

CITY OF FRIENDSVILLE

213 West College Ave. • Friendsville, TN 37737
City Hall: 865.995.2831 • Utility: 865.995.0243 • www.friendsvilletn.gov

Date: September 1, 2026

The City of Friendsville Mayor and Commissioners would like to address recent concerns raised by residents regarding Flock Safety Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras operating within the city limits, including concerns about the placement and direction of a camera located near Friendsville Bible Methodist Church and the adjacent playground.

In response to these concerns, a city representative contacted the Blount County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) directly to request information and clarification regarding the position of the camera. BCSO advised the City that its ALPR cameras are not pointed at and are not used to monitor public or private playgrounds or other public or private property. According to BCSO, while the physical position of a camera may make it appear to be aimed toward a particular area, the camera's field of view is intended to capture vehicle traffic within the roadway, typically including most of the outbound lane and a portion of the inbound lane.

The city appreciates BCSO's timely and informative response, which directly addressed the concern residents raised. In keeping with its responsibility to the community, the City will continue to stay informed about how this technology is used and the policies that govern it, so that it can provide residents with clear and accurate answers. The City values its cooperative relationship with the Sheriff's Office and is grateful for BCSO's transparency and willingness to assist, and it remains committed to supporting both effective public safety and the privacy of Friendsville's residents.

We appreciate the residents who have brought their questions and concerns forward and recognize the importance of both public safety and personal privacy. Residents deserve clear and accurate information, and as additional information is obtained and verified, the city will continue to keep the community informed.

Respectfully,

City of Friendsville
Mayor and Commissioners