OBITUARY

Willie Carroll Flack, 92

BUCKNER — Willie Carroll Flack, 92, passed away Nov. 13, 2026.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy Louise (Stone) Flack; children, Glenna Flack, Tommy Flack and James Flack; granddaughter, Stacie Wheatley; great-grandson, Alexzander Childers; parents, Grover Cleveland and Lula Belle (Kelly) Flack; and six siblings.

He is survived by his granddaughter and caretaker, Teresa Card (Morgan); children, Debbie Flack-Martin and Jerry Flack; grandchildren, Victor W. Burba II, Jami Flack, Charlie Wheatley, Beth Flack, Amy Frick (Don), Julie French (Barry) and Jennifer Freeman (Robbie); eight great-grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren with one on the way, extended family and friends.

A celebration of Willie's life was held Nov. 17, at Heady-Radcliffe Funeral Home with burial at Valley of Rest in La Grange.

Heady-Radcliffe
Funeral Home & Cremation Services

FLOCK

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Furthermore, access to Flock data in other jurisdictions can be provided via request.

Collett said that LGPD has had four cameras since 2023 for very similar reasons to OCPD. He explained that with 16 officers in the city, only two or three can work each night. He said the cameras acted as "extra eyes and ears" and could be considered "a force multiplier" for his officers.

Wakefield said that the sheriff's office has no cameras themselves, but accesses OCPD's cameras and the overall database. Instead of trying to stop thefts, Wakefield said his deputies largely use the cameras in enforcing Emergency Protective Orders or Domestic Violence Orders, as well as issuing arrest warrants.

The floor was then turned over to Reese Farnsworth, a local resident who spearheaded the push to have a public meeting on Flock cameras. After thanking the law enforcement leaders for their cooperation in both supplying records and in the meeting, Farnsworth outlined his concerns:

"According to NBC, Flock Safety tracks 20 billion [license] plates per month with 150,000 known cameras around the country — I don't believe that is just modern policing … this is unwarranted mass surveillance and tracking that we, the citizens, have never asked for, never voted for and now we're stuck with the bill."

Farnsworth compared tracking someone with a Flock camera to placing a GPS tracker on a car, which requires a warrant. He also stated that the cameras have been proven to make errors, and have not caused a reduction in crime, according to FBI data.

Farnsworth then began asking the law enforcement officials questions — one of which about a search he found in public records with the description "neck pillow."

Wakefield said that the search was from one of his deputies at the time, and was about a subject who "was very agitated and had made some threatening statements" in the Oldham County Fiscal Court building. The deputy labeled the searches "neck pillow" because the person was wearing a neck pillow at the time of the incident, according to Wakefield.

Regarding other nonsensical search descriptions Farnsworth said he found in OCPD's Flock search records, Smith and OCPD Major Steve Jenkins said that nonsensical words have been used to keep investigations confidential — similar to a cypher or an alias.

"We don't necessarily prefer it," Jenkins said, which is reflected in the department's more recent search data that all have specific types of crimes as descriptions.

Attendees were then allowed to take to the podium to ask questions and share their thoughts, which continued with intermittent answers from the law enforcement officials for over an hour and a half.

Constable Barry Wilding recommended that the departments should consider having an independent person or agency audit their Flock search records, which "would accomplish the trust aspect" better than having supervisors audit officers.

To a question about the connection to the sheriff's office's contract with ICE, Wakefield said that the agreement certifies deputies as task force officers, but Flock cameras would not be a "useful tool" for the office's ICE enforcement purposes.

To concerns about Flock Safety being hacked, Jenkins said he would argue that the data they collect "isn't incredibly sensitive," as it does not include any identifying information — only photos of cars and their license plates, as well as when and where each photo was taken. He also said he believes the risk is insignificant compared to the investigative advantage.

"I think there's a big difference between a private enterprise and private property that I'm engaging [with] versus the cops," Trey Hoyer of Prospect said, referencing a comparison to businesses' surveillance cameras. "I think I want a higher standard placed on you guys than I do Walmart …

"Imagine if you guys bought a new fleet of experimental police cars [that] were bought all over the country, but they started blowing up … I don't want to wait until one blows up here — I think its very reasonable to be scared and concerned about what's happening elsewhere and apply it to our experience here," Hoyer said.

To the concern that Flock cameras are violating drivers' Fourth Amendment right, the law enforcement officials largely answered that there is no expectation of privacy on public roads and that "What happens in the public stays in the public."

In response, local resident Steven Blake stated that things like call records and browsing history can only be obtained with a warrant "because they can reveal location, movements, contacts and habits of a person," but that accessing Flock data does not require a warrant.

