

AAMVA Regional News – September 27, 2013

AAMVA News

Facial Recognition Working Group

The Facial Recognition Working Group will review the methods utilized by driver license and motor vehicle agencies to capture, review, and share facial images; and when appropriate, investigate potential matches and pursue prosecution when fraudulent activity is discovered. Or when a motor vehicle agency does not have an investigative arm, establish a protocol with the applicable law enforcement agency to conduct such investigations. The Working Group will develop a best practices document related to the capture and utilization of images.

AAMVA is seeking one law enforcement and one motor vehicle agency jurisdictional representative from each AAMVA region to serve on this Working Group. In addition, we are seeking two associate members - one IAB member and one non-IAB member. Associate member dues must be current for 2014. Please contact Shervonne Murphy (703.908.5778) for information on dues. It is anticipated that this will be a two year project with two in-person meetings each year with additional conference calls as necessary. Working Group members may also be asked to conduct some interim work between meetings. Please complete the application form

<http://www.aamva.org/uploadedFiles/MainSite/Content/MembersLeaders/CommitteesDisciplines/Facial%20Recognition%20Working%20Group%20Application.doc>) if you are interested in serving on the Facial Recognition Working Group. Applications must be received by Monday, September 30, 2013.

Region I

New Jersey Lawmakers to Examine Jitney Bus Safety

New Jersey lawmakers are taking a closer look at jitney buses in the wake of an accident that claimed the life of a baby in a stroller. The Assembly Transportation Committee held a hearing Monday in Hoboken to gather testimony about the operation, regulation and safety of jitneys. Authorities say a jitney veered off a street in West New York and struck a light pole, which fell onto the stroller and killed 8-month old Angelie Paredes in July. The driver is accused of using a cellphone at the time. The Star-Ledger (<http://on.app.com/1gSNec8>) reports that the child's parents were among those who attended the hearing. They listened to testimony about the potentially dangerous practices that are common in an industry panel chairman John Wisniewski likened to "the Wild West." Read the full story at Philly.com.

http://www.philly.com/philly/news/politics/20130923_ap_e55abe6b53ed48b990e15c91f4d3e515.html#Rq8Lk2WJRQLTzEGQ.99

19 Accused In Cheating Scam For Commercial Driver's Licenses In NYC

New York state, city and federal prosecutors have arrested 19 people accused of scheming to cheat on tests for licenses to drive school buses and operate trucks hauling hazardous materials. State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott, U.S. Attorney Loretta Lynch and Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance, Jr. said Thursday that people paid anywhere from \$1,400 to \$4,000 to get answers to tests for commercial driver's licenses in New York City. In some cases, applicants would leave the testing site with the help of security guards and hand blank tests to one of the organizers of the scam or a "runner" who would take the form to someone who could fill in the correct answers, officials said. In some cases, test takers immediately received interim licenses. Read the full article on CBS New York.

<http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2013/09/26/19-accused-in-cheating-scam-for-commercial-drivers-licenses-in-nyc/>

Eight cheating drivers charged with obtaining licenses after paying off corrupt DMV security guards

Eight cheaters have been charged with fraudulently obtaining commercial driver's licenses — but authorities suspect more than 200 other drivers are behind the wheels of trucks and buses who shouldn't be. Dishonest applicants would pay \$2,000 to \$2,500 to corrupt DMV security guards in the brazen scheme. Some applicants left the testing room so someone waiting outside could complete the exam for them at the Manhattan DMV offices. In other cases applicants got a pencil marked on the side with the correct "true" and "false" answers to the test. Read the full article on NYDailyNews.com.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/crime/cheating-drivers-charged-fraudulently-obtaining-licenses-article-1.1469026#ixzz2g7GX14oK>

PennDOT Offers New Online Service for Duplicate Licenses, ID Cards

As part of PennDOT's commitment to enhanced customer service, customers can now order a duplicate non-commercial driver's license or photo identification card online if theirs is lost or stolen. Read more on the PennDot Web site.

<http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Internet/pdNews.nsf/8c5bc4e349ab4db6852576c800678468/7496ff361ee562de85257bf100682ffb?OpenDocument>

Region II

New service promises to get you to the front of the DMV line (Alabama)

A trip to the Jefferson County Courthouse for a car tag can set people back a few hours. Long hours and wait times are problems already on Jefferson County's radar. The county has plans for new computer software that should speed things up at the revenue department. In the meantime, David Bley says his new service can help people looking to save time. Read the full article on Fox 6 WBRC.

