

Russell Squire
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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

April 15, 2022

Hon. Carl E. Heastie
Speaker
New York State Assembly
LOB 932
Albany, NY 12248

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins
President Pro Tempore, Majority Leader
250 Broadway, Room 1930
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

RE: Reverse Location and Reverse Keyword Search Prohibition Act (NY State Assembly Bill A84A)

Dear Honorable Governor Hochul, President Stewart-Cousins, and Speaker Heastie,

At the April 13, 2022, Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan, the board approved the following resolution by a vote of 35 in favor, 0 opposed, 5 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

WHEREAS, conventional warrants require probable cause to seize or search an individual;

WHEREAS, a reverse location search warrant allows law enforcement to collect data on everyone in a certain area during a certain time;

WHEREAS, probable cause is not a prerequisite when it comes to reverse location search warrants;

WHEREAS, this enables law enforcement to go on a fishing expedition;

WHEREAS, historically, this mass collection of data has yielded nothing to further efforts to prosecute a particular crime;

WHEREAS, reverse location search warrants enable law enforcement to use the information collected to prosecute individuals for other crimes than the crime that initiated the warrant in question;

WHEREAS, citizens whose rights to privacy are violated by this type of warrant are never informed of this breach of privacy;

WHEREAS, those who are prosecuted for unrelated crimes and their attorneys are not informed of the use of a reverse location search warrant in obtaining said information;

WHEREAS, Community District 8 Manhattan has been subjected to this violation of privacy;

WHEREAS, we have still not been informed as to the totality of the private information that was subject to that prior search;

WHEREAS, any potential use of data collected by reverse location search warrants could be deemed unconstitutional under the fourth amendment due to the fact that this type of warrant enables indiscriminate sweeps and provides no guidance on what law enforcement can and cannot do with the data once it is obtained;

WHEREAS, in a city as dense as New York, this type of geofence warrant could turn up data on hundreds if not thousands of people in a single time;

WHEREAS, when everyone is accordingly considered a potential suspect, the chance of wrongful arrest skyrockets;

WHEREAS, reverse search warrants are dangerous and exemplify dystopian technology;

WHEREAS, S.08183/A.10246A would ban the use of reverse search warrants in the state of New York;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan calls on the State Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign S.08183/A.10246A into law;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Community Board 8 Manhattan intends to use all methods in our power to ensure those in our community whose privacy was violated previously as a result of the use of a reverse location search warrant will be informed of the fact that the Manhattan District Attorney's Office has a catalogue of their private information.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

Russell Squire

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Chair

Vanessa Aronson and Rebecca Dangoor

Vanessa Aronson and Rebecca Dangoor
Co-Chairs, Technology Committee

cc: Honorable Eric Adams, Mayor of the City of New York
Honorable Carolyn Maloney, 12th Congressional District Representative
Honorable Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District
Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District
Honorable Julie Menin, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District