Though the department has their own auditing process for searching Flock's database, Blake also emphasized that no one audits Flock themselves. "We can't go to Flock and say, 'Stay out of our county' because you guys let them in," he said.

The final question came from Farnsworth: would each local law enforcement agency be willing to take public input to help form their policy on Flock cameras to make residents more comfortable?

"I was elected to run the sheriff's office the way I see fit by the people of this county and I'm not going to let people randomly come to my office and dictate how my policy is written," Wakefield answered.

"Right now our policy is being coordinated with state law … [it is] based upon a legal recommendation," Smith answered.

"We welcome dialogue," Collett answered. "You're going to find that most of the agencies will be following the same and will be in accordance with [state law]. Will there always be concerns? Yes — it's not my place to dismiss those concerns …

"We know the police department is not going to benefit if we don't have the public trust and agreement … it's not our job out here to create more distrust," Collette said.

Council tables proposal to reduce members to 6, create wards

Magistrate seeks $50K for John Black memorial statue

BY GRANT GERSTNER
EDITOR



Photo by Grant Gerstner

Councilor Kenneth Powell took to the podium during the public comment portion of the Nov. 2 La Grange City Council meeting to talk about ordinances he introduced to reduce the number of council members to six and create wards.

LA GRANGE — Less than two minutes into their meeting, the La Grange City Council tabled two ordinances proposed by Councilor Kenneth Powell that would have reduced the eight-member council to six and establish geographical wards of the city for each member to represent on Nov. 2.

Councilor Trey Kamer made the motion to table the ordinances while the council was preparing to approve their meeting agenda. "We've tabled a couple other items for the next administration … [like] the city administrator position and also the pay scale discussion. So, we have set a precedent …"

After Councilor Jason Taylor seconded the motion, the council voted 5-3 in favor of tabling the ordinances — councilors Lucy Ricketts, Latosha Booker-Bishop and Powell opposed.

The proposed ordinances state that they would not go into effect until 2029, and the ordinance that would establish wards — i.e. districts that only one council member can reside in — includes a proposed map of how the wards could be separated.

Many of the proposed ward boundaries are major roadways, such as Highway 53 — also known as First Avenue — but they are also designed to have close to an equal amount of residents. The ordinance uses data from the 2020 U.S. Census, which said the city had just over 10,000 residents.

The proposed ordinance also outlines that the council would "periodically" review the wards and make adjustments to ensure they stay as equal in population "as practicable" — at least as frequently as each regular 10-year census.

Though the ordinances were tabled, they were discussed two hours later during the meeting's second public comment period after Powell took to the podium. He said that the idea of creating wards for the council has "been talked about" and "was brought" to him, though he would not say by whom.

As for the timing during election season, he said: "People elected us to work from start to finish, but come election time, people are scared to say things because it's political suicide. What is political suicide is if you're not … bringing ideas to the council …"

Powell said that the wards were created using blocks from the 2020 U.S. Census. "It wasn't me drawing lines ..." he said. "I didn't see the need to cut a street in half or cut a subdivision in half …"

Powell also emphasized that the ordinance would not change how residents vote. "We're at-large voting … [if] you live in ward one, you still get to vote for somebody in ward two," he said.

The wards would, instead, ensure that each part of the city was represented — which Powell said was important, noting that he is the first and only council member to live south of I-71.

As for the reduction from eight to six members, Powell said that over 93% of the cities in Kentucky that use the mayor-council form of government have six members or less — not including Louisville or Lexington.

"I think the key here is the timing of these two ordinances," Taylor said when given the opportunity to take to the podium. "… Having a first reading the day before a general election and a second reading in December when we'll have a lame duck council is about as far away from good government as you can get."

Taylor continued that though he is open to considering the ordinances, he said the ordinances should have been discussed at the council's committees, at a working meeting of the full council and that residents should be able to give feedback.

He also noted that the largest ward in the proposed ward map is south of I-71. "Do you know which is the only council member that actually lives in that big green section? ...Kenneth Powell."

Taylor concluded that he thinks that the ordinance is evidence that "some people apparently want to shrink the pool of candidates" and that "it's about stopping family members who live in the same household" from both running for and being elected to the council at one time.

"I haven't heard anyone give a good reasoning for concentrating power in fewer hands other than, 'Well, most cities do it that way,'" added Councilor Jason Kinser.

Regarding the idea of creating wards, Kinser said he thinks Powell was the first councilor to live south of I-71 "because nobody else from that side really wanted to get involved" and, though Powell is the only council member to live there, Kinser believes he represents everyone in the city.