<http://www.myfoxal.com/story/23521350/new-services-promises-to-get-you-to-the-front-of-the-dmv-line>

Florida Senate Bill 52 Targets Distracted Drivers

Starting October 1, Florida drivers can breathe a sigh of relief as Senate Bill 52 goes into effect. Approved earlier this year, the soon-to-be law will prohibit the operation of a motor vehicle while texting. SB 52 is called the “Florida Ban on Texting While Driving Law” and will target non-voice interpersonal communication. In other words: typing or entering letters, numbers, symbols, other text and sending or reading data while driving. Read the full story in the Flagler College Gargoyle.

<http://gargoyle.flagler.edu/2013/09/senate-bill-52-targets-distracted-drivers/>

Driver's License Names are Latest Jam in Tennessee Gay Marriage Debate

Gay couples who married in other states but live in Tennessee are running into a fresh legal hurdle — how to get their names changed on driver’s licenses. For straight couples, it’s a matter of going to the nearest license bureau with a copy of their marriage certificate and, if they want, a freshly minted Social Security card with their new name on it. But while the federal government recognizes same-sex marriages for the purposes of ID, Tennessee does not. Its legislators and voters strongly oppose same-sex marriage, banning it first in state statute and then, by a majority vote, in the state constitution. When gay husbands and wives show up at Tennessee driver’s license bureaus with marriage certificates and Social Security cards in their married names, they’re turned away — with a quote from the state constitution and an admonition to come back with a court order. Read the full story in The Tennessean.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20130920/NEWS21/309200130/Driver-s-license-names-latest-jam-Tennessee-gay-marriage-debate>

Virginia Group Wants Gay License Plate

Equality Virginia is seeking to bring its advocacy message to the streets and highways. However, it cannot do this without having 450 people pre-register to sport an Equality for All license plate. It now has met half of its goal and needs the rest to complete the process. Once pre-orders are in place, the group will be able to petition the Virginia Commonwealth’s General Assembly for the privilege of developing the allotment for approved usage. The Division of Motor Vehicles says that it must have pre-paid applicants before it can issue the license plates. But first, the initiative needs legislative sponsorship and approval from the General Assembly. Once secured, the bill will go to the governor for signature and the plates can go into production. Read the full story in the Carolinas News Notes.

<http://goqnotes.com/25107/regional-virginia-group-wants-gay-license-plate/>

Former West Virginia DMV Worker Accused Of Trading Drivers' Licenses For Cash

A former Division of Motor Vehicles worker from Martinsburg is facing federal charges for allegedly trading drivers' licenses for cash. In an indictment unsealed Monday after his arrest, 60-year-old Kermit Miller was charged with 19 counts of fraud. Federal prosecutors claim Miller accepted an undisclosed amount of cash from 18 different people in exchange for a driver's license. Those who received the licenses were not required to submit applications or pass tests. On Monday, a public defender was appointed to represent Miller. He did not immediately return a telephone message seeking comment. Miller will be arraigned next Monday. If convicted, he faces up to 15 years in prison on the conspiracy count and up to 5 years in prison on each of the fraud charges. Read the full story at WCHSTV.com.

http://www.wchstv.com/newsroom/eyewitness/130923_19298.shtml

Region III

Wisconsin DOT: Not using www.wisconsin.gov may waste time and money

Officials with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) stress that while a number of web sites have DMV information and forms, you should avoid them if you want to save time and money. Make sure to use www.wisconsin.gov. Web searches will return a number of sites that have information, but some are for-profit sites, and they charge extra fees for forms and services that are free from the official Wisconsin Department of Transportation web site. Rule of thumb: Forms from DMV are always free

Proposed Driving Rules would Add Restrictions for Teens, Including No Friends in the Car (Ohio)

Caitlyn Pitts recognizes the dangers that come with sitting behind the wheel of a car. Distractions abound: cellphones, friends, other drivers. And night driving has its own set of challenges, she says. But when the 15-year-old from Gahanna finally gets her driver's license, she still expects to be able to drive a friend home from soccer practice or to a movie. Under a proposed change in Ohio law, Pitts and other new drivers would not be permitted to do that. The change being considered in the state legislature would limit non-family passengers in a teenager's car to a licensed 21-year-old, and it would bump the driving curfew back to 10 p.m., from midnight. Teens participating in work and school activities would be exempt from the new night rules. Read the full story in The Columbus Dispatch.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2013/09/22/no-pals-allowed.html>

