

SERGEANTS BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

POLICE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK

35 WORTH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10013

212.226.2180 FAX 212.431.4280

www.sbanyc.org



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

EDWARD D. MULLINS

February 10, 2015

Mr. Larry Page
Chief Executive Officer, Google Inc.
1600 Amphitheatre Parkway
Mountain View, CA 94043

Re: Police Icon in WAZE Application

Dear Mr. Page:

I am writing to you on behalf of over 13,000 active and retired Sergeants of the New York City Police Department and their families to express our concerns over the feature of Google's WAZE application that allows users to identify the locations of police officers (the "Police Icon"). The recent assassination of two New York City police officers has drawn particular attention to the risks new technologies like WAZE create for First Responders.

We recognize that Google prides itself on excellent corporate citizenship and that Google believes it has the legal right to provide WAZE in its current format. With rights come responsibilities, however; and the more influential a citizen is, the more responsibility it bears in exercising its rights. In using technology like WAZE to publish or disseminate information, Google must recognize that the Police Icon is just a tool that, like any tool, can be used for good or bad purposes. Even if Google has a *right* to disseminate information regarding police locations, it does not follow that Google *should* do so. As a publisher, Google has inherited the American tradition of self-restraint, perhaps most famously expressed in *The New York Times* motto, "All the News That's Fit to Print."

If Google acts in accordance with our finest American traditions, it will balance the utility of the Police Icon against the consequences if the information is abused. The only possible result of that balancing will be a decision to remove the Police Icon feature from WAZE. I recognize that Google's spokesperson has been quoted as saying that the Police Icon was discussed with police departments and has offered an extremely weak, if not disingenuous, safety justification for the Icon. Recent events, however, have demonstrated that any such justifications are greatly outweighed by the risks to police officers from

criminals who will abuse the real-time data provided by WAZE, even to the extent of murder. The simple convenience to WAZE users in avoiding traffic tickets pales in comparison to the risk of assassination or major crime, no matter how tenuous that risk might seem in any given situation.

Given the possibilities that the Police Icon will be abused, our Members implore Google to do the right thing and delete the feature from WAZE. I cannot overemphasize the importance of this issue. If Google does not act promptly, we will engage in every effort at our means to protect the safety of our Members and of police officers throughout America, including publicity, judicial and legislative means.

Rather than engage in such actions, however, I request that we meet to explore an amicable resolution to these issues. I am available at your convenience at any time before February 20th.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Mullins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Edward D. Mullins
President