Councilor Andrea Mancini noted that she voted to table the ordinances because she was appointed to her seat, and "didn't want that decision left up to" her, but that she thinks the ordinances are worth discussing and recommended that a forum is held to do so.

Further commentary ensued until Mayor Joe Davenport called for the end of discussion.

In other news, the council also heard a $50,000 donation request from Magistrate Wayne Theiss for a memorial statue of the late Mayor John Black.

Throughout the discussion, several council members said that they would want the matter to be discussed by the council's budget committee, and that they would want to hear more details on quotes from additional sculptors before committing to the donation.

Finance Director Cindy Alvano also mentioned that the Black saved $26,000 in an account from donations over the years, which could be used as part of the donation.

Though Theiss warned that seeking donations from the public would take too long to fund the project, Nathan Merrill of The Radcliffe Inn and Bobby Bowling of PB & J Stuff both said they would donate $1,000 each from their businesses during the discussion. Councilor Lucy Ricketts and Powell also said they would each donate their councilor salary for the month of December.

Ultimately, the council agreed the matter would be discussed by the budget committee and likely brought up again at the December council meeting — though a formal vote to table the request was not taken.

The council also received a draft of an ordinance from Kinser, which would place a one-year moratorium — i.e. pause — on the "acceptance, processing, and approval of new rental apartment development of five or more dwelling units" in the city.

"For some reason it seems like all of the apartments in Oldham County are getting dumped in La Grange," Kinser said.

He said that his research showed that one third of the residences in La Grange are apartments, and that the moratorium would allow for the council to "determine [their] impact on the infrastructure, on the schoool capacity, traffic, utilities, consistency with the comprehensive plan [and] figure out whether [new regulations] are necessary."

Councilor Laura Taylor said that the city's ordinance committee will discuss the draft at their upcoming meeting in December.

The council also conducted a first reading on an ordinance annexing over 104 acres of land located at 2300 N. Highway 53 into the city limits — a matter which Powell recused himself from due to his "relationship to the property owner."

According to City Attorney Beach Craigmyle, the La Grange Utilities Commission is interested in building a wastewater treatment plant on a rear portion of the property. He also said that Councilor Latosha Booker-Bishop and Ricketts were the members who agreed to introduce the ordinance.

The ordinance will require a second reading, public hearing and majority vote before it is fully approved.

The council also conducted a second reading and subsequently approved an ordinance amending the hours of the city's Entertainment Destination Center, which allows the carry of open alcoholic beverages in specific cups within a specific region of downtown La Grange, so that the EDC can start at 11 a.m. instead of noon when the city is hosting large events.

The council also conducted a second reading a subsequently approved an ordinance amending the maximum limit for the purchase of supplies, equipment and services without legal advertisement from $40,000 to $50,000. Three written quotes or a statement explaining the purchase are still required.

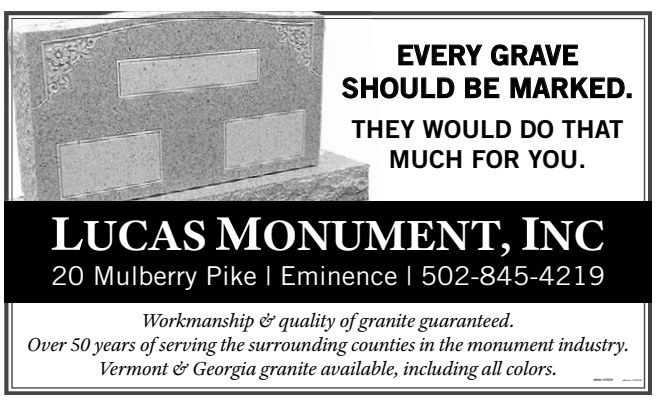
The council also approved the appointment of Officer Scott Veech to the vacant "Major/Assistant Chief" position at the La Grange Police Department.

"The Major position has been vacant for 14 months, and operating with one executive command officer has been demanding and may not serve the city best in the coming weeks or months," Chief Greg Collett wrote in a letter sent to the council.

Speaking to the council in person, Collett noted that the appointment will also help in case his "career or life" ends unexpectedly. "I'm the holder of a lot of information, a lot of obligations, and I always made the promise to Mayor Black that I would leave the place better than I found it."

As for Veech, Collett said they have a work history — as Veech worked with LGPD in the early 90s, worked at the Oldham County Police Department and Oldham County Sheriff's Office over the years, and returned to LGPD in March 2022 — and spoke to his integrity.

The La Grange City Council's next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m.



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