

GPS Trackers Reveal Dell Reconnect via Goodwill

Exporting e-Waste to Guatemala

September 18, 2020

Basel Action Network

Discovery

On January 23, 2020, a BAN operative dropped 6 LCD screens at the Goodwill of Greater Washington Store at 2200 S. Dakota Ave. NE, Washington DC. These screens were of the type utilizing mercury phosphor CCFL lamps. Prior to deployment, each was made dysfunctional and economically unrepairable. We obtained the Goodwill drop-off location from the District of Columbia's government website, listed under "eCycle DC Electronics Recycling Programs". There one can note that the program is part of the Dell ReConnect program:

https://doee.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddoe/service_content/attachments/eCYCLE%20DC-%20Electronics%20Recycling%20Options%20%282019%29.6.14.19.pdf

Legality

Four of these screens were subsequently exported to Guatemala City, Guatemala. Guatemala is a Basel Convention Party country. It is illegal for Basel Parties to accept hazardous waste imports from the United States. Therefore, it is likely these imports were illegal. Such exports are also contrary to what we have been assured is the Dell Reconnect program policy -- not to export used, non-functional electronic equipment to non-OECD countries without prior approval.

Historical Context

This is the third time we have observed the Dell Reconnect program exporting e-waste in likely violation of the law and/or Dell policy. In May of 2016 after BAN's first large scale exercise using GPS trackers to track e-waste in the United States, BAN published the report [Disconnect: Goodwill and Dell Exporting the Public's E-waste to Developing Countries](#). The study found 6 Dell/Goodwill program trackers being exported to developing countries. In June of 2017, BAN subsequently found 3 more devices deposited at a Dell Reconnect Goodwill store, exported to two developing countries. As a result of that second discovery, Dell agreed to engage with BAN in a GPS tracking project which was announced publicly in a [press release by BAN](#) and by Dell and completed in 2018.

These latest exports appear to demonstrate a continued failure of implementation of Dell's and Goodwill's policies.



Google street view of the Goodwill of Greater Washington storefront located at 2200 S Dakota Ave NE, Washington DC.



Deployment photos: BAN operative handing-off 1 of the 6 LCD screens to an employee at the Goodwill of Greater Washington store.

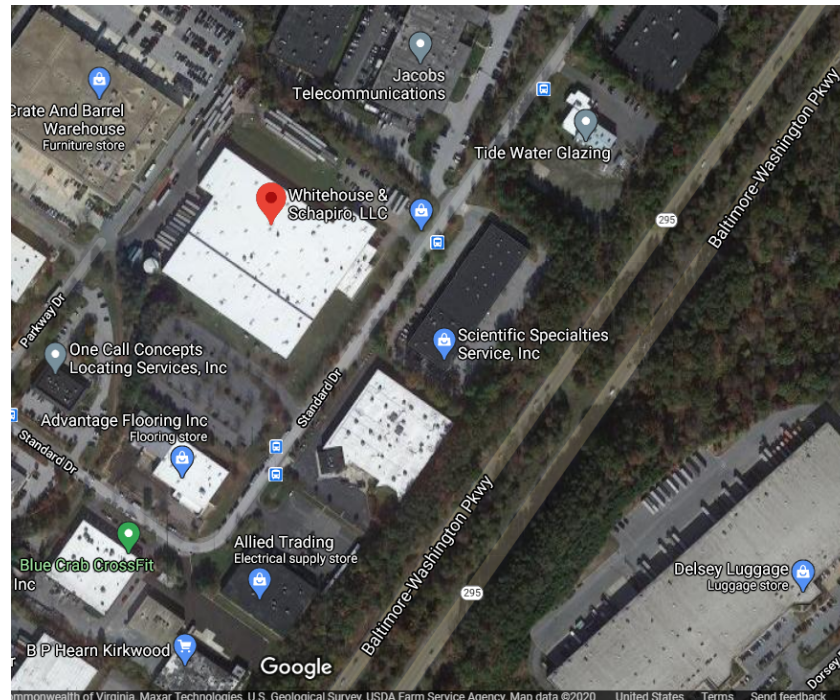
Whitehouse & Schapiro, LLC / Likely Exporter

Two of the four LCD's that were eventually exported sent a signal from Whitehouse & Schapiro, LLC/International trade consultants located at 7200 Standard Dr., Hanover, Maryland 21076, prior to the signals sent from Guatemala.

