KSP Post 5 in Campbellsburg welcomes Class 107 graduate Harris



Photo courtesy of KSP

Jack Thomas Harris of La Grange graduated from Cadet Class 107 at the KSP Training Academy Friday. He will serve at KSP Post 5 in Campbellsburg.

BY ERA STAFF

Kentucky State Police (KSP) honored 40 cadets Friday graduating from Cadet Class 107 at the KSP Training Academy, marking the start of their careers as state troopers serving communities across the commonwealth.

Cadet Class 107 reported to the KSP Academy on May 17 and completed 24 weeks of intensive academic instruction and practical training designed to prepare them for the challenges of modern law enforcement. Cadets in the class underwent more than 1,000 hours of classroom and field study in subjects such as constitutional law, juvenile and traffic law, use of force, weapons training, defensive tactics, first aid, high speed vehicle pursuit, criminal investigation, computer literacy, hostage negotiations, evidence collection, radio procedures, search and seizure, crash investigation, drug identification, traffic control, crowd control, armed robbery response, electronic crimes, sex crimes, hate crimes, domestic violence, bomb threats and hazardous materials.

During Friday's ceremony, KSP Commissioner Phillip Burnett Jr. commended Cadet Class 107 for their dedication to complete the academy and answer the call to serve the Commonwealth, "Becoming a Kentucky State Police Trooper takes grit, determination and a genuine commitment to the people we serve. Each member of this class has demonstrated the ability to rise to challenges and uphold the expectations of this profession."

The Cadet Class 107 graduate assigned to Post 5 in Campbellsburg is Jack Thomas Harris of La Grange.

To see the full list of Cadet Class 107 graduates, visit KSP's website.

As they begin their assignments, KSP said these troopers will carry forward the agency's mission to enhance public safety through service, integrity and professionalism. Their work will include building partnerships to prevent and deter crime, improving highway safety through education and enforcement, protecting property and safeguarding the rights of all individuals.

KSP says they remain dedicated to recruiting, training and supporting a professional, diverse and well-equipped workforce to serve the Commonwealth. Those interested in pursuing a career as a KSP trooper are encouraged to visit the agency's website for more information, kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov.

FLOCK

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or any visible damage.

Vehicles can also be flagged as having been stolen or related to an investigation, and the database can alert officers when a flagged vehicle passes by a Flock camera. The cameras do not have facial recognition, however.

Smith said that the department currently pays $21,000 per year for a total of seven Flock cameras. The contracts also include access to the Flock database, which officers can use to search the data collected by the cameras — both owned by the department and not.

Since the Flock cameras are installed on a contract basis, Smith said the cameras themselves and the data they collect are not directly owned by the police department.

Aside from their seven cameras, Smith said that he is aware of at least 18 other Flock cameras in the county. He said that local cities such as La Grange, Crestwood and Pewee Valley have entered into their own contracts with Flock, as well as multiple HOAs.

The county police department first entered into contracts with Flock in May 2023 for four cameras. As previously reported, the cameras were sought to provide a line of defense against the then-surge of car thefts and property thefts from unattended, and oftentimes unlocked, cars.

"It was obvious what was happening: thieves from Louisville coming out to Oldham County in a stolen car, they get into [residents'] cars, they steal things …" Smith said. "We thought we were getting deceived by all of this, so that's what interested us in getting Flock cameras."

In January, Smith's request for three additional Flock cameras was approved by the Oldham County Fiscal Court despite several local residents voicing their concerns.

During that meeting, Smith told the court that nearly 8 million vehicles were photographed by the department's four Flock cameras during 2025. With the three new cameras in operation, that number is already up to nearly 13 million this year, as of Oct. 7.

Unless an officer specifically requests photos of a certain license plate number to be kept, the photos themselves are saved for 10 days — a recent reduction from the original 30-day retention period, Smith said.

Smith also told the court on Jan. 20 that Flock data developed 56 cases for the department in 2025, and that they were "instrumental" in three homicide cases.

In his interview with the Era, Smith mentioned a hit-and-run homicide case on Highway 146 that occurred "the very first night Flock started out here" as one where Flock cameras materially helped an investigation — a previously reported case against suspect Jason Cornett.



Photo by Grant Gerstner

Local resident Reese Farnsworth speaking at the Oct. 6 Oldham County Fiscal Court's Public Safety Committee meeting, asking if he and other residents present can voice their concerns about Flock cameras.

Aside from in-county Flock cameras, Smith also mentioned another homicide case that occurred at the Oldham County Health Department, where Flock cameras helped locate the suspect hours away in Indiana — another previously reported case against suspect Oscar David Torres Alverez.

Though Smith agreed that Flock cameras are useful for incidents where a suspect is fleeing by car, he said they can be also used in many other situations. "It would have to be a crime that we would cite for arrest," he said.

As of Oct. 7, 1,416 searches have been made this year by OCPD and the Oldham County Sheriff's Office. Of those searches, 225 for assault or battery-related offenses, 160 for larceny or theft-related offenses, 134 for missing or endangered persons, and 123 for stolen property offenses.

Smith confirmed that officers can be immediately dispatched to conduct a traffic stop after Flock alerts that a flagged vehicle is in a specific location and that Flock data can be used in seeking a warrant, "it just depends what it is for," he said.

Smith also said he is unaware of any errors in Flock data leading to his officers conducting a traffic stop on the wrong car or person.

WHERE ARE FLOCK CAMERAS LOCATED?

When asked where the department's Flock cameras are located, Smith said he would rather not release any specific locations. "Right now, if you put the precise locations out, there's a good possibility they are going to be damaged," he said, adding that one has been damaged already.

Since the passage of House Bill 520 in March 2025, the confidentiality of Flock camera locations is protected by state law. The bill amended the Kentucky Open Records Act so that law enforcement agencies can withhold records if disclosure "could pose an articulable risk of harm to the agency or its investigation."

