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October 7, 2010

Charges Dropped for Maryland Man Who Posted Traffic Stop Video on YouTube

Harford County Circuit Judge Emory Plitt Jr. dropped wiretapping charges against a Maryland motorcyclist who filmed a traffic stop using a helmet mounted camera and posted the footage to video streaming site YouTube. 25-year-old Anthony Graber III still faces charges of [reckless driving](#) and negligent driving following his arrest in March.

Graber had been filming a motorcycle ride down I-95 when he was pulled over by a plainclothes police officer. In the clip, the officer approaches the young man aggressively and draws a gun prior to identifying himself as a policeman. After state police were made aware of the clip's dissemination, a search warrant was obtained for Graber's home and personal items of his including his computer were seized. He was indicted in April.

Judge Plitt threw out the charges on September 27th, ruling that there was no expectation of privacy between the trooper and the motorcyclist in the public location. He wrote:

"In this rapid information technology era in which we live, it is hard to imagine that either an offender or an officer would have any reasonable expectation of privacy with regard to what is said between them in a traffic stop on a public highway."

The ACLU provided a [Maryland criminal defense Attorney](#) for Graber, who spoke to press about the impact of the decision, saying:

"This ruling upholds the fundamental right to hold police accountable to the public and constitutional principles they serve."

A spokesman for Maryland State Police acknowledged the judge's ruling, indicating that the agency respects the court's decision and that troopers will be made aware of it.

This article is presented by The Law Office of David Benowitz, serving Virginia, Maryland and Washington DC. For more information, please visit our [Maryland DUI Lawyer](#) and [Washington DC Criminal Lawyer](#) websites.