From the Whitehouse & Schapiro, LLC LinkedIn page:

"Whitehouse & Schapiro, LLC is a global trading company that has been a thriving family operation for over 100 years. Involved in many facets of the secondhand industry with particular expertise in textiles, Whitehouse & Schapiro, LLC has the unique breadth of experience to grow partnerships for mutual

success. Our unparalleled expertise in secondhand clothing, textile remnants and wipers, combined with our ability to ride the economic waves of business cycles, make us an ideal partner for buying or selling, both domestically and abroad."

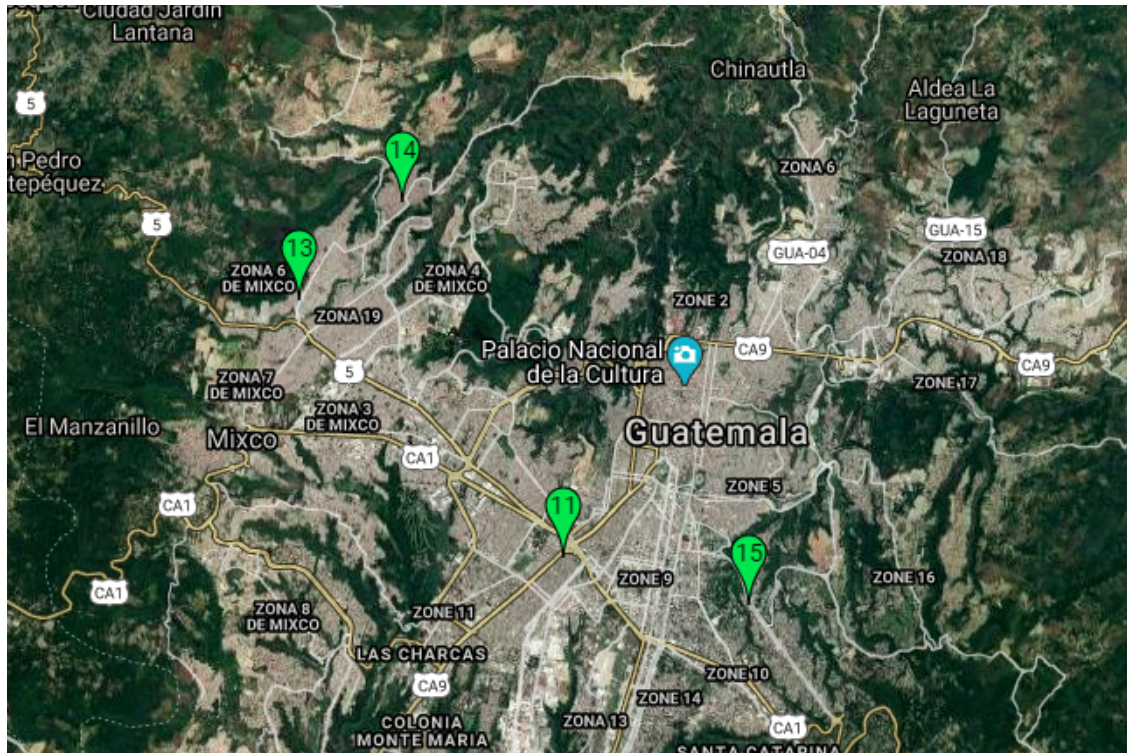


Location of Whitehouse & Schapiro in Hanover, Maryland.

Movement to and in Guatemala

In our tracker data, we can only observe one of the LCD screens, tracker #343084, at the port (Puerto Santo Tomas De Castilla), but based on the dates of all of the trackers (see below) we can surmise that devices #469821 and #465084 also came to Guatemala on the same ship via the Puerto Santo Tomas De Castilla. It is clear, based on the dates, that device #476727 arrived in Guatemala on an earlier ship.

The LCD screens, trackers, did not stay at the port long, but instead made their way to Guatemala City very quickly and appeared to all end up in different locations in the city. Most seemed to stop pinging in residential areas or in areas with small shops. The LCD screen, #476727, however, appeared to arrive at a facility with what looks to be an outdoor waste scrap yard. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, BAN volunteers in Guatemala were not able to visit any of these sites at this time as Guatemala City is under mandatory lock-down orders. We only have Google Earth and Google street view photographs to provide us with end-point information to date.



