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**From:** Cool, Loretta  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 26, 2014 2:51 PM  
**To:** McAlpine, Kathy  
**Subject:** FW: Phone ping ability

Just so you know what Ed sent today. He attached the string from the last few inquiries and sent to the PIOs. You received the below FBI request when it happened. Then as now, our Officers did not do this.

**Loretta Cool**  
**Tacoma Police Department**  
**Public Information Officer**  
**253-591-5968**  
[lcool@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:lcool@cityoftacoma.org)

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**From:** Ed Troyer [<mailto:etroyer@co.pierce.wa.us>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 26, 2014 12:39 PM  
**To:** 'Dietrich, Ayn S.'; Mike Hirman; [CIafrate@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:CIafrate@bellevuewa.gov); [blackburn@ci.edmonds.wa.us](mailto:blackburn@ci.edmonds.wa.us); 'ASnell@everettwa.gov'; [rdalberg@ci.everett.wa.us](mailto:rdalberg@ci.everett.wa.us); Cathy Schrock; Frazier, Melanie; [jkasner@kentwa.gov](mailto:jkasner@kentwa.gov); West, Cindi; [rsaloum@kirklandwa.gov](mailto:rsaloum@kirklandwa.gov); [llwellington@ci.lynnwood.wa.us](mailto:llwellington@ci.lynnwood.wa.us); Lauren Wallin; [faine.c@portseattle.org](mailto:faine.c@portseattle.org); [cooper.p@portseattle.org](mailto:cooper.p@portseattle.org); [jbove@redmond.gov](mailto:jbove@redmond.gov); [tvickers@rentonwa.gov](mailto:tvickers@rentonwa.gov); Moore, Kyle S; 'spdnews@seattle.gov'; Whitcomb, Sean; West, Cindi; Ireton, Shari; [lcool@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:lcool@cityoftacoma.org); [m.murphy@tukwilawa.gov](mailto:m.murphy@tukwilawa.gov); Calkins, Robert (WSP)  
**Cc:** Langlie, Emily (USAWAW); Gutt, Frederick C.; Fox, Russell E.; Cote, Cory L.  
**Subject:** RE: Phone ping ability

Heads up on a phone pinging article coming out. The news tribune is doing a story about Stingray and Pen-Link. They PDR records from Tacoma PD and found cases where we have used Pen-link. They have requested the info and case reports. I think the article is about agencies who use these tools without search warrants. I know we don't talk about pinging, but in this case talking about it will soften the blow. They had specific examples and cases in the records I will be quoted on. Our Sheriff is aware of the issue and is aware of my comments to the media. This all started with a media company called Muck Rock, who local media outlets are taking information from. If you don't know what Stingray, Pen-Link and how we ping phones you should learn. All three are completely different ways of obtaining and using data. I'm guessing TV will follow.

Ed Troyer  
Pierce County

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**From:** Dietrich, Ayn S. [<mailto:Ayn.Dietrich@ic.fbi.gov>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 06, 2014 03:57 PM  
**To:** Mike Hirman; [CIafrate@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:CIafrate@bellevuewa.gov); [blackburn@ci.edmonds.wa.us](mailto:blackburn@ci.edmonds.wa.us); 'ASnell@everettwa.gov'; [rdalberg@ci.everett.wa.us](mailto:rdalberg@ci.everett.wa.us); Cathy Schrock; Frazier, Melanie; [jkasner@kentwa.gov](mailto:jkasner@kentwa.gov); West, Cindi; [rsaloum@kirklandwa.gov](mailto:rsaloum@kirklandwa.gov); [llwellington@ci.lynnwood.wa.us](mailto:llwellington@ci.lynnwood.wa.us); Ed Troyer; Lauren Wallin; [faine.c@portseattle.org](mailto:faine.c@portseattle.org); [cooper.p@portseattle.org](mailto:cooper.p@portseattle.org); [jbove@redmond.gov](mailto:jbove@redmond.gov); [tvickers@rentonwa.gov](mailto:tvickers@rentonwa.gov); Moore, Kyle S; 'spdnews@seattle.gov'; Whitcomb, Sean; West, Cindi; Ireton, Shari; [lcool@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:lcool@cityoftacoma.org); [m.murphy@tukwilawa.gov](mailto:m.murphy@tukwilawa.gov); Calkins, Robert (WSP)  
**Cc:** Langlie, Emily (USAWAW); Gutt, Frederick C.; Fox, Russell E.; Cote, Cory L.  
**Subject:** Phone ping ability

Hello, colleagues—

I know you all to be considerate people who reach out to coordinate on incident responses and operations that involve the FBI. So I'm not worried that you'd release information on our sensitive techniques.

I'm passing along this task force officer's note simply to help explain the reason WHY we don't talk about our ability to ping cell phones. Thanks for helping spread the word in your agency!

Hope you all are doing well! I'd like to meet up again before long. I enjoyed our lunch discussion, ages ago.

Cheers,  
Ayn

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**From:** Carver, Len  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 06, 2014 9:33 AM  
**Subject:** Yesterday's Amber Alert

All:

During a debrief with some of our group here, we learned that law enforcement's use of the "phone ping" in yesterday's abduction was released to the media. And, it was widely reported. Certainly, we (and the general public too) understand that law enforcement has the ability to "ping" a cell phone for its location; however, use of the technology is considered a sophisticated technique as well as "Law Enforcement Sensitive / Classified."

It is important for us to keep this sophisticated technique confidential. In fact, RCW 9.73.260 requires the pleadings (and subsequent technique) to be filed under seal until further ordered by the court. Publically discussing the technique is considered a substantial threat to the interests of effective law enforcement, to public safety, and, depending on the case, to victims or witnesses. By their very nature, authority to use the tools (pings and tracking) must remain covert to be effective. Public disclosure of the technique could render this investigative tool useless.

It is standard practice for the FBI to require a law enforcement agency to complete a non-disclosure agreement prior to utilizing a sensitive and sophisticated technique. While there was no agency agreement in the referenced abduction matter, we do have a standing written non-disclosure agreement with the King County Prosecutor's Office.

Please keep this in mind as we move forward in any cooperative investigation. It would be beneficial for agency public information officers and media relations staff to understand the sensitive nature of the technique as well. Should any of you have questions, please let me know.

Thank-you all for your hard work yesterday. It was a great caper with a great outcome.

Stay safe ....

**Detective Len Carver III**  
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FBI - Safe Streets Task Force  
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Seattle, WA 98101  
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