

The Wall Street Journal filed open-records requests with the 20 largest state and local police departments in the U.S. to learn how often police track people by monitoring the locations of their cell phones. Three departments provided the logs with which they record tracking requests. This is a portion of the log from earlier this year for the Miami-Dade Police Department in Florida. The log shows the phone number being tracked (redacted by the police), the cell phone carrier, the officer requesting the track, the case number, and the dates that the department requested and received court orders to track the phones. The records show Miami-Dade police tracked 295 phones in 2010.

## PHONE SUBPOENA LOG

PHONE#	CARRIER	DETECTIVE	CASE #	REQUEST DATE	FAXED DATE	RECEIVED DATE	REMARKS	PEN PUT UP
	SPRINT	MARLENE CACERES	PD110307094370	03-09-11	03-10-11	03-10-11		<input type="checkbox"/>
	METRO PCS	ELTON DORSEY/HIALEAH	2011-7504	03-10-11	03-10-11	03-10-11		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	METRO PCS	SGT HUBERT RUIZ	2011-8779	03-18-11	03-18-11	03-18-11		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	METRO PCS	SEXBAT/ORLANDO GARCIS	PD110319110913	03-19-11	03-19-11	03-19-11		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	METRO PCS	ELIO GARCIA	PD110325119450	03-25-10	03-25-10	03-25-10		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	T-MOBILE	ELIO GARCIA	PD110325119450	03-25-10	03-25-10	03-25-10		<input type="checkbox"/>
	METRO PCS	TONY FERIA	PD110421159688	04-21-11	04-21-11	04-21-11		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	METRO PCS	ELIO GARCIA	PD110422161383	04-22-11	04-22-11	04-22-11		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	VERIZON	R. HERNANDEZ	PD110428170017	04-28-11	04-28-11	04-28-11		<input type="checkbox"/>
	T-MOBILE	GOLDBLATT	PD110428170031	04-28-11	04-28-11	04-28-11		<input type="checkbox"/>
	METRO PCS	HUBERT RUIZ/HIALEAH	2011-14174	05-02-11	05-02-11	05-02-11		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	AT&T	ROBERT/MISPRSNS	PD110503177493	05-03-11	05-03-11	05-03-11		<input type="checkbox"/>
	METRO PCS	JOHN DION/ATF	PD110529215655	05-29-11	05-02-11	05-02-11		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	METRO PCS	JASON STANKOW/ATF	PD110529215655	05-30-11	05-30-11	05-30-11		<input type="checkbox"/>
	METRO PCS	ERIC/ATF	PD110529215655	05-30-11	05-30-11	05-30-11		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	METRO PCS	JASON STANKOW/ATF	PD110529215655	06-02-11	06-02-11	06-02-11		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	METRO PCS	NITZA DOMINGUEZ/SEXBAT	PD110602221912	06-03-11	06-07-11	06-07-11		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	METRO PCS	JEFF GOLDBLATT	PD110606228205	06-07-11	06-07-11	06-07-11		<input type="checkbox"/>
	VERIZON	SARMIENTO	PD110613237776	06-14-11	06-14-11	06-14-11		<input type="checkbox"/>
	SPRINT	B. ROBERT	PD110623252385	06-23-11	06-23-11	06-23-11		<input type="checkbox"/>
	METRO PCS	MARLENE CACERES	PD110625256161	06-25-11	06-25-11	06-25-11		<input type="checkbox"/>
	METRO PCS	ELLENA HERNANDEZ	PD110626256838	06-26-11	06-26-11	06-26-11		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	AT&T	ELLENA HERNANDEZ	PD110626256838	06-28-11	06-28-11	06-28-11		<input type="checkbox"/>
	SPRINT	EDDY PRIETO/MISSPERS	PD110624254428	06-29-11	06-29-11	06-29-11		<input type="checkbox"/>
	VERIZON	JESSICA LETIZIA	11-02095	07-08-11	07-08-11	07-08-11		<input type="checkbox"/>
	VERIZON	JAVIER RIVAS/ATF	MGPD 2011-013993	07-08-11	07-08-11	07-08-11		<input type="checkbox"/>
	METRO PCS	JAVIER RIVAS/ATF	MGPD 2011-013993	07-08-11	07-08-11	07-08-11		<input type="checkbox"/>

This is a portion of the log from earlier this year from the Dallas Police Department, where the information is hand-written by officers. It is called the “ping log,” because location information is most frequently gathered when cell phones “ping” nearby towers that route phone calls and texts. By analyzing the locations of the towers and the times of the pings, police can determine the location of the phone, and its user. The records show Dallas police tracked 48 phones in 2010.