The four devices all ended up in different parts of Guatemala City.

Tracker #343084

This LCD screen went to Guatemala City and sent its final signal from 14.601785, -90.500635 on 2020-08-03 10:56:59 PDT

Tracking Data:

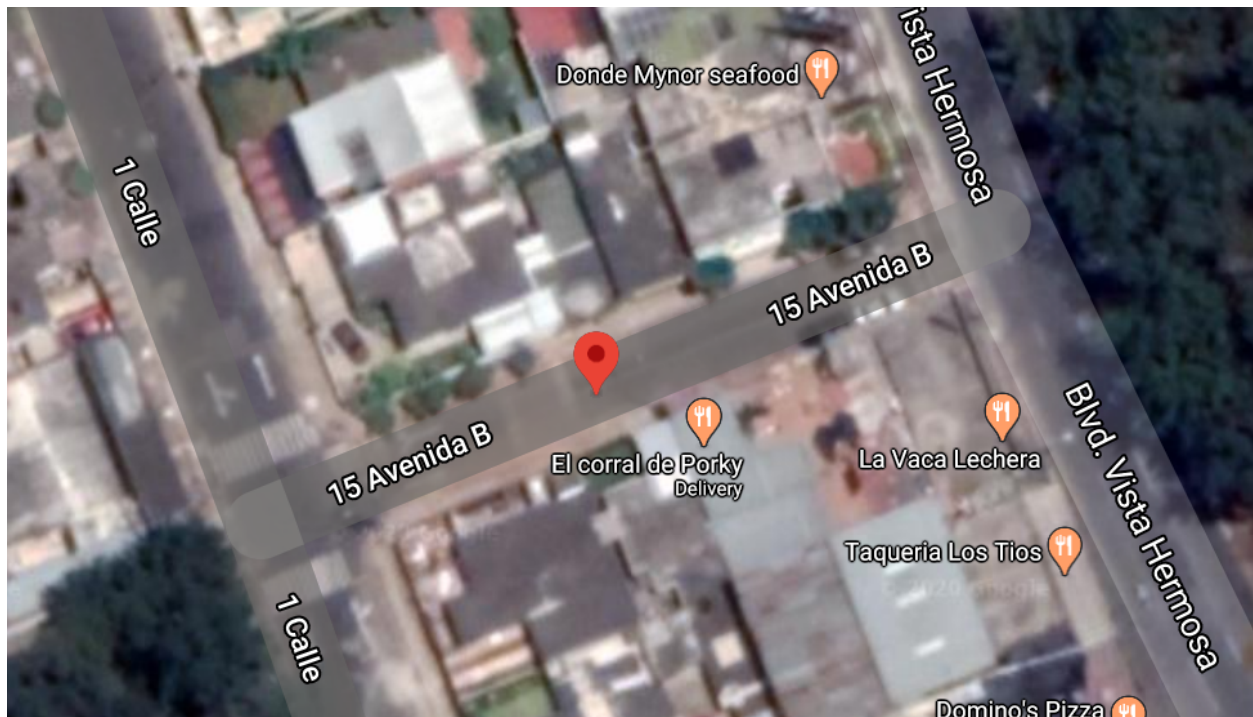
The 1st location was provided on 7-8-2020 from the port -- Puerto Santo Tomas De Castilla GPS 15.693928, -88.619331

The 2nd location was provided on 7-14-2020 from 5-11 3A Avenida, Guatemala City, Guatemala GPS 14.617142, -90.537140

The 3rd location was provided on 7-22-2020 from 280 Avenida Mariscal, Guatemala City, Guatemala GPS 14.612457, -90.538003

The 4th and final location was on 8-3-2020 from 102 15 Avenida B, Guatemala City, Guatemala GPS 14.601785, -90.500635

Below is a screenshot from Google Satellite of the final location of Tracker #343084.



