

From: Bell, Stephen

Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 5:21 PM

To: Peters, Joe; Watkins, Paul; Rodriguez, Tony; Gipson, Sheri; Hibbs, Rebekah; Mastracchio, JoeAnna

Cc: Vinger, Tom

Subject: FW: Verification questions for Tom Vinger, Part 2

Proposed answers.

(Question from Dave: Tom you said this was going on for a long time previous for decades already, right?)

The changes are aimed at fighting both terrorism and identity theft.

Is this true?

True.

Under the plan, the thumbprints of all drivers' license applicants will be checked against federal criminal and terrorism lists.

Is this true?

LES

Embedding thumbprints in licenses might also be useful, for example, in connection with airport security. Facial-recognition technology is meant to catch people trying to get more than one license or using a stolen identity.

Is this true?

True.

Facial-recognition technology for drivers' license applicants is already in place in Alabama, Kansas, and Colorado. Massachusetts is also in the process of setting it up.

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) has been authorized to obtain fingerprints since 1967 and the process has been electronic since 1999, but the technology is of poor quality and often doesn't allow for comparison.

Is this true?

True.

A new law adopted last spring authorized DPS to contract for the new drivers' license system. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Frank Corte (R).

DPS has awarded a contract to Oregon-based Digimarc Corp. to design and make a license with biometric facial and thumbprint verification. The five-year contract is valued at nearly \$30 million.

Is this true?

Sheri Gipson

However, decisions still are being made on electronically embedding thumbprints in licenses, and the new licenses won't debut for at least two years while Digimarc puts the computerized system in place. Federal approval will be needed to allow comparison of DPS-stored thumbprints with the federal Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification system's list of felons and terrorists.

Is this true?

LES

DPS officials refer to the new drivers' license as the "most secure driver's license document possible." They emphasize the importance of its security given that many people rely on it as their primary identification.

Is this true?

True.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Texas opposed the legislation allowing DPS to contract for the new license system, arguing the government's use of fingerprint and photo identification information was an improper "big brother" role. The ACLU also opposed the legislation because, as they explain, it did away with a requirement for warrants before agencies obtain DPS-held thumbprints or for a facial-recognition database; the ACLU believes judicial oversight is an important safeguard in this area.

DPS officials respond that law officers could get the information only for law-enforcement purposes and would either have to sign a memorandum of understanding or go through other steps to ensure the information's proper use.

Is this true?

LES

The ACLU also criticizes the new license system as an easy target for identity thieves since it has one of the largest databases of personal information that exists. Last spring, Digimarc failed to protect the identities of 7,500 Nevada drivers; thieves broke into a local department of motorized vehicles office and took computer equipment containing all the personal data needed to establish false identities that had not been adequately secured. The equipment was subsequently found, and there was no indication that any of the private information had been used.

DPS officials respond that the system in Texas will send all driver's license data directly to a centralized computer in Austin, making it less vulnerable than Digimarc's digital system in Nevada.

Is this true?

True. The DPS system of record is web base and does not store information on a local PC.

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http://governor.state.tx.us/files/homeland/hmlndsecurity_stratplan2015.pdf

Texas Homeland Security – Major Accomplishments

Because driver licenses are sought by identity thieves and terrorists, the security features of a driver license

must be enhanced to ensure that the individual applying for and using a driver license is doing so under a legitimate identity. DPS is undergoing a reengineering project that will incorporate biometric data in the form

of fingerprints into its driver licenses. This will enable the state to immediately identify individuals seeking

duplicate identification.

Is this true?

True.

Furthermore, the fingerprint database will be compared with the federal Integrated Automated Fingerprint

Identification System (IAFIS) to identify felony criminals and terrorists attempting to obtain a Texas driver

license.

Is this true?

LES.

Facial recognition technology will also be used to minimize the abuse of Texas driver licenses by criminals and terrorists.

Is this true?

True.

In addition to driver licenses, criminals and terrorists also seek to exploit certain professional identifications for sensitive critical infrastructure sectors, primarily the transportation sector.

Texas will work closely with DHS to implement the Transportation Worker Identification Credential system and

HazMat driver license security program.

Is this true?

Sheri Gipson

v/r

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The Driver License Division is committed to quality and excellence in customer service. Please share your thoughts with us via our online customer service survey at: <http://www.survey.utexas.edu/txdps/>

From: Lieber, Dave [<mailto:davelieber@dallasnews.com>]

Sent: Friday, May 30, 2014 3:38 PM

To: Vinger, Tom

Subject: Verification questions for Tom Vinger, Part 2

Tom, attached is part 2, also copied below.

Tom

Here is part two as it relates to the fingerprinting. My staff found this on a Minnesota government website.

<http://server.admin.state.mn.us/project.html?Id=18171>

I'd like to verify the facts that I wish to use with you. Under each statement that I am considering being pertinent to the story I've asked, "Is it true?" I do not wish to print any falsehoods about the program.

PROJECT: TEXAS DEVELOPING DRIVERS' LICENSES WITH THUMBPRINTS

As part of Gov. Rick Perry's (R) recently released Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan for 2005-2010, the state is looking to incorporate thumbprints in drivers' licenses and will add facial-recognition technology to detect fraudulent-license applicants.

(Question from Dave: Tom you said this was going on for a long time previous for decades already, right?)

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Is this true?

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