

12-0308

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PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTION

One of the most widespread advances in consumer technology relates to smartphones and the availability of mobile applications. Mobile apps installed on smartphones have made certain existing technologies more accessible and portable, while also providing the same functionality.

An example is with mobile apps that broadcast police frequencies. Police scanner apps are among the most popular apps in the online marketplace. However, the increased availability and portability of police scanners may have some consequences for responding to criminal activity. Persons attempting to evade police may find this technology especially useful.

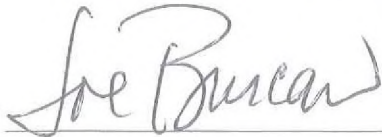
Under state law it is a crime to use police scanners to evade arrest or to assist another person in evading arrest, but this is not a sufficient deterrent since it is likely difficult to prove in the court of law. To ensure that the Police Department is monitoring these advances in consumer technology, this issue should be examined further to possibly identify better methods of encryption and/or more secure communication methods.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Police Department be instructed to report on how radio and other mobile communications are encrypted and how to better secure the Department's methods of communication.

PRESENTED BY


MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY



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ORIGINAL