



Officer Awareness



Police Tape

Android Smart Phone users can now tape and record police activities. A free application (app) called 'Police Tape', was recently released by the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey, and made available to people who want to secretly record police activities without the probability of the mobile device being seized.

This free app allows the user to secretly and discreetly record video and audio of police activity. One special feature is that once the app is activated, the app disappears from phone's screen. This app also has the capability to send a copy of the police action to ACLU New Jersey for review and to determine if any civil liberties violations occurred.



This app is similar to 'Stop and Frisk Watch App' for Android that was released in August, 2012 by ACLU New York. The 'Stop and Frisk' app was introduced specifically for New Yorkers to record police actions for any form of misconduct and/or civil liberties violations. By simply pushing a button on the phone's frame, a New Yorker can record a police action.

Both apps will notify other app users within a defined area if someone has activated their app, with the exact location of the police action. This may result in officer safety issues if community groups are able to pinpoint various police actions, and respond to the location in the form of a flash mob. The app will stop recording when the phone is shaken. The user will immediately receive a summary app to allow them to narrate the police action. Once completed, the video and survey is automatically forwarded to the ACLU, which will use the video and survey to hold the police department accountable.

Recently, there was an encounter between Burbank PD patrol officers and a suspect who had this app on his cell phone. It would appear that this app may be available nation-wide.

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Sources: www.aclu-nj.org> Your Rights
www.nyclu.org

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IS12-001

September 22, 2012

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