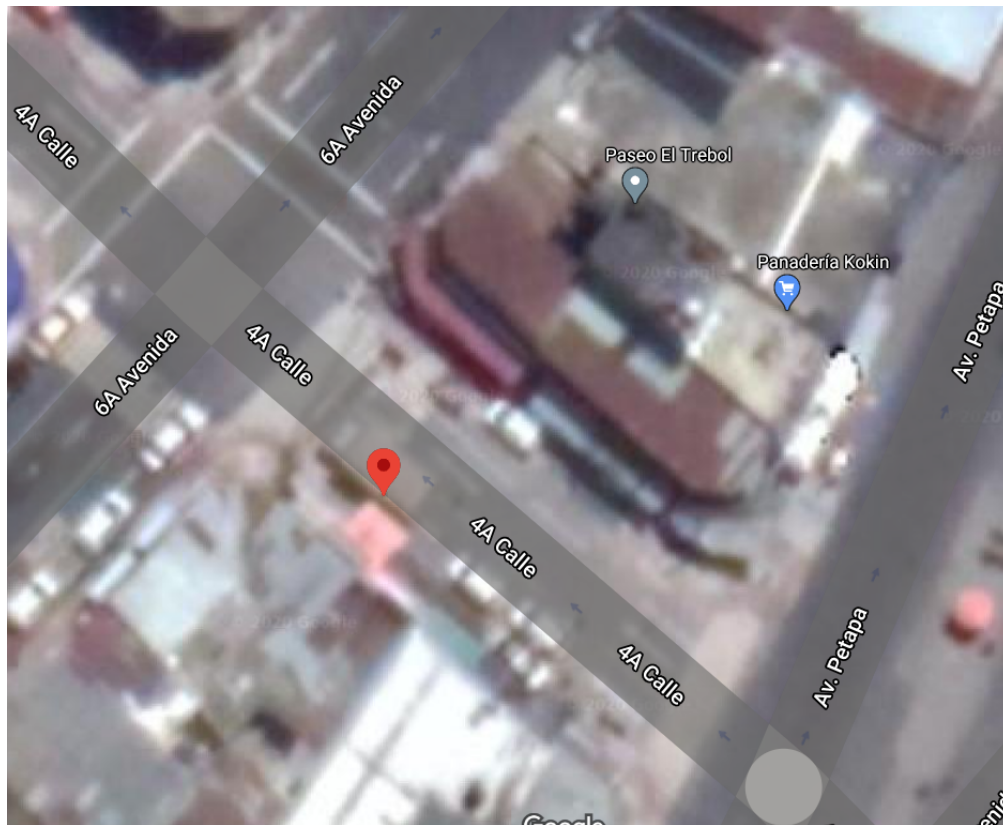
Google street view of the final location of Tracker #343084.

Tracker #469821

This LCD screen went to Guatemala City and sent its only signal on 9-16-2020 from 14.610829, -90.536491

Tracking Data:

The only location provided in Guatemala was on 7-14-2020 from the current location 356 Ave. Petapa, Guatemala City, Guatemala GPS 14.610829, -90.536491





Google street view of the final location of **Tracker #469821** was not available, but you can see roughly where it sent (red circle) its final signal from as viewed from the nearby crossroads that was available.

