

PHILADELPHIA COPS PLACING GOOGLE MAPS STICKERS ON SURVEILLANCE VEHICLE.

THE LOCAL PHILADELPHIA POLICE DEPARTMENT IS REFUSING TO PROVIDE ANY ANSWERS TO THE FAMOUS ONLINE NEWS GROUP 'ARS'. THE QUESTIONS IN WHICH ARS IS ATTEMPTING TO HAVE ANSWERED ARE BASED UPON HOW, AND WHY, ARE THEY DEPLOYING ANY UNMARKED POLICE VEHICLE THAT POSSESS A MINIMUM OF 1 LICENSE PLATE READER AND EVEN MORE CLEARLY, A GOOGLE MAPS DECAL.

A SPOKESPERSON FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, LT. JOHN STANFORD, HAD PREVIOUSLY STATED THAT HE WAS IN FACT SENT TO THE [VICE MOTHERBOARD](#) IN WHICH BROKE NEWS JUST THIS LAST THURSDAY.

JOHN HAS PROVIDED A STATEMENT IN WHICH HAS REVEALED SLIGHTLY MORE INFORMATION UPON THE GOOGLE MAPS STICKERS,



"WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THIS UNMARKED VEHICLE

BELONGS TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT; HOWEVER, THE PLACING OF ANY PARTICULAR DECAL ON THE VEHICLE WAS NOT APPROVED THROUGH ANY CHAIN OF COMMAND."

JOHN CONTINUES ONTO SAYING, "ONCE THIS WAS BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION, IT WAS ORDERED THAT THE DECALS BE REMOVED IMMEDIATELY."

NATURALLY CURIOUS, ARS HAS QUESTIONED IF THERE WAS ONLY ONE VEHICLE IN DISGUISE, OR COULD THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL THAT ARE DISGUISED AS A GOOGLE VEHICLE. ARS ALSO QUESTIONING AS TO WHO WAS THE ONE IN WHICH AUTHORIZED THE DEPLOYMENT, AND IF THE PAD HAVE PREVIOUSLY UNDERWENT SIMILAR TACTICS IN THE PAST. NATURALLY, LT. JOHN HAD NO RESPONSES TO ANY OF THE QUESTIONS. WHICH STANDS FOR A CONSPIRACY THEORY, OR MAYBE THE PAD IS IN FACT HAVING MORE INFORMATION THAN WHICH THEY WISH TO HAVE RELEASED ONTO PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE.

LATER ON, LT. STANFORD HAS FINALLY RESPONDED TO THE LONG ANTICIPATED EMAIL SAYING THAT,

'YES THIS IS THE ONLY ONE, AND NO, THE PAD HAS NOT USED SIMILAR TACTICS IN THE PAST.'

ARS HAS ALSO BEEN IN CONTACT WITH GOOGLE AND HAVE RECEIVED A RESPONSE FROM A SPOKESWOMAN ON BEHALF OF GOOGLE SAYING THAT THE VEHICLE IN THE IMAGE IS NOT THAT OF ANY GOOGLE VEHICLES, AND THEY ARE LOOKING INTO THE MATTER.

UTICE MOTHERBOARD HAS ALSO [REPORTED](#) EARLIER THAT IT FOUND THE VEHICLE SHORTLY AFTER A SIMPLE TWEET FROM A UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA COMPUTER SCIENCE PROFESSOR.



THE NEWS MEDIA, ACS, HAS REPORTED FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW, THAT LICENSE PLATE READERS ARE IN FACT BEING UTILIZED IN LAW ENFORCEMENT FIRMS OF BOTH AND SMALL IN ORDER TO ASSIST BY AUTOMATICALLY SCANNING, RECORDING, AND THEN ANALYZING ANY POTENTIAL WANTED AND/OR STOLEN LICENSE PLATES. THE POLICE HAVE ALSO BEEN ON THE DEFENSE BY ARGUING THAT THE LICENSE PLATE SCANNER ARE IN FACT A NECESSARY TOOL IN ORDER TO ASSIST THE OFFICERS OF THE PEACE TO BE ABLE TO CATCH THE WANTED CRIMINALS. AND WHILE THE PRIVACY ADVOCATES HAVE ALSO RELEASED THEIR CONCERNS AMONGST THE DATA COLLECTION IS INDEED TOO MUCH OF A GOOD, AND ALSO OFTEN, IS RETAINED FOR SEVERAL YEARS ON END.



THE HYPE ABOUT THE SUV THAT HAS BEEN TUCKED AWAY FROM THE SHADOWS OF A LOCAL PHILADELPHIA CONVENTION CENTER'S TUNNEL HAS FOUND THAT IT BEARS THE OBLIVIOUS LOGO IN WHICH WAS TRADITIONALLY DESTINED FOR GOOGLE MAPS. AND MOUNTED UPON THE TOP OF THE VEHICLE, WE CAN CLEARLY SEE THAT THERE ARE A HIGH-POWERED LICENSE PLATE READERS. IF THE AVERAGE PERSON WALKING BY, THIS MAY IN FACT APPEAR TO BE AN ADVANCED GOOGLE SUV STREET VIEW VEHICLE.



WHICH THEN LEADS ONTO A VALUABLE QUESTIONS;
QUESTION 1) WHY WOULD ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY PERFORM A DISGUISE FOR THEIR SURVEILLANCE VEHICLES?
QUESTION 2) WHICH GOVERNMENT AGENCY HAS IN FACT PERFORMED THE DISGUISE?

IN THE IMAGE BELOW, WE CAN SEE THERE IS A "PLACE CARD" THAT PROVIDES INDICATION THAT THE SUV DOES REGISTER TO THE PHILADELPHIA OFFICE OF FLEET MANAGEMENT. THIS PARTICULAR SECTION MENTIONEDS THE LOCAL CITY GOVERNMENT VEHICLES IN WHICH TOTALS 6,316 DIFFERENT VEHICLES. THIS PLACE CARD, ALONG WITH THE FALSE DECAL STICKER,

PROVIDES INFORMATION THAT THE VEHICLE IS IN "DISGUISE" WHILE BEING UTILIZED BY A LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY. CHRISTOPHER COCCO IS THE CITY'S FLEET MANAGER, AND ALSO HAS HIS SIGNATURE UPON THE PLACE CARD, HAS STATED THAT THE PARTICULAR VEHICLE IS NOT REGISTERED WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE. THEY ARE KNOWN TO USE THE AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION (ALPR). THE PHILADELPHIA POLICE AUTHORITY, WHICH IS ALSO A LOCAL AGENCY THAT IS KNOWN TO UTILIZE THE ALPR AS WELL, SAYS THAT IT DOES NOT BELONG TO THEM. SO THE MUCH MORE FURTHERING QUESTION, WHO OWNS THIS CAR?



AS OF NOW, THE PENNSYLVANIA AS WELL AS GOOGLE MAPS ARE CURRENTLY UNDERGOING AN INVESTIGATION IN ORDER TO DETERMINE AS TO WHO THE SUV IS REGISTERED TO.

SOURCES: [ARSTECHNICA](#) {} [VICE MOTHERBOARD](#) {} [3M](#) {}

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