

*****Confidential- Law Enforcement Only*****

**Brief Synopsis relating to Local Officer
Safety Concern, Possible Immanent Threat
on Officers and Their Families**

Written By: Senior Police Officer Justin Berry #6134

A nationwide movement has begun against the United States Government and all government officials including those at the local level and the police officers employed by these agencies (Anonymous, 2012). Locally, numerous activists have combined their programs to work together towards the same agenda, which seems similarly in line with that of the national revolution movement. This document is just a short prelude into a much greater presentation to inform law enforcement agencies and city officials of a suspected and planned "citizen action" (citizens' arrest) movement on November 5, 2012.

The FBI has stated, "The FBI considers sovereign-citizen extremists as comprising a domestic terrorist movement, which, scattered across the United States, has existed for decades, with well-known members, such as Terry Nichols, who helped plan the Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, bombing. Sovereign citizens do not represent an anarchist group, nor are they a militia, although they sometimes use or buy illegal weapons. Rather, they operate as individuals without established leadership and only come together in loosely affiliated groups to train, help each other with paperwork, or socialize and talk about their ideology. They may refer to themselves as "constitutionalists" or "freemen," which is not necessarily a connection to a specific group, but, rather, an indication that they are free from government control. They follow their own set of laws. While the philosophies and conspiracy theories can vary from person to person, their core beliefs are the same: The government operates outside of its jurisdiction..." (FBI's Counterterrorism Analysis, 2011). The misconception by law enforcement, especially here in Austin, TX and the surrounding area, is that the "sovereign-citizen" movement is just some lone random anti-government extremist that the average officer is not likely to encounter. Austin, TX has become a very active and central area for these sovereign citizens to convene, work, plan, train, communicate, and act. The following organizations are founded, operated, and active here in the Austin area by local sovereign citizen activists, which have the same ideology as stated above and are working towards the national "patriotic" revolution movement, that can be currently seen in Madrid, Spain.

- [Peaceful Streets Project](#) (PSP)- Austin, TX – Leader and Founder Antonio Buehler
- [Cop Block](#)- Austin, TX
- [Cop Watch](#)- National and Local
- [Texans for Accountable Government](#) (TAG)- Austin, TX (State and Local legislative front)- Leader and Co-Founder John Bush
- [Occupy Austin](#)- Austin, TX (Political)
- [Lone Star Sovereign Mutual Aid Response Team](#) (S.M.A.R.T.)- Austin, TX (legal aid and blanket calling)- Leader and Founder John Bush

- Anonymous- Global (Computer Hacking and obtaining of personal and banking information)- Unknown
- Oath Keepers- A first responder and military organization supporter group- National (Police Information Source)- Unidentified Members, one known member within the Austin Police Department
- Institute for Justice- National. Texas Chapter Headquarters in downtown Austin, TX (Legislative Arm)- Unidentified at this time

Many of these above stated organizations are linked together through their shared members, and even referenced on one another's websites and other unrestricted social media network sites. When these organizations are looked at independently from one another it is hard to make any link any real or credible threat. However, through their own linkage, one can reasonably see the connections through their actions in the community as compared to their statements, intent, and goals. Below is several screen shots that show these organizations intentions, statements, and goals that should not be discredited as mere chatter, but considered an active threat until after November 5, 2012

Peaceful Streets Project:



Founded by Antonio Buehler as a result of his arrest for spitting on a uniformed police officer. Peaceful Streets Project, which will be referred to as PSP from here out, publicly states through their website, www.peacefulstreets.com, that they "...[are] an all-volunteer, grassroots effort uniting Austinites in ending the institutional violence taking place on our streets. Through community organizing and direct action tactics, the Peaceful Streets Project seeks to support Austin communities in understanding, exercising, and standing up for our rights" (Peaceful Streets Project). The public message from PSP have been to promote "NON-VIOLENT" tactics through the use of filming law enforcement activities to expose corrupt public officials and police officers. PSP's social media activity however has revealed a much more different and violent message.