Generally speaking, however, Smith said the cameras were mainly placed to track stolen cars coming into the county — with six of their seven facing "inbound." Other local government have also specifically placed the cameras at arterial intersections, or at the entrances into their city limits or neighborhoods.

As previously reported in May 2023, Smith told the Oldham County Fiscal Court the department intended to place their first four cameras on Highway 42 and Highway 146 coming into the county from Jefferson County, near Exit 14 on I-71 and at a then-undetermined location on Highway 22.

On Jan. 20, Smith told the court the department intended to place their next three cameras both near the interstate — on Highway 146 and Highway 393 in Buckner — and one near the county line on Highway 146 to monitor cars leaving the county.

ACCOUNTABILITY

In terms of guardrails to ensure Flock cameras are not misused, Smith pointed to the department's current documentation process and auditing policy.

Each time an OCPD officer searches for a license plate or vehicle description into the Flock database for a search, a reason must be listed. Smith said that 99% of the time, the reason would either be in the form of a case number, a call for service number or an explicitly written-out explanation.

Far less often, the searches are conducted off of what they call an "e-call," which is more so based on a resident inquiry or concern that might not end up in a police report. Smith gave a resident calling about a suspicious vehicle driving around their house as a hypothetical example.

Even with an e-call, however, "there would be some documentation as to why the Flock search was initiated. We can always find that," Smith said.

Smith confirmed that all OCPD officers have access to the Flock system. "You would want that because sometimes it could be time critical. If a patrol officer couldn't have the authority to enter a license plate into the Flock system and had to wait for a supervisor to come to review the situation, it's a time delay," he said.

The department's Flock search records are then audited on a monthly basis in accordance with the department's overall "Information Systems Audits" policy, which includes auditing for searches into other systems like the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database.

The policy explicitly outlines that databases like Flock "shall only be used for official and legitimate police functions" and any office who observes misuse "shall immediately report the observation to the Chief of Police or designee through chain of command."

As to how the audits work, Smith said that shift supervisors are required to "cherry pick five or ten" searches each month to ensure officers are not misusing the data. "We don't have the time to check every one of them," he said, though sometimes supervisors do more extensive audits if time permits.

Though he is not aware of any of his officers misusing the Flock system, Smith confirmed that misuse would result in disciplinary action.

"Our policy was in place before state law changed," Smith said, referring to House Bill 58 that was enacted in April. "We're going to have to go back and modify ours to make [it] specifically deal with Flock."

House Bill 58 regulates all ALPRs, restricting their use for public safety, law enforcement, parking regulation, toll collection and commercial vehicle oversight purposes. It also requires data to be deleted after 90 days — unless it is kept for evidence, training or auditing — and establishes penalties for violating the law.

The law also requires law enforcement agencies to adopt and make publicly available a written ALPR policy that includes a list of databases, rules for retention and destruction of data, training protocol, supervisory oversight, rules for access and an auditing schedule every 90 days.

CONCERNS THAT LED TO PLANS FOR PUBLIC MEETING

Though a public meeting has since been scheduled to hear local residents' concerns, the path to that point was not easy, according to local resident Reese Farnsworth.

At the Oct. 6 Oldham County Fiscal Court meeting, Farnsworth told the court that OCPD police majors invited him to the court's Public Safety Committee meeting earlier that day to share his concerns about Flock cameras.

Specifically, Farnsworth is concerned about who has access to the department's Flock data, how the searches are being documented and audited, and the fact that the department has yet to create an ALPR policy up to House Bill 58 standards.

Farnsworth was denied the opportunity to speak during the committee meeting by the chairman, Magistrate Bob Dye, who said he was never contacted to add any discussion about Flock cameras to the committee meeting's agenda.

In a conversation after the committee meeting, Dye told Farnsworth to reach out to Judge Executive David Voegele to set up a meeting for residents' concerns to be heard, which later proved fruitful, as evidenced by the scheduled Nov. 12 public meeting.

When asked about the committee meeting, Smith said that he recommended giving residents an opportunity to voice their concerns there. "I don't know where in the process — I don't know what happened," he said regarding the denial of public comment at the meeting.

As to concerns about documentation of OCPD officers' searches into the Flock database, "We did notice on some of them there were some unusual names, but Flock did that to keep the identity of the person confidential," Smith said, referring to drivers, not officers.

The department's Flock database search records, obtained via Open Records Request, show that before 2026, it was common for officers to write very brief descriptions of their reasons for each search — things like "investigation," "search," "test" or even no reason written.

In the department's search records so far this year, every search has specific crimes listed in the "reason" section — specific examples include "Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property – CM Schamback Park" or "Missing/Endangered Person/Runaway."

The Era is unable to verify if each search is connected to valid case numbers or calls for service, as all case numbers and calls for service were redacted in the records provided to the Era.

CHIEF'S MESSAGE TO THOSE CONCERNED

When asked what he would like to say to Oldham Countians who are concerned about Flock cameras, Smith emphasized that the county's flock cameras focus on inbound traffic. "And we have a good auditing system," he added.

"I understand the criticism, but I'd also want to explain that it's not a constitutional violation. What happens in the public stays in the public. Don't think for a second when you walk out into the public that you're not on camera somewhere …

"Flock is a good system," Smith continued. "It's the abuse of the system that is causing problems, and if it happens anywhere in the country or in another jurisdiction, we are guilty by default … I know our officers and they are dedicated officers. They really want to do a good job …

"We are always in a position where, because of security and confidentiality, we can't say everything, and that kind of creates suspicion …

"What about the victims?" Smith said. "These Flock cameras have helped a lot of victims … To me, that is the most critical part of this system — how it benefits the victims."

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