



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CENTER
580 TAYLOR AVENUE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Pamela Harris
State Court Administrator
410-260-1295

February 28, 2018

Honorable Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate
State House, H-107
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
State House, H-101
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Report on Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance
Pursuant to Section 10-409(c) of the Courts Article

Dear President Miller and Speaker Busch:

Pursuant to Section 2-1246 of the State Government Article, I enclose the report to the General Assembly required by Section 10-409(c) of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article.

The report covers the period January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017. If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Walter at (410) 260-1725, or via email at jamie.walter@mdcourts.gov.

Sincerely yours,

Pamela Harris
State Court Administrator

Enc.

cc: Honorable Mary Ellen Barbera, Chief Judge Court of Appeals
Patrick Murray, Chief of Staff, Senate President
Alexandra Hughes, Chief of Staff, House Speaker
Sarah Albert, Mandated Reports Specialist

Maryland Judiciary

Fiscal Year 2017

Report on Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance



Administrative Office of the Courts

February 2018

This is the thirty-ninth report submitted pursuant to section 10-409(c) of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article. The report covers Calendar Year 2017.

During 2017 there were fifty-four (54) requests for electronic surveillance. This is twenty requests less than Calendar Year 2016's seventy-four (74) requests. Eight (8) jurisdictions requested authorization for electronic surveillance during Calendar Year 2017, including thirty-one (31) requests from Baltimore City, six (6) requests from Wicomico County, four (4) requests from Howard County, four (4) requests from Washington County, four (4) requests from Worcester County, three (3) requests from Baltimore County, one (1) request from Harford County, and one (1) request from Queen Anne's County. Several investigations were the result of multiple wiretaps, as indicated in the accompanying tables.

Thirty-two (32) of the surveillances requested during Calendar Year 2017 involved investigations pertaining to illegal drugs; and eight (8) requests related to bribery. Other categories of offenses with requests for surveillance included controlled dangerous substance distribution (7), drug king pin/armed drug trafficking (4), narcotics (1), murder (1), and intimidation (1). Cellular phones comprised ninety-six percent (fifty-two requests) of intercepted devices during Calendar Year 2017. An oral-microphone located in a vehicle comprised two percent (one request) and a standard telephone with location labeled as other comprised two percent (one request) of the remaining requests.

There were 198,056, total communications intercepted, including 29,801 that were of an incriminating nature. This compares to 258,284 communications intercepted and 44,618 incriminating intercepts during Calendar Year 2016. The conversations of 2,945 individuals were intercepted during the surveillance. Altogether, there were fifteen (15) investigations. While the results of one (1) investigation is still pending, and results of several investigations were unreported, thus far there have been a total of seventy (70) arrests. Overall, \$986,367 was reportedly spent on electronic surveillance personnel and resource costs during Calendar Year 2017, compared to the previous year's total of \$1,501,347 and the Calendar Year 2015 total of \$1,215,894. (This amount does not include any cost of one surveillance in, Harford County, three surveillances in Baltimore City, and one surveillance in Wicomico County as law enforcement agencies did not report this information.) The greatest amount of money expended on a single investigation was reported by Washington County with \$227,974 on multiple wiretaps. The next most costly was an investigation also in Howard County, totaling \$194,389. Other investigations in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Queen Anne's County, Wicomico County, and Worcester County ranged in total cost from \$23,100 to \$172,500. No supplemental reports updating results of pending investigations from prior years were submitted.

A detailed breakdown of each request is attached. Corresponding numbers are used to relate reports submitted by prosecuting officials to those submitted by judges.

