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Wichita's warrantless ALPR dragnet surveillance program violates Kansas Constitution, lawsuit should move forward, according to latest legal filing in ongoing Wichita Flock lawsuit

Wichita says it can conduct dragnet surveillance without a warrant; privacy advocate explains why that's wrong, in latest legal filing.

Wichita, Kansas – In July 2026, Wichita resident and privacy advocate Mason Grimmett teamed up with Kansas Justice Institute (KJI) to file a lawsuit challenging the City of Wichita's warrantless ALPR dragnet surveillance program, alleging it violates the Kansas Constitution.

In September, the City of Wichita sought to dismiss the lawsuit claiming it can conduct dragnet surveillance without a warrant.

In the latest legal filing responding to Wichita's motion to dismiss, KJI explains why that's wrong.

The response goes on to say:

> Wichita's warrantless ALPR dragnet surveillance program is an abject failure on several levels. It is degrading to individual liberty; it obliterates the right to be left alone; it puts innocent Kansans under the government's never-ending, always-watching eye; it turns everyone into a target; and it is corrosive to freedom. What's more, this A.I.-powered "tool" has been abused by the police; it ensnares innocent drivers; and its pervasive use has turned Wichita into the surveillance capital of the state. But the police are not above the law—that of the Kansas Constitution Bill of Rights.
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> At bottom, Mr. Grimmett has sufficiently alleged that the City of Wichita's warrantless ALPR dragnet surveillance program violates the Kansas Constitution. He has put the government on notice of his claims, his legal theories, and the factual bases for them—and that's all that is required at this stage of the proceedings. This Court should reject Wichita's motion to dismiss.

The latest legal filing by Grimmett comes on the heels of a recent federal decision that ALPR dragnet surveillance violates the Fourth Amendment.

"Wichita has spent more than a decade building out its large-scale warrantless ALPR dragnet surveillance program," said Sam MacRoberts, litigation director for Kansas Justice

Institute. “Nearly a million times per month, Wichita indiscriminately collects data on every traveler in Wichita, including Mr. Grimmett. They do all of this without a warrant, without probable cause, without even a hunch. That’s unconstitutional,” MacRoberts added.

Sedgwick County District Judge William Wooley is set to hear oral arguments on the matter on December 4, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the Sedgwick County District Courthouse.

KJI is a free law firm dedicated to protecting constitutional rights and fighting government overreach. The lawsuit was filed in Sedgwick County District Court and argues Wichita’s warrantless ALPR dragnet surveillance program violates the Kansas Constitution.

This case is part of KJI’s campaign challenging warrantless searches. KJI successfully sued the State of Kansas over its surprise warrantless searches of licensed dog trainers. KJI has also fought back against warrantless searches and seizures in asset forfeiture cases. And in 2020, KJI challenged the Kansas Department of Health and Environment’s use of mobile GPS data; and later that year, filed a federal lawsuit challenging Linn County’s warrantless tracking of its citizens.

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