Re: Records Request to Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association - electronic copy

Kade Crockford

Mon 2/25/2019 1:10 PM

To: Burke, James F (SDA) <james.f.burke@state.ma.us>;

Bcc:

Hello Mr. Walsh,

Just following up on my email below, sent 2/19. We are awaiting your response.

Thanks,
Kade

Kade Crockford

Director, Technology for Liberty Program
American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts
211 Congress Street, Boston, MA 02110
617.482.3170 x346 | kcrockford@aclum.org
aclum.org | privacysos.org/blog

NSA: I'm a US person.

From: Kade Crockford
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2019 3:31:40 PM
To: Burke, James F (SDA)
Subject: Re: Records Request to Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association - electronic copy

Hi Mr. Walsh,

Thanks for the response to my July 2018 records request related to facial recognition technology.

I have to say, I'm very confused by your response and I'm hopeful you can clarify some things for me in writing. Your September 2018 letter in response to my request states that MSA "is not, nor has been, involved in any planning, acquisition, or use of facial-recognition technology."

But you've been quoted by the press on many occasions going back nearly ten years about MSA's use of facial recognition systems, including the construction of a statewide image database for facial recognition search purposes. I am currently looking at a letter you wrote to my colleague Laura Rotolo in response to a separate records request in 2010, in which you discuss at length MSA's use of facial recognition and plans to construct this statewide database.

Are you now saying that MSA has never used facial recognition? Please advise. My assumption is that, based off your public statements and prior correspondence with my office, MSA is in fact in possession of many thousands of pages of documents responsive to my July 2018 request.

Thanks,
Kade

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NSA: I'm a US person.

From: Burke, James F (SDA) <james.f.burke@state.ma.us>
Sent: Friday, September 7, 2018 12:18 PM
To: Kade Crockford
Subject: Records Request to Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association - electronic copy

Kade Crockford
Director
Technology for Liberty Program
ACLU of Massachusetts
211 Congress Street
Boston, MA 02110

September 7, 2018

Dear Kade Crockford:

I am responding for your public records request related to the use of facial-recognition products or services. As I advised you via telephone, the receipt of your request was delayed considerably due to our recent office relocation from Cambridge to Boston. This office did not receive your letter until almost a month after it was originally sent. I apologize for any inconvenience caused by the delay.
I have reviewed your request and the eight different categories you requested related to facial-recognition products and services. I would like to inform you that this office does not have any information on this topic. The Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association has not been involved in any communications with potential vendors, procurement efforts, training or policy development related to facial-recognition technology. This agency is not, nor has been, involved in any planning, acquisition or use of facial-recognition technology.
Thank you for your inquiry. I believe this response adequately addresses the questions you posed. If you require further clarification, please feel free to contact us again.

Sincerely,

James F. Walsh
Executive Director
Massachusetts Sheriffs'' Association
132 Portland Street, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02114
(857) 233-5706

(Please note our new contact information.)