WIRETAPPING AND ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE PURSUANT TO SEC. 10-409(c) OF THE COURTS ARTICLE

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2017

REPORTS BY JUDGES										
Reporting Number*	Court	Official Authorizing Application	Offense Specified	Type of Intercept	Location	Date of Application	Original Order (Days)	Number of Extensions	Total Length (Days)	
Baltimore City										
1	Baltimore City	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	05/15/2017	30	1	60	
2	Baltimore City	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	05/15/2017	30	0	30	
3	Baltimore City	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	06/12/2017	30	2	60	
4	Baltimore City	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	06/12/2017	30	0	30	
5	Baltimore City	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	07/07/2017	30	0	30	
6	Baltimore City	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	07/07/2017	30	0	30	
7	Baltimore City	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	07/07/2017	30	0	30	
8	Baltimore City	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	08/01/2017	30	0	30	
9	Baltimore City	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	08/01/2017	30	0	30	
10	Baltimore City	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	08/31/2017	30	1	60	
11	Baltimore City	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	08/31/2017	30	1	60	
12	Baltimore City	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	09/28/2017	30	0	30	
13	Baltimore City	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	10/12/2017	30	0	30	
14	Baltimore City	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	10/12/2017	30	1	60	
15	Baltimore City	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	10/26/2017	30	0	30	
16	Baltimore City	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	10/26/2017	30	0	30	
17	Baltimore City	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	11/21/2017	30	0	30	
18	Baltimore City	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	11/21/2017	30	1	60	
19	Baltimore City	State Prosecutor	Bribery	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone	08/31/2017	30	0	30	
20	Baltimore City	State Prosecutor	Bribery	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone	08/31/2007	30	0	30	
21	Baltimore City	State Prosecutor	Bribery	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone	08/31/2017	30	0	30	
22	Baltimore City	State Prosecutor	Bribery	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone	09/08/2017	30	0	30	
23	Baltimore City	State Prosecutor	Bribery	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone	09/11/2017	30	1	60	
24	Baltimore City	State Prosecutor	Bribery	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone	09/28/2017	30	0	30	
25	Baltimore City	State Prosecutor	Bribery	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone	10/04/2017	30	0	30	
26	Baltimore City	State Prosecutor	Bribery	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone	10/18/2017	30	0	30	
27	Baltimore City	Attorney General	Intimidation	Standard Phone	Other	09/08/2017	30	0	30	
28	Baltimore City	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	04/25/2017	30	1	60	
29	Baltimore City	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	04/25/2017	30	1	60	
30	Baltimore City	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	04/25/2017	30	1	60	
31	Baltimore City	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	05/23/2017	30	0	30	
Baltimore County										
1	Circuit Court	State's Attorney	CDS	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone	02/10/2017	30	1	60	
2	Circuit Court	State's Attorney	CDS	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone	02/10/2017	30	1	30	
3	Circuit Court	State's Attorney	CDS	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone	02/13/2017	30	1	60	
Harford County										
1	Circuit Court	State's Attorney	Murder	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone /Text Messaging	04/10/2017	30	0	30	
Howard County										
1	Circuit Court	State's Attorney	Drug Kingpin/Armed Drug Trafficking	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	08/16/2017	30	1	60	
2	Circuit Court	State's Attorney	Drug Kingpin/Armed Drug Trafficking	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	08/16/2017	30	1	60	
3	Circuit Court	State's Attorney	Drug Kingpin/Armed Drug Trafficking	Oral-Microphone/Eavesdrop	Vehicle	08/30/2017	30	0	30	
4	Circuit Court	State's Attorney	Drug Kingpin/Armed Drug Trafficking	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	08/31/2017	30	0	30	

REPORTS BY JUDGES

Reporting Number	Court	Official Authorizing Application	Offense Specified	Type of Intercept	Location	Date of Application	Original Order (Days)	Number of Extensions	Total Length (Days)
Queen Anne's County									
1	Circuit Court	State's Attorney	Narcotics	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone	03/31/2017	31	1	45
Washington County									
1	Circuit Court	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone	06/16/2017	30	1	60
2	Circuit Court	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone	06/29/2017	30	0	30
3	Circuit Court	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone	08/01/2017	30	0	30
4	Circuit Court	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone	08/03/2017	30	20	74
Wicomico County									
1	Circuit Court	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone	02/26/2017	30	1	60
2	Circuit Court	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone	10/16/2017	30	0	30
3	Circuit Court	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone	09/21/2017	30	1	60
4	Circuit Court	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone	09/14/2017	30	1	60
5	Circuit Court	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone	08/31/2017	30	2	62
6	Circuit Court	State's Attorney	Drugs-Illegal	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone	10/21/2017	30	0	30
Worcester County									
1	Circuit Court	State's Attorney	CDS Distribution	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	02/06/2017	30	0	30
2	Circuit Court	State's Attorney	CDS Distribution	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	02/06/2017	30	0	30
3	Circuit Court	State's Attorney	CDS Distribution	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	02/06/2007	30	2	90
4	Circuit Court	State's Attorney	CDS Distribution	Cellular Phone	Cellular Phone/Text Messaging	02/10/2017	30	2	90

**WIRETAPPING AND ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE PURSUANT TO SEC. 10-409(c) OF THE COURTS ARTICLE
JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2017**