Keeping Road Safe is Top Priority for New Patrol Leader (Ohio)

The Ohio Highway Patrol's new leader is a Fairfield County resident who took over in July when another Fairfield County resident was promoted from the top post to become the director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. The new leader, Col. Paul Pride, of Liberty Township, said he intends to carry on many of the programs of his predecessor, John Born, also of Liberty Township. Born was selected by Gov. John Kasich to be the director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety in July. Read the full story in The Chillicothe Gazette.

<http://www.chillicothe Gazette.com/article/20130922/NEWS01/309220008?odyssey=mod%7Cmostcom>

In Minnesota DNR Case, Judge Dismisses Driver's License Lawsuits Against State

A federal judge dismissed five class-action lawsuits Friday filed by Minnesotans whose private driver's license data was illegally accessed by a state Department of Natural Resources employee over several years. U.S. District Judge Joan Ericksen ruled that private individuals cannot sue state agencies under the federal Drivers' Privacy Protection Act. She wrote that only by the U.S. attorney general can impose a civil penalty on a state department of motor vehicles. The act, enacted in 1994, sought to protect private citizens' data from unauthorized access, and

set minimum damages for misuse of citizens' personal driver's license data at \$2,500 per incident. Read the full story at TwinCities.com.

http://www.twincities.com/localnews/ci_24143844/judge-dismisses-drivers-license-access-suit-against-minnesota

WATCHDOG: Ohio Database Access Rules Loosest in U.S.

Ohio's new facial recognition system has fewer restrictions for its use than similar systems in any other state in the U.S., an Enquirer/Gannett Ohio investigation has found. No other such system in the nation allows 30,000 police officers and court employees to search driver's license images, without audits or oversight. When an Enquirer investigation revealed Attorney General Mike DeWine's office had launched facial recognition technology in June, without telling the public and without first reviewing security protocols, DeWine said the technology was in use by law enforcement in more than half of all states. Read the full story at Cincinnati.com.

<http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20130922/NEWS010801/309220022/WATCHDOG-Ohio-database-access-rules-loosest-U-S->

Region IV

High Tech at Nevada DMV Helps Customers

Results from a May customer service survey for DMV were encouraging. Of the 3,000 respondents, a surprising 93 percent said their DMV experience was what they expected or better than expected. Seventy-eight percent said the DMV staff exceeded their expectations. Our technicians now have greater flexibility and a renewed willingness to help Nevada motorists solve problems. Read the full story at RGJ.com.

<http://www.rgj.com/article/20130923/OPED04/309230011/Troy-Dillard-High-tech-DMV-helps-customers>

Ashton Kutcher's Company Sued by Producer Over DMV Reality Series (California)

Think your dealings with the DMV are a headache? Ask Ashton Kutcher how he feels about them. "Two and a Half Men" star Kutcher's company, Katalyst Media, is being sued by producer Big Cheese Media over a reality show that would have revolved around the Department of Motor Vehicles. According to the suit, Big Cheese's Hedda Muskat came up with the idea for the series based on her daughter's experience with the DMV. Muskat claims she brought the idea to Creative Artists Agency — also named in the suit — which told her she should bring the idea to Katalyst for co-production. Read the full story at TheWrap.com.

<http://www.thewrap.com/ashton-kutchers-company-sued-by-over-dmv-reality-series/>

Self-Driving Vehicles Progress Faster Than Rules of Road

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2013-09-23/self-driving-vehicles-move-ahead-faster-than-rules-of-road-cars>

New Law Requires Drivers To Stay 3 Feet Away When Passing Bicyclists (California)

Gov. Jerry Brown announced Monday he has signed legislation requiring California drivers to stay at least 3 feet away when passing bicyclists. The proposal from Assemblyman Steven Bradford, D-Gardena, is intended to better protect cyclists from aggressive drivers. It states that if drivers cannot leave 3 feet of space, they must slow down and pass only when it would not endanger the cyclist's safety. The law will go into effect Sept. 16, 2014. Current law requires a driver to keep a safe distance when passing a bicyclist but does not specify how far that is. Read the full story in CBS Local.

