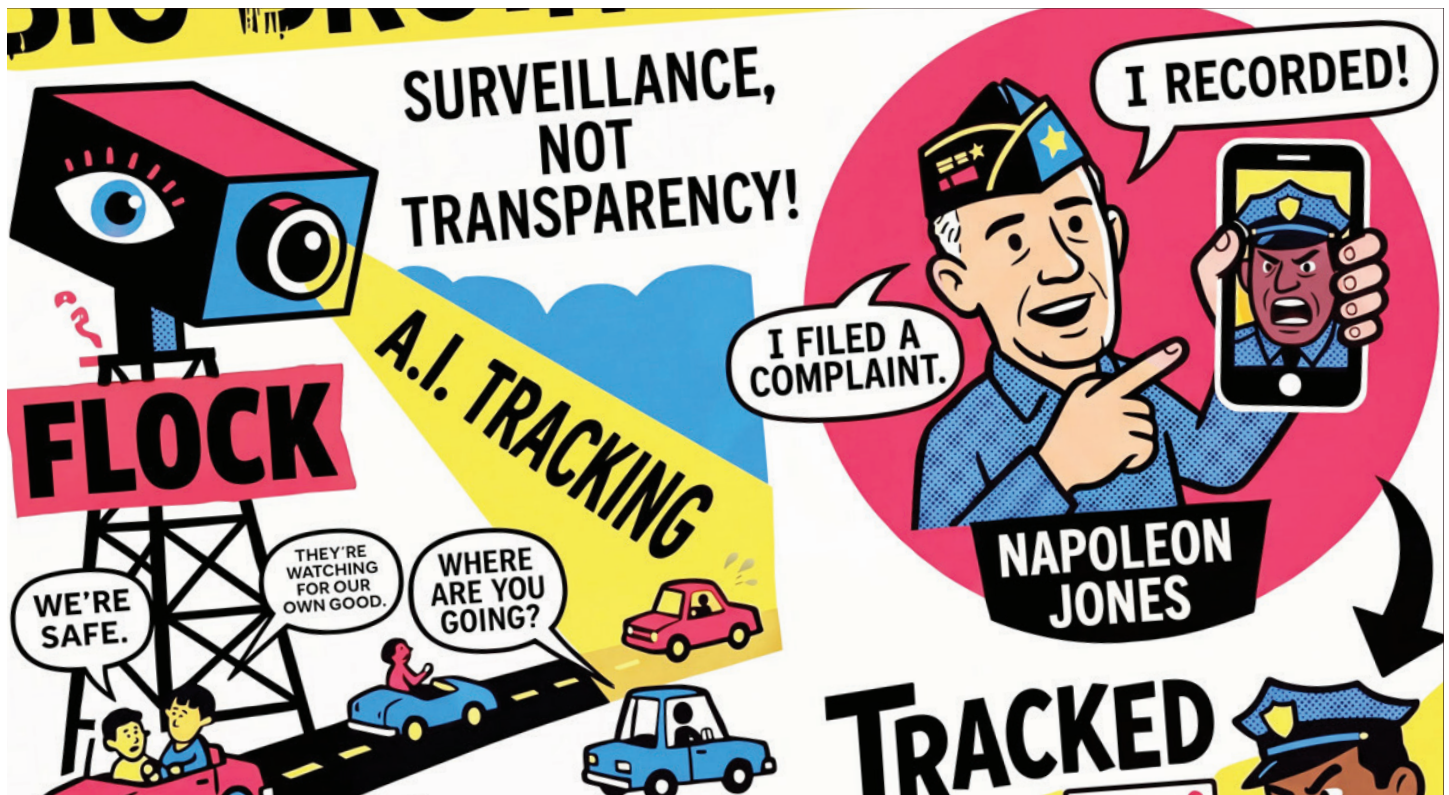




I Spy vs. They Spy

September 11, 2026

There is an argument making the rounds: Flock cameras are good because cop cams have proven themselves so useful. More transparency!

Flock cameras, [you may remember](#), are the traffic cameras integrally linked to an artificial intelligence that tracks car license plates (and thus the cars, and drivers) that come within the cameras' field of vision.

The company contracts with cities and other governments. To [surveil](#) us.

You know, "to protect us from crime."

The fear — and I know it, because I fear it — is that this will lead to a total surveillance state where "innocent until proven guilty" has no real meaning. Watched and analyzed, our every action on the roads and sidewalks would potentially become ensnared in Big Brother tyranny.

A somewhat secondary fear is that police and other government workers — or hackers — would be able to access the database/a.i. for reasons of an, uh, extra-legal character.

And that has happened aplenty!

The [latest tale](#) comes from Sussex, Wisconsin, where our "public servants" tracked a specific person — Napoleon Jones, a Navy Veteran — after he had recorded a traffic stop that "just didn't feel right" and had then been arrested and (understandably) filed a complaint.

While it is legal to record a public traffic stop, for some reason cops really don't like "civilians" to record them.

In the course of reviewing the complaints, Jones's lawyer discovered that the police had been tracking him through the Flock system.

Before you shout the now common protest of "What the Flock," remember what we are up against: government workers using the system to defend their own misbehavior.

This is not the transparency we were looking for.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.