

## **New York City Council**

### **Memorandum in Support of Legislation**

*This memorandum is authored by the sponsor and explains the need for the legislation referenced below, in accordance with Rule 6.00(d) of the Rules of the Council.*

#### **Introduction Number:**

Int. No. 703-2024

#### **Prime Sponsors:**

By the Public Advocate (Mr. Williams) and Council Members Hanif, Gutiérrez, Louis and Hudson

#### **Bill Title:**

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to prohibiting unauthorized surveillance by a global positioning system or similar technology

#### **Submitted by:**

Public Advocate Williams

#### **Justification:**

As global positioning system (GPS) tracking devices become more accessible, with commercial GPS trackers now costing as little as \$10,<sup>1</sup> it has become increasingly easy for bad actors to place such devices on another's person or vehicle without their knowledge. This is a serious concern, particularly for New Yorkers at risk of domestic violence. New York City and State laws have not kept pace with the evolution of this technology. Anti-tracking measures do exist in the State's anti-stalking law but they require victims to ask stalkers to cease their conduct before such conduct can qualify as criminal.<sup>2</sup>

Under the bill, it would be a municipal misdemeanor to use a GPS device on another person's motor vehicle without their consent to track or monitor such vehicle. The bill would not apply to individuals tracking the use of their vehicle by a minor or a law enforcement official working pursuant to a warrant.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.pcworld.com/article/2879354/this-apple-airtag-alternative-is-just-as-good-and-only-10-right-now.html>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/PEN/120.45>