Examples of this are documented below from the following Facebook groups:

- Free Antonio Buehler
- Peaceful Streets Project
- Antonio Buehler

Smiley, Allen

From: Boujemaa, James
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 11:02 AM
To: Degraffenreid, Calvin
Cc: Spangler, Mark; McIlvain, Chris
Subject: Ofc. Berry Presentation

From: Berry, Justin
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 10:56 AM
To: Boujemaa, James
Subject: Fwd: what is the source for this slide (#37)

A good visual of what they are hoping for can be seen in the movie V for Vendetta, basically what they are basing all their movements off of. At time marker 1 hour 42 minutes a detective is heard telling the plan which is basically hoping one police officer will make a mistake and poor decision, in the case of the movie killing an unarmed child committing a minor offense. They then used that event to bring out regular people to support their cause. Though in real life they do not have numbers needed to pull anything like that off, which is why they will have to create a problem by claiming one-thing ahead of time, then forcing police to take a certain action. My concern is that John Bush has already stockpiled up weapons and is quoted saying, "Instead of destroying the firearms like APD plans to do, which is a sad waste of resources," explained John Bush, executive director of TAG, "Austin activists will be giving some of the functioning guns we collect to local Texans in need. Those receiving the firearms will be asked to volunteer for community philanthropy projects so we can make our city a more safe and enjoyable place to live. This is especially important in these trying economic times.

the source of this can be seen at: <http://forum.pafoa.org/general-2/127630-apd-austin-activists-hold-neighboring-gun-buy-back-programs.html>

Also this can be seen on youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGovcSN07SU>

-Justin

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Boujemaa, James" <James.Boujemaa@austintexas.gov>
Subject: RE: what is the source for this slide (#37)
Date: October 17, 2012 10:32:32 AM CDT
To: "Berry, Justin" <Justin.Berry@austintexas.gov>

Thnk u sir

From: Berry, Justin
Sent: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 10:32 AM
To: Boujemaa, James
Subject: Re: what is the source for this slide (#37)

This is the source: <http://marchondcnov5th.wordpress.com/frequently-asked-questions/>

Smiley, Allen

From: Richman, Robert
Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2012 1:17 PM
To: Arevalo, Arthur; Clarke, Rory; Dukes, Doug; Gage, Todd; Scales, Harlan; Sweeney, Tom
Cc: Nyert, Michael; Romoser, John; Spangler, Mark
Subject: FW: Activist given free video cameras to record police.

All,

Please see Tom's email below. It succinctly summarizes a very good approach to use while discussing the recent "video" activist movement with our officers. If our officers encounter any problems with the activists, please have them bookmark the incident via DMAV and send me a copy of the case number.

Although we don't anticipate any issues, officers should always be cognizant of their officer safety and the safety of the citizens on scene. If problems do arise, officers should be well versed on the various tools available within the law that may assist them. A few examples are:

Texas Penal Code 38.15 Interference with Public Duties
Texas Transportation Code, Section 552.006 Use of Side Walk (i.e. Pedestrian in Roadway)

Additionally, some officers have complained about the activists posting links on Face Book to the officer's pay and other personal data. Officers should be reminded that our pay is actually public record and easily found as is many other bits of information via a simple Google search. Officers should be reminded to lock down the security settings on their Face Book accounts and to cleanse any personal data they find on the internet by contacting the site which shows the data. There was a training bulletin put out last year regarding some online resources officers can use to assist them. As soon as I relocate it, I'll send it out.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

-Rich
Lieutenant Robert "Rich" Richman #3258
Austin Police Department
Region III, Operations
Critical Incident Negotiation Team
(512) 974-6847
Robert.Richman@austintexas.gov

From: Sweeney, Tom
Sent: Saturday, July 14, 2012 22:55
To: Richman, Robert
Subject: RE: Activist given free video cameras to record police.

FYI –

The community activism group "Peaceful Streets Austin" held a meeting today in which they provided video cameras and training to citizens. The purpose of these cameras are to video record police encounters to document cases of "abuse".

9/6/2012

<http://my.firedoglake.com/kitoconnell/2012/07/12/antonio-buehler-and-peaceful-streets/>

All of what's happened so far has been a prelude to the Peaceful Streets Police Accountability Summit. This free, all-day event will be held Saturday at Austin's Mexitas Restaurant. After a free breakfast at 9am, the summit begins at 10am with classes and discussions of our rights, activism, and tactics in filming the police. At the end of the day, 100 high quality digital video cameras will be given away to activists dedicated to filming the police.

<http://peacefulstreets.com/about/>

I have reminded my officers that there is nothing wrong with citizens recording us while we work.

Don't let someone bait us into a negative confrontation.

The would-be camera-persons are to keep their distance and not interfere with the incident. I have told my guys that 30' is a fair guideline for acceptable distance, since any closer and the subject becomes a potential immediate threat, which causes an officer to divide their attention. However this will be up to the officer to reasonably articulate if they decide to enforce this. Ultimately, maintain officer safety and if the person attempting to records us, legitimately interferes with a police incident, arrest them.

I have encouraged my officers to welcome the recordings and present a pleasant professional image for the cameras. "Smile and wave, gang.. Smile and wave" - The less our officers respond to the baiting, the more quickly they will tire of their game.

Lieutenant Tom Sweeney
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