

TO: President Katherine Rowe, Senior Assistant to the President Michael Fox, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs and Public Safety Ginger Ambler, Associate Vice President for Public Safety Cliff Everton, and WMPD Chief of Police Don Butler
FROM: Nico Giro-Martin, Student Body President
DATE: April 20, 2026
RE: Official Presentation of Recent Referenda

Here below is a summary of the activities surrounding the recent referenda. Student Assembly is interested in working with the relevant offices in identifying next steps.

BACKGROUND

Student concern over privacy, surveillance, and developments in U.S. news resulted in student interest to pose three separate referendums calling for the cancellation of W&M's contract with Flock cameras, the cancellation of W&M's contract with ZeroEyes, and the establishment of a Firewall for Freedom. Below is a brief timeline of Student Assembly's response to these student concerns:

- **Early November 2025:** multiple members of Student Assembly were made aware of student concern over Flock Cameras being installed on campus.
- **November 6, 2025:** Nico Giro-Martin met with AVP Cliff Everton and Deputy Chief of Police Robby Cottrell to discuss pedestrian safety, where we also discussed the introduction of Flock Cameras.
- **February 17, 2026:** *The Flat Hat* published an [article](#) highlighting privacy concerns that students raised around FlockOS technology.
- **February & March 2026:** University Policy & Student Rights Secretary Georgia Horgan held various separate meetings with student advocates and AVP Cliff Everton.
- **March 17, 2026:** Graduate Senator Danny Otten introduced [The ZeroEyes Referendum Act](#).
- **March 26, 2026, and April 6, 2026:** the Independent Elections Commission (IEC) [posed three questions](#) to the student body (The Student Assembly Election process allows opportunities for individual students/groups to put forward referendums and/or the Senate can vote to forward a referendum question to the student body).
- **April 9, 2026:** Student advocates [attended](#) the Williamsburg City Council meeting to raise concerns on the city's use of Flock technology.
- **April 14, 2026:** Senator Neha Baskar introduced [The Deflock William & Mary Resolution](#).
- **April 29, 2026:** Student Assembly will hold a Discussion with Public Safety in collaboration with the Office of Public Safety.

FLOCK REFERENDUM

On March 24, 2026, the IEC [received a petition](#) signed by 290 William & Mary community members. On March 26, 2026, the IEC posed a question regarding William & Mary Police Department's contract with Flock:

- “Should William & Mary end its contract with Flock and should administrators publicly retract and apologize for their misleading claims about their use of Flock and our liberties?”

The referendum received 1,480 yes votes (88.62%), 116 no votes (6.95%), and 74 abstentions (4.43%). The referendum charges University administration to take actions, which include but are not limited to:

- Terminate the 2-year contract with Flock and cover any and all Flock Cameras until they are removed completely;
- William & Mary commit to not using Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPRs) or AI surveillance technology in the future;
- Demands AVP Cliff Everton and Chief Don Butler publicly apologize for statements made to *The Flat Hat* that the petitioners allege are false and misleading representations of the technology;

On April 14, 2026, as a result of the referendum response, communication with the referendum's sponsors, and general student interest, Senator Neha Baskar ('29) introduced [The Deflock William & Mary Resolution](#). The resolution will be voted on Tuesday, April 21, 2026. We anticipate this resolution will pass; it calls for the following:

- Terminate the 2-year contract with Flock and cover any and all Flock Cameras until they are removed completely;
- Calls for increased transparency from administration regarding the purchase, implementation, and management of future AI- and security-related measures. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Communication disclosing external companies with which the College has partnered
 - Publicly available contract details, including involved parties, pricing, and terms of service
 - Town halls intended to promote conversation and generate community feedback
 - Direct discussion with Student Assembly throughout the decision-making process
 - Clear updates detailing the usage, efficacy, and potential flaws of purchased technology
- Calls for a direct public response from administration concerning the results of the March 26 Flock referendum and the passage of SR-001.
 - This statement should make clear the extent to which administration plans to change their course of action based on said student input.

FIREWALL FOR FREEDOM REFERENDUM

On March 25, 2026, the IEC received a petition signed by 255 William & Mary community members. On March 26, 2026, the IEC posed a question regarding students' first amendment rights:

- “Should William & Mary:
 - Declare its support for the protection of our civil human rights of all members of our campus community, and take all measures to ensure we may exercise our rights without fear or intimidation.
 - Not share resources, such as staff’s time or data collected on students and faculty, with federal law enforcement who are seeking to violate our social rights or target members of our community.
 - Employ their authority to establish a firewall for freedom, prohibiting employees from voluntarily providing information or assistance in response to a request from federal authorities or out-of-state authorities that seeks to identify, or impose civil or criminal liability or other penalties, to identify or apprehend a person in order to subject them to immigration detention, removal or deportation proceedings; or to prosecute a person or persons for offenses related to immigration status based on their participation in activities protected by the First Amendment, and to investigate the sex or gender of a student, faculty, or staff member.”

The referendum received 1,455 yes votes (87.13%), 79 no votes (4.73%), and 136 abstentions (8.14%).

ZEROEYES REFERENDUM

On March 24, 2026, the Student Assembly Senate passed [The ZeroEyes Referendum Act](#) (sponsored by Graduate Senator Danny Otten) with 22 yes votes and 3 present votes. This bill places responsibility on Student Assembly to advocate on behalf of student concerns of ZeroEyes to University Administration. On April 6, 2026, the IEC posed a question regarding William & Mary’s Office of Public Safety’s [contract](#) with ZeroEyes:

- “W&M has entered into a 400-camera partnership with the AI surveillance company ZeroEyes for the stated purpose of firearm detection. ZeroEyes has not released data about the accuracy of their system and cannot detect concealed weapons. The current contract grants this private vendor the ‘perpetual and irrevocable license’ to use collected imagery for its own business operations. *Do you support cancelling W&M’s contract with ZeroEyes?*”

The referendum received 1,125 yes votes (89.57%), 113 no votes (9.00%), and 18 abstentions (1.43%). The charges of the referendum/resolution include, but are not limited to:

- Terminate the contract with ZeroEyes through contract addendum Section II-B;

- Investigate the alternatives (IntelliSee, [Evolv](#), etc.) mentioned in the resolution or other methods of campus security, such as a locally-run object detection system or partnerships with more privacy-centric firms;
- Inform the campus community in greater detail about the usage and privacy implications of current and future public safety initiatives.