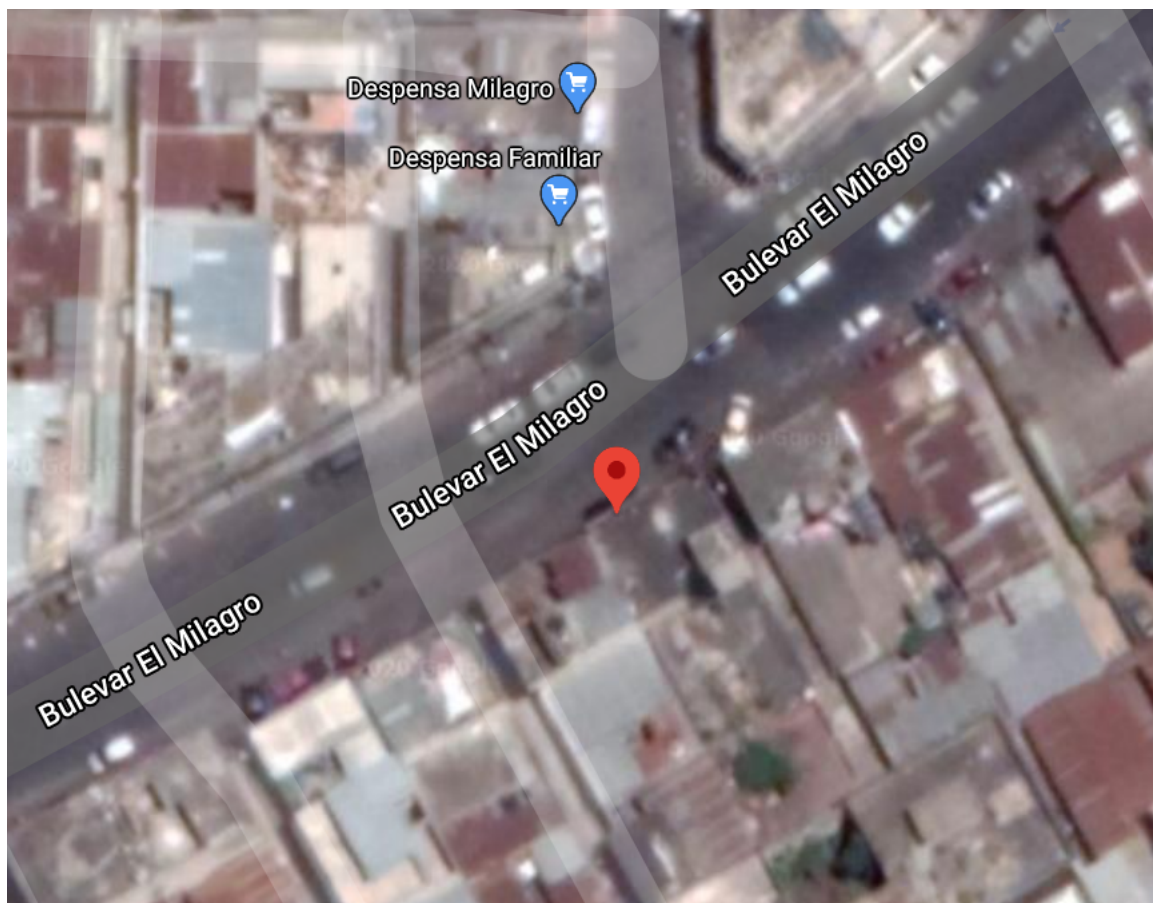
Tracker #465084

This LCD screen went to Guatemala City and on 2020-07-18 PDT sent its final signal from 14.678195, -90.568545

Tracking Data:

The 1st location provided in Guatemala was on 7-13-2020 from 280 Avenida Mariscal, Guatemala City, Guatemala GPS 14.612891, -90.537275

The 2nd and final location was on 7-18-2020 from Bulevar El Milagro, Guatemala City, Guatemala GPS 14.678195, -90.568545



Above is Google Earth view. No street view available.

Tracker #476727

This LCD went to Guatemala City and on 2020-05-01 PDT sent its final signal from: 14.659774, -90.588912

Tracking Data:

The 1st location provided from Guatemala was sent on 4-20-2020 from 1A Calle, Guatemala City, Guatemala GPS 14.613447, -90.536833

The 2nd location provided was sent on 4-28-2020 from Avenida La Verbena, Guatemala City, Guatemala GPS 14.631421, -90.531719