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2013/09/23/new-law-requires-drivers-to-stay-3-feet-away-when-passing-bicyclists/>

State Boosts Rural Interstate Speed Limit up to 80 mph (Utah)

For travelers on I-84 heading east toward Oregon, Idaho can feel like the speediest state around, with its 75 mph speed limit on the freeway. But as soon as motorists hit the Oregon line, they drop back down to a 65 mph limit. Now, Utah is taking it up a notch: That state passed a new law this year raising speed limits on rural stretches of interstate to 80 mph, after a Utah Department of Transportation study showed fewer crashes at the higher speed. Read the full story in The Spokesman Review.

<http://www.spokesman.com/blogs/boise/2013/sep/17/utah-boosts-rural-interstate-speed-limit-80-mph/>

SGI List of Banned Licence Plates Nearly 3,000 Long (Saskatchewan)

It appears personalized licence plates can get a little too personal in Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) is releasing a list of banned requests for personalized licence plates. Some of the applications SGI receives fall anywhere between 13-year-old humour to downright offensive racial epithets. Some of the entries are so offensive News Talk Radio has decided not to publish the full list but there are examples that range from entendre to obscure to inexplicable: 12INCHES, ACID, BALLS, URINE, 3RDLEG, and 4PLAY are just a handful of the nearly-3,000 requests on the list. Read the full story at News Talk 980.

<http://cjme.com/story/sgi-list-banned-license-plates-nearly-3000-long/134002>

Other News

Tesla to Develop Autonomous Vehicles

The Tesla Model S has been a surprise hit in the US and the company is hoping to repeat the success in Europe. It may be breaking new technological ground and changing the average consumer's perception of electric vehicles, but when it comes to the latest active driver aids and autonomous features, Tesla is still lagging behind its gasoline-powered rivals. But all of that is about to change. *Read the full story at Fox News.*

<http://www.foxnews.com/leisure/2013/09/18/tesla-to-develop-autonomous-vehicles/>

Second Annual State-by-State Comparison of Teen Driving Death Rates Coincides with Launch of 2013 Shift Teen Driver Safety Contest

Nearly 16,000 16- to 19-year-olds died in car crashes with another teen behind the wheel from 2007 to 2011. On average, that's 2,000 fewer teen deaths from the previous five-year period (2006-2010), but the per capita fatal crash rate for this age group remains 35 percent higher than for drivers ages 20 and older. The 2007-2011 range is the most recent five-year period for which data is available*. These are just some of the findings from Erie Insurance's second annual exclusive analysis of teen driving death rates. Erie Insurance worked with the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety to examine crash data from the U.S. Department of Transportation to show state-by-state comparisons of teen crash death rates when teens are behind the wheel. Read the full story at The Auto Channel.

<http://www.theautochannel.com/news/2013/09/23/091462-second-annual-state-by-state-comparison-teen-driving-death-rates.html>

Would Special License Plates Discourage Drunk Driving?

In Ohio, for example, that could include a recent conviction for driving under the influence. It's hard to miss the bright yellow plates with red letters. Now a valley man wants to know why Nevada hasn't taken up a similar program. Read the full story at KTNV.com.

<http://www.ktnv.com/youaskweinvestigate/Would-special-license-plates-discourage-drunk-driving-224950472.html>

Study Shows Surprising Number Of Drivers Over 100

There's no question that more people are living to 100 today than ever before. In the United States alone, the centenarian population has jumped 65.8 percent over the past three decades, from 32,194 people who were age 100 or older in 1980 to 53,364 centenarians in 2010. And this means the average age of drivers is growing as well. Read the full story in the Huffington Post.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/23/older-drivers_n_3975579.html

Teen Drivers with Teen Passengers More Likely to Die in Accidents

When a novice teen driver dies in a crash, odds increasingly are that there is another teenager in the car, new research shows. For more than a decade, states have been imposing restrictions on teenage drivers that likely deserve credit for an overall decline in teenage traffic fatalities. But a study released Thursday shows that 15- to 17-year-old drivers are almost eight times more likely to get into a fatal accident while carrying two or more teenage passengers. The analysis of 10 years of national traffic data notes that the 30 percent increase in deaths when other teens are present came at "the same time text messaging exploded in American society." Read the full story in The Washington Post.

<http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/general-news/20130926/teen-drivers-with-teen-passengers-more-likely-to-die-in-accidents>