

## Antiquated Laws Meet Technology

Persons in New York City have become accustomed to ever-present video cameras. With a center of operations which gathers images and video from city departments, officers can check the weather, traffic and even the location of city garbage collection trucks. Each of the city's [4,373 buses](#) has a camera linked to the situation room as well.

Recently a motorcycle rider in Baltimore ran head-on into the potential problems presented by the intersection of high-tech cameras and antiquated laws in the Maryland city.

[Anthony Graber](#) is learning the hard way. His fast — and maybe reckless — motorcycle ride up I-95 has gotten the systems engineer in more problems than only a speeding ticket.

The 24-year old faces criminal charges after posting a video he recorded on his helmet-mounted video camera when he was pulled over on March 5, 2010.

When a trooper found the 23-second clip on YouTube after the stop, law enforcement got a warrant, searched Graber's parents' home, seized his equipment and charged him with violating the state's restrictive wiretapping law. In Maryland, it is illegal to capture audio without the other individual's consent. State Trooper J.D. Uhler claimed not to know he was recorder.

[Attorney Bukh](#) took to the Internet and complained that Uhler's actions looked more like a carjacking than a police stop. They noted the trooper was in an unmarked car, wearing plainclothes and brandished a gun before he let Graber know he was with law enforcement.

A state police spokesman claimed a marked cruiser, driven by a trooper in uniform, also participated in the stop. Graber, who was going over 100 mph, doing wheelies and weaving through traffic according to law enforcement.

Graber's case has become an Internet sensation amongst civil libertarians who have accused police of trying to bust someone as they've been embarrassed by publicity over aggressive traffic stops.

The case also shows how ubiquitous cameras often clash with state laws written for a different time. Recording persons where there is no expectation of privacy, such as public streets and highways, doesn't fit the traditional meaning of a 'wiretap.'

[Cameras are a part of daily life](#). Many devices record video and law enforcement in streets including Baltimore and New York City, blanket roads, and streets with thousands of cameras. Law enforcement in many departments have cameras mounted on dashboards to record traffic stops.

Cameras cut both ways and show the uglier side of law enforcement as well. A New York officer gave a fierce beating to a teenage skateboarder, NYPD tactical officers beating a student during a street celebration gone wild and a Washington DC cop pulling his [gun during a snowball fight](#).

"I always tell our people we're on camera," said a spokesman for Maryland law enforcement. "Someone somewhere has a camera, and we must remember to act professionally at all times. It's part of policing."