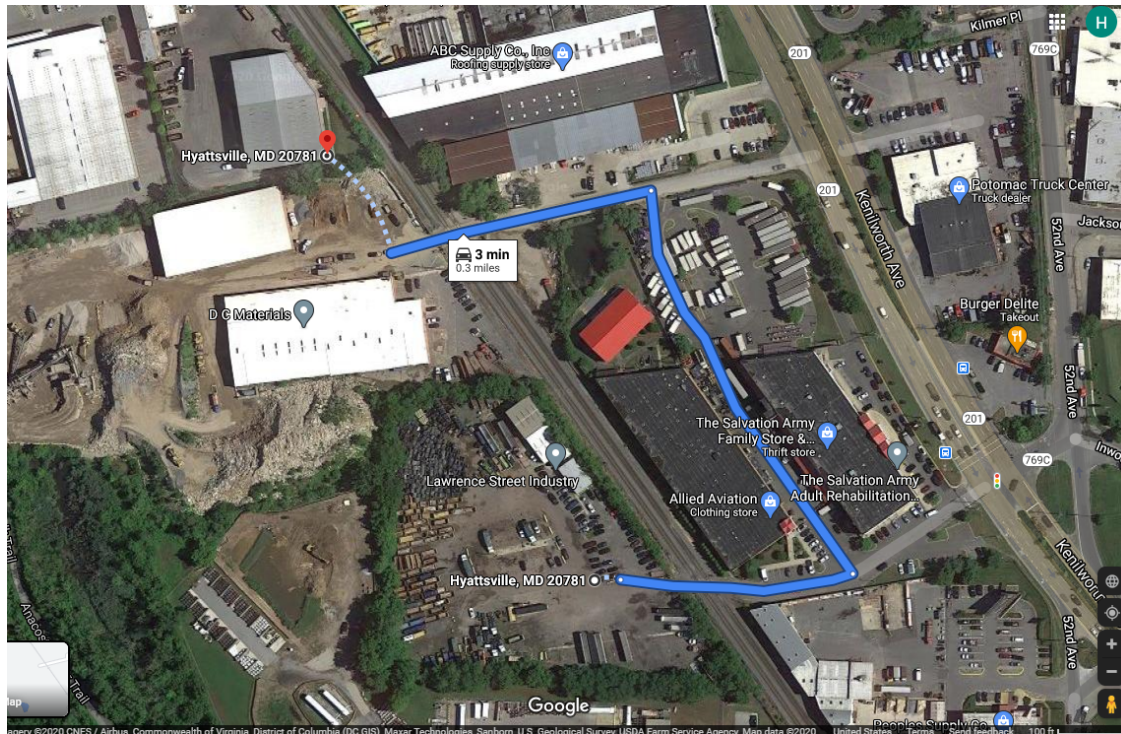
The 3rd and final location was sent on 5-1-2020 from 50 12 Avenida, Guatemala City, Guatemala GPS 14.659774, -90.588912



In this satellite view, one can see very clearly a scrapyard adjacent to the building the device seems to be signaling.

Goodwill of Greater Washington Non-Exports

Two of the six LCD screens dropped at the Goodwill of Greater Washington did not appear to be exported to Guatemala. Both of these LCDs went to Hyattsville, MD and died at two separate facilities very close to each other. Tracker #469607 went through Recycle One, a recycling center located at 4700 Lawrence St, Hyattsville, MD 20781 and died at Lawrence Street Industry LLC a garbage collection service located at 3310 Kenilworth Ave, Hyattsville, MD 20781. Tracker #072102 stopped at Whitehouse & Schapiro, LLC before dying at Recycle One.



Above is a Google Maps satellite image showing the final GPS signals of trackers #469607 and #072102 being in very close proximity to each other.

When researching these apparent final destinations further it appears as if Recycle One and Lawrence Street Industry, LLC are associated. Recycle One's website describes itself as a construction and demolition processing and recycling business. However, when doing a property search of Recycle One's address it was found that the address is linked to Lawrence Street Industry and is listed as a trash/garbage collection service, solid waste collection service.

Company Profile

Company Name: LAWRENCE STREET INDUSTRY, LLC

Govcb Vendor ID: SAM000000000001479096

Year Established: 2004

Business Type: Minority owned Business

Products & Services

NAICS Code(s)

- [562111] Solid Waste Collection

PSC Code(s)

- [S205] Trash/garbage collection services (including portable sanitation services)
- [S216] Facilities operations support services
- [S218] Snow removal/salt service (also spreading aggregate or other snow melting material)

Contact Information

Contact Person: DAVID VALDEZ

Contact Title: OPERATIONS MANAGER

Address: 4700 LAWRENCE STREET, HYATTSVILLE, Maryland, USA

Phone Number: (240) 670-1013

Fax Number: (301) 779-3172

Above is a screen shot of the property search:

Below is a google image of Recycle One uploaded in July 2020 by an online consumer reviewer. Both this and our research team's calling of the business phone number listed online confirms that Recycle One was open for business when the tracker sent signal from that location.