# CELL PHONE PING LOG

CELL	PROVIDER	ANALYST	BADGE	DATE	TIME	DETECTIVE	BADGE	DIVISION	DATE WARRANT	RTND
66 #	ATT	Daniels	5392	7/24/10	12:55am	Mandlin	6468	CAPEKS		
67 #	ATT	MORITZ	5804	8/5/10	12:25AM	Don Robb	5333	Missing Persons		
68 #	Metro	Stephens	7921	9-14-10	5:00pm	gera	5232	Missing Persons		
69 #	Verizon	Sharp	5064	9/20/10	1:00am	Wing	5954	M. Sping Person		
70 #	Metro	Honrath	7645	10/4/10	11:00am	Gerrett	4164	Family Violence		10/5/2010
71 #	ATT	MORITZ	5804	10-20-10	5:00am	CASEY	7299	Missing Persons		
72 #	ATT	MORITZ	5804	10-20-10	5:00am	CASEY	7299	Missing Persons		
73 #	ATT	MORITZ	5804	10-20-10	6:00am	CASEY	7299	Missing Persons		
74 #	T-Mobile	Sharp	5064	10-20-10	4:00am	CASEY	7299	F/V		
75 #	ATT	BIRNBAUM	8444	11/6/10	5pm	MONTANA		LWMSO-DPT		
76 #	ATT	Stephens	7921	11-23-10	7pm	Thompson	6217	Robbery		
77 #	Sprint	Sanderlin	7730	12-16-10	5:50p	Thompson	6217	Robbery		
78 #	Metro	"	"	"	5:10p	Richardson	6361	"		
79 #	"	"	"	"	9:00p	"	"	"		
80 #	Sprint	MORITZ	5804	12-20-10	11:55pm	Glenn Spencer	3902	Missing Persons		(Paperwork with Sent by Dispatch)
81 #	ATT	Stephens	7921	12-22-10	5:30pm	Stephens	4197	CAPEKS		
82 #	Sprint	Freeman		12/29/10	10:30am	Perez	7455	CAPEKS		
83 #	ATT	Franco	7923	1-5-10	9:45p	Rubison		CAPEKS		1-6-11
84 #	ATT	LAARZ	6492	1-18-11	3AM	Compton		Missing Person		
85 #	ATT	Sharp	5064	1-28-11	2:20am	Contreras		CAPEKS		
86 #	Metro	Ortega	8350	3/10/11	11:18a	Brady	5418	CAPEKS		
87 #	Sprint	Daniels	5392	3/12/11	3:30AM	Parker	7566	CAPEKS		
88 #	Sprint	MORITZ	5804	3/12/11	3:00am	Sgt. Santisteban	6992	Family Viol		3-12-11
89 #	Sprint	Ortega	8350	3/12/11	11:00p	Castilla	7565	Robbery		
90 #	Metro	Ortega	8350	3/13/11	6:00h	Sgt Santisteban	6992	Family Viol		
91 #	ATT	Sharp	5064	3/25/11	3:00am	Det. Fidel Perez	7455	Homicide		73590X
92 #	Sprint	Gregory	6245	3-26-11	12:21pm	Raley	6294	Homicide		
93 #	ATT	Sharp	5064	3-29-11	4:00am	Sharp	5064	Fusion Emergency		missing officer
94 #	Metro	Franco	7923	4-21-11	6:30pm	Peterkin	7622	Vice		
95 #	Metro	Franco	7923	4-26-11	6:45pm	Lumbly	5230	Family violence		
96 #	ATT	Freeman		4-27-11	7:00am	Palmex	5558	Homicide		
97 #	Metro	Franco	7923	4-27-11	4:20pm	Spencer	3902	Family violence		Shen 4.3.11
98 #	Sprint	Andrews	#7581	4-30-11	12:45pm	Shinn	5772	CAPEKS		
99 #	Verizon	M. Sharp	5064	6/5/11	11:30pm	Lumbly	5230	Family viol		
100 #	ATT	Freeman	R#153	6/6/11	10:00am	Robb	5333	Family Violence		4-12

This is a portion of the log from the Phoenix Police Department. A “trap and trace” is a device that tracks the numbers that are calling a phone. Cell phones record this information automatically, and police typically get a record of all calls to and from a phone they are monitoring, along with its location. The records show Phoenix police tracked 130 phones in 2010.

