



Greg Champagne
Sheriff

St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office
Special Services Department

Post Office Box 7 • Hahnville, Louisiana 70057
Voice (985) 783-1355 • Fax (985) 783-1195

N e w s R e l e a s e

April 29, 2009

Suspicious Vehicle Calls

Recently, The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office has experienced an up tick in 911 calls reporting suspicious vehicles and individuals who appear to be casing out neighborhoods or taking photos near schools. We have taken these complaints very seriously in an attempt to determine the reasons for this activity.

Sheriff's Office investigators have learned that the U.S. Census Bureau has had contract employees working in our area recently. Some of the workers are carrying hand-held GPS devices in order to log in information. In order to receive appropriate satellite signal, they have had to hold the devices outside of their windows. The GPS Units are black and "box" shaped.

Additionally, some Census workers are walking streets and writing on notepads recording data.

Sheriff Champagne added, "It is possible that these workers may be the reason for some of the suspicious vehicle/person calls we have received lately. We are in touch with the Census Bureau and working with them to properly identify their workers and requesting advance notification when they are in the area so that we can respond accordingly to 911 calls about them."

"I repeat that it is "possible" that some of the suspicious person calls relate to census workers. However, I would continue to encourage you to call and report anything that appears suspicious. Rest assured that Deputies will attempt to verify the identity and purpose of anyone about whom we are called," stated Sheriff Champagne.