REPORTS BY PROSECUTING OFFICERS																	
Reporting Number	Number of Days in Operation	Average Number of Intercepts Per Day	Number of			Costs		Number of									
			Intercepts	Conversations of Individuals Intercepted	Incriminating Intercepts	Total Cost(\$)/Non-Personnel Cost(\$)	Persons Arrested	Trials	Motions to Suppress Intercepts	Persons Convicted							
Baltimore City																	
1	57	114.5	6,527	166	841	\$30,000.00	N/A	8	0	0	0						
2	30	67.9	2,036	103	156												
3	55	68.6	3,773	201	1,464												
4	30	25.1	753	24	532												
5	30	19.5	584	38	225												
6	30	5.3	158	5	92												
7	30	88.9	2,667	113	233												
8	30	33.4	1,002	55	296												
9	30	58.7	1,760	151	81												
10	58	55.4	3,216	104	671												
11	58	11.3	658	43	359												
12	30	53.6	1,608	127	66												
13	30	3.3	98	13	25												
14	60	20.2	1,211	49	586												
15	30	100.1	3,002	75	385												
16	30	17.2	516	26	174												
17	30	90.3	2,709	140	93												
18	60	N/A	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported							Unreported	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported
19	30	191.2	5,737	146	684												
20	30	45.2	1,356	123	189												
21	30	184.6	5,537	96	93												
22	16	10.4	166	18	41												
23	43	61.6	2,647	139	687												
24	24	7.7	185	23	19												
25	20	129.3	2,585	80	292												
26	6	9.3	56	4	26												
27	38	529.5	20,122	Unreported	4,010	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported						
28	2	0.5	1	2	1	Unreported	Unreported	0	0	0	0						
29	56	45.6	2,551	Unreported	324	\$31,707	\$4,628	0	0	0	0						
30	56	7.5	422	Unreported	179	\$29,554	\$2,475	0	0	0	0						
31	13	32.5	422	Unreported	179	\$142,343	\$625	0	0	0	0						
			74,065	2064	13003	\$233,604.00	7728	8	0	0	0						
Baltimore County																	
1	43	48.1	2,068	Unreported	907	\$90,000	\$15,000	14	Pending	Pending	Pending						
2	29	115.0	3,334	Unreported	1,541												
3	44	62.6	2,756	Unreported	436												
			8,158	0	2,884	90,000	15,000	14	0	0	0						
Harford County																	
1	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported						
			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Howard County																	
1	42	102.2	4,292	335	3,848	\$194,389	\$2,299	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported						
2	42	39.2	1,646	172	1,173												
3	28	2.3	65	34	51												
4	27	325.1	8,779	256	8,317												
			6,003	541	5,072	194,389	2,299	0	0	0	0						

REPORTS BY PROSECUTING OFFICERS											
Reporting Number	Number of Days in Operation	Average Number of Intercepts Per Day	Number of			Costs		Number of			
			Intercepts	Conversations of Individuals Intercepted	Incriminating Intercepts	Total Cost(\$)/Non-Personnel Cost(\$)		Persons Arrested	Trials	Motions to Suppress Intercepts	Persons Convicted
Queen Anne's County											
1	56	890.3	49,855	46	4,718	\$172,500	\$4,500	32	Unreported	0	29
			49,855	46	4,718	172,500	4,500	32	0	0	29
Washington County											
1	59	194.8	11,494	Unreported	440	\$227,974	\$11,160	10	0	10	0
2	27	22.0	594	11	63						
3	30	91.5	2,744	132	Unreported						
4	72	90.2	6,493	Unreported	1,079						
			21,325	143	1,582	227,974	11,160	10	0	10	0
Wicomico County											
1	30	N/A	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported	\$23,100	\$11,000	2	2	1	2
2	22	133.0	2,926	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported
3	46	14.3	659	Unreported	Unreported						
4	60	25.5	1,529	Unreported	Unreported						
5	62	68.9	4,272	Unreported	Unreported						
6	17	20.3	345	Unreported	Unreported						
			2,926	0	0	23,100	11,000	2	2	1	2
Worcester County											
1	30	0.5	15	7	0	\$44,800	Unreported	4	Unreported	Unreported	4
2	30	0.8	24	12	0						
3	90	367.9	33,107	110	1,466						
4	90	28.6	2,578	22	1,076						
			35,724	151	2,542	44,800	0	4	0	0	4
Total			198,056	2,945	29,801	986,367	51,687	70	2	11	35

Statewide Summary of Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance for January 1 - December 31, 2017

Offense	Number (%)
Drugs - Illegal	32 (59%)
Bribery	8 (15%)
CDS Distribution	7 (13%)
Drug King Pin	4 (7%)
Narcotics	1 (2%)
Murder	1 (2%)
Intimidation	1 (2%)
Total	54

Location	Number (%)
Cellular Phone	52 (96%)
Vehicle	1 (2%)
Other	1 (2%)
Total	54

Number of Arrests	70
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Intercept Information	Number
Intercepts	198,056
Incriminating Intercepts	29,801
Conversations of Individuals Intercepted	2,945

Type of Device	Number (%)
Cellular Phone	52 (96%)
Standard Phone	1 (2%)
Microphone	1 (2%)
Total	54