Amazon’s facial recognition wrongly identified 25 lawmakers in ACLU test

IT MATCHED THEM WITH ARREST PHOTOS

Rep. Bobby Rush, John Lewis among them

By NATALIE KLEINER
The New York Times

But facial-recognition technology made by Amazon, which is being used by some police departments and other organizations, incorrectly matched these lawmakers with people who had been charged with a crime, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) reported Thursday.

The error emerged as part of a larger test in which the civil-liberties group used Amazon’s software to determine whether the faces of people who had been accused of a crime were in a database of 25,000 mug shots. In its annual report card on facial-recognition technology, the ACLU mistakenly identified 25 members of Congress with people who had been arrested, amounting to a 4 percent error rate among

Cost of extending light rail to Federal Way leaps to $2.55B

Rising costs and the possibility that a proposed $500 million federal grant won’t materialize could nudge Sound Transit’s plan to launch light-rail service from the Angle Lake station to Federal Way by mid-2024.

For years, transit customers and other stakeholders have pressed Sound Transit’s board to bring a new line to Federal Way.

But a second threat looms that would cause delays — a possibility the Federal Way extension won’t get its proposed $500 million in federal funding.

Sound Transit’s plan to launch light-rail service from the Angle Lake station to Federal Way by mid-2024.

The $2.9 billion plan was estimated to cost $2.5 billion, with $50 million in a contingency for unforeseen issues. The Sound Transit board will consider a $2.55 billion proposal Thursday for a revised plan.

The cost increase, which runs to $460 million, is due to rising labor costs and rising material prices, according to Sound Transit’s spokesperson.

But for some Sound Transit board members, the potential $500 million cut to federal funds could pose a bigger threat.

Chair John釜ter, a Democrat from Renton, warned that the $500 million federal grant is “vital” to the project.

“If we can’t find that funding, I don’t think we can proceed with the project,” Fukushima said.

The $50 million in federal funding would come from the Federal Transit Administration, a part of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The Tonnawanda News reported that Rep. John Lewis of Georgia and Rep. Bobby Rush of Illinois are both Democrats, members of the Civil Rights Caucus and lifelong civil rights and civil liberties activists.

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Feds say deadline to reunite families met

FOR ‘ELIGIBLE PARENTS’

But hundreds of migrant kids remain in custody

By MATT DAY
Seattle Times

The federal government reported Thursday that it would not meet a court-ordered deadline to reunite the last “eligible” migrant children with their parents.

On Thursday morning, three of the five Democratic congress members — Rep. Raúl Grijalva of Arizona and Rep. Luis Gutiérrez of Illinois and Rep. Mark Pocan of Wisconsin — delivered a letter to Jeff Sessions, the secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, saying there were still “serious questions regarding whether Amazon should be selling its facial recognition technology to the federal government.”

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