

Press Conference

Response to Governor Rendell and PennDOT's Contract with Viisage Technology (L-1 Identity Solutions)



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Problem

- High definition photographs taken by the PennDOT contractor Viisage (L-1 Identity Solutions) capture unique “faceprints,” a form of biometrics with the FaceEXPLORER program
- \$45 million contract allowing for constitutional and statutory violations paid for by PA taxpayers
- PennDOT does not even provide for informed consent by applicants before their “faceprint” is taken for a driver’s license

Constitutional/Statutory Violations

- The Constitution ensures the right for every citizen to be “secure in their persons”
- Statutory law requires a specific exemption in order to take personal information (ie, DNA, fingerprints)
- Neither PennDOT nor Viisage (L-1) sought or possessed that exemption
- Gov. Rendell and PennDOT have overstepped their Constitutional authority and have unilaterally granted Viisage (L-1) the ability to collect personal information

Security Concerns with Viisage (L-1)

- Identity (SSN, DOB, etc) and biometric information stored together in multiple locations and is vulnerable to identity theft
- Viisage (L-1) has failed security provisions involving staff background checks a year after the contract was signed

Further Security Concerns

- Biometric “faceprints” can be easily linked into surveillance cameras, allowing a way to track the whereabouts of any citizen
- Data is not secure:
 - Federal law allows any Federal, State, or local government agency to access information
 - PennDOT does not screen requests for information and mass requests are not recorded
- Information is also available to the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA), a non-governmental international organization
- Wilkes-Barre Driver’s License Center was burglarized November 2006, with 11,000 people’s records compromised

H.B. 1351

- Protects biometric data, or all “information relating to a biological characteristic of an individual that makes that individual unique from any other individual”

Fingerprints, faceprints, voice recognition, handwriting characteristics, iris recognition, hand geometry, and retinal scans

- Protects all economic data, including but not limited to tax returns and investment transactions