Tracker #469607



Screenshot of the final location of tracker #496607

Tracking Data:

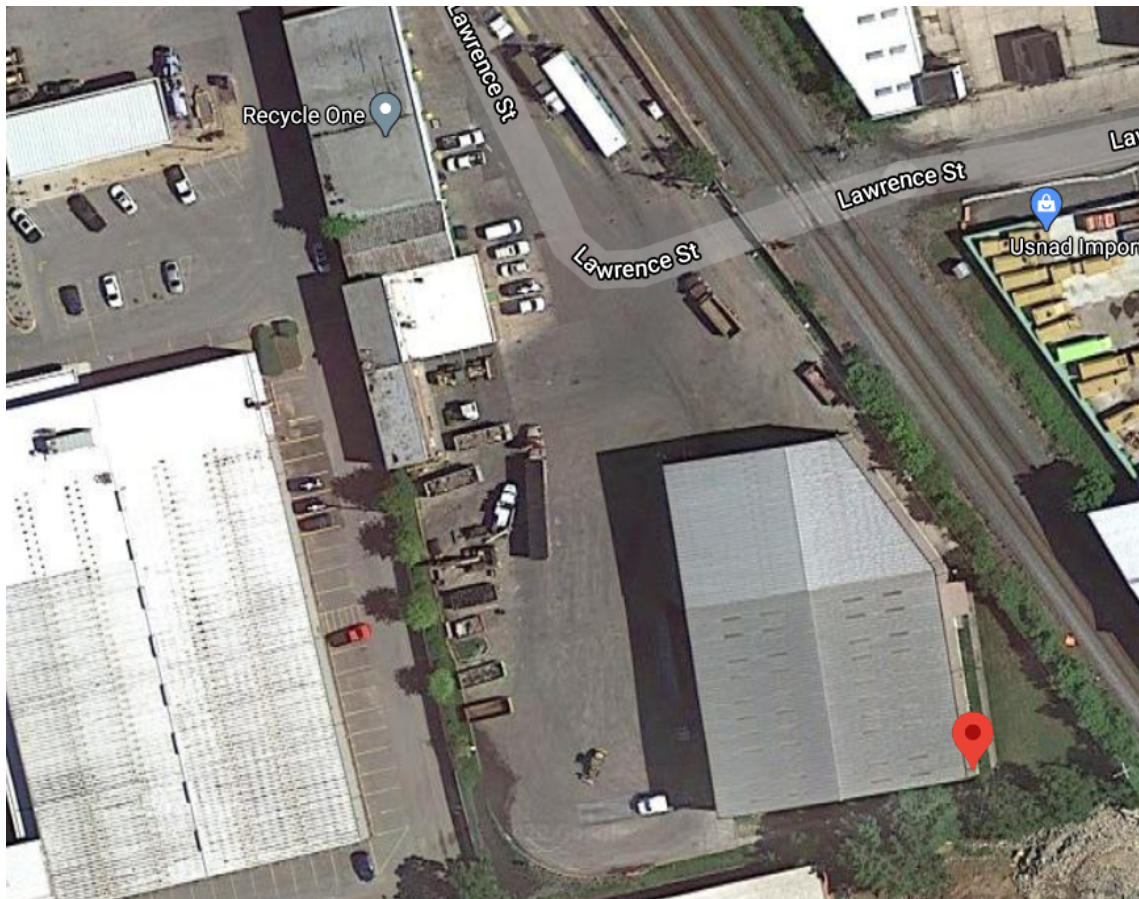
The LCD screen was deployed on 1-24-2020 at the Goodwill of Greater Washington located at 2200 S Dakota Ave. NE, Washington DC

The 2nd location was provided on 6-4-2020 from Recycle One located at 4700 Lawrence St., Hyattsville, MD 20781 GPS 38.931629, -76.935547

The final location was provided on 6-4-2020 from Lawrence Street Industry LLC Garbage collection service located at 3310 Kenilworth Ave., Hyattsville, MD 20781 GPS 38.929210, -76.933434

Tracker #072102

Screen shot of the final location of tracker #072102



Tracking Data:

The LCD screen was deployed on 1-24-2020 at the Goodwill of Greater Washington located at 2200 S Dakota Ave. NE, Washington DC

The 2nd location was provided on 2-4-2020 from Whitehouse & Schapiro, LLC International trade consultant located at 7200 Standard Dr., Hanover, MD 21076 GPS 39.179413, -76.726594

The 3rd location was provided on 5-31-2020 from a warehouse located at 3636 Pennsy Dr., Hyattsville, MD 20785 GPS 38.941621, -76.876230

The final location was provided on 6-4-2020 from Recycle One located at 4700 Lawrence St., Hyattsville, MD 20781 GPS 38.931007, -76.934894

END