

Press



Release

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Legislators To Discuss New Law That Would Criminalize Interception Of Law Enforcement Emails By Civilians

Move comes as Rockland DA, Three Police Depts Cut Email To Clarkstown PD

New City, NY (Aug. 8, 2016) – A resolution introduced to the Rockland County Legislature seeks to criminalizes the interception of electronic communications to and from law enforcement by civilians.

The new state law would ban civilians from intercepting all forms of electronic communication by law enforcement – emails, texts and other messaging platforms – without the prior consent of the sender. Violations would be criminal offenses.

“The interception of these communications could compromise active investigations, prosecutions, identities, search warrants and other law enforcement actions,” said Legislator Ilan Schoenberger (D-Wesley Hills). “It could also compromise the safety of witnesses, crime victims and the public in general.”

The resolution will be discussed during the board’s Aug. 30 Public Safety Committee meeting. The resolution formally requests Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature to enact the new law.

Concern about the interception of electronic communications has led the Rockland County District Attorney’s Office, the Ramapo Town, and the Spring Valley and Suffern Village Police Departments to take the unprecedented step of halting the use of email between their agencies and the Clarkstown Police Department.

Sponsors of the resolution include Schoenberger and Legislators Harriet Cornell (D-West Nyack) and Aney Paul (D-Nanuet).

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