## 2010 CWT/TRAP & TRACE LOG

Legal #	CWT/PEN #	Requestor name & phone	Prosecutor	Received in LSB	LSB Reviewer	Date to Reviewer	Date from Reviewer	To Chief (date & name)	Date from Chief	Contacted Det for pickup	Date picked up by Requestor
2010-001	██████████	Enriquez #6525 ██████████		1-6-10 E-mailed	Edwards	1-6-10 E-mailed	1-6-10 E-mailed	1-6-10 Pina E-mailed			
2010-002	██████████	Buscher #6545 ██████████		1-12-10 E-mailed	Edwards	1-12-10 E-mailed	1-12-10 E-mailed	1-12-10 Pina E-mailed			
2010-003	██████████	Westover ██████████		1-12-10 E-mailed	Edwards	1-12-10 E-mailed	1-12-10 E-mailed	1-12-10 Pina E-mailed			
2010-004	██████████	Westover ██████████		1-12-10 E-mailed	Edwards	1-12-10 E-mailed	1-12-10 E-mailed	1-12-10 Pina E-mailed			
2010-005	██████████	Buscher #6545 ██████████		1-13-10	Edwards	1-13-10	1-13-10	1-13-10			
2010-006	██████████	Galvez #5885 ██████████		1-22-10	Edwards	1-22-10	1-25-10	1-25-10 Pina			
2010-007	██████████	Lucero #4913 ██████████		1-26-10	Edwards	1-26-10	1-26-10	1-26-10 Pina			
2010-008	██████████	Galvez #5885 ██████████		1-29-10	Edwards	1-29-10	1-29-10	1-29-10			
2010-009	██████████	Amdt #6850		1-31-10 E-mailed	Edwards	1-31-10 E-mailed	1-31-10 E-mailed	1-31-10 Pina E-mailed			
2010-010	██████████	Amdt #6850		2-1-10 E-mailed	Edwards	2-1-10 E-mailed	2-1-10 E-mailed	2-1-10 Pina E-mailed			
2010-011	██████████	Westover ██████████		2-1-10 E-mailed	Edwards	2-1-10 E-mailed	2-1-10 E-mailed	2-1-10 Pina E-mailed			
2010-012	██████████	Buscher #6545 ██████████		2-12-10 E-mailed	Edwards	2-12-10 E-mailed	2-12-10 E-mailed	2-12-10 Pina E-mailed			
2010-013		Perreira #4765 ██████████		2-17-10 E-mailed	Edwards	2-17-10 E-mailed	2-17-10 E-mailed	2-17-10 E-mailed			
2010-014	██████████	Burton #		2-17-10 E-mailed	Edwards	2-17-10 E-mailed	2-17-10 E-mailed	2-17-10 E-mailed			
2010-015	██████████	Westover ██████████		2-27-10 E-mailed	Edwards	2-27-10 E-mailed	2-27-10 E-mailed	2-27-10 Pina E-mailed			
2010-016	██████████	Westover ██████████		2-27-10 E-mailed	Edwards	2-27-10 E-mailed	2-27-10 E-mailed	2-27-10 Pina E-mailed			
2010-017	██████████	Perreira #4765 ██████████		3-3-10 E-mailed	Edwards	3-3-10 E-mailed	3-5-10 E-mailed	3-5-10 Pina E-mailed			
2010-018	██████████	Romo #7443 ██████████		3-5-10	Edwards	3-5-10	3-5-10	3-8-10 Pina			
2010-019	██████████	Burke 5360 ██████████		3-4-10	Edwards	3-4-10	3-5-10	3-5-10 Pina			
2010-020	██████████	Perreira #4765 ██████████		3-11-10 E-mailed	Edwards	3-11-10 E-mailed	3-11-10 E-mailed	3-11-10 Pina E-mailed			
2010-021	██████████	Perreira #4765 ██████████		3-12-10 E-mailed	Edwards	3-12-10 E-mailed	3-15-10 E-mailed	3-15-10 Pina E-mailed			