



CARDING

New app helps you navigate your rights if stopped by police



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A new app inspired by police carding in Toronto is a little like having a little lawyer in your pocket at all times, in case you encounter the police.

Legalswipe was developed by Christien Levien, a Torontonian and recent graduate of the University of Ottawa law school.

He said incidents of police violence and carding of the

black community made him decide to develop the app, which allows anyone to quickly and easily find out their rights in police encounters.

To use the app, you select which of four things the police officer is attempting to do — obtain your identification, engage in a search, enter your house or make conversation.

Then, it will offer you questions you might want to ask the officer and guide you through your rights, based on your situation.

In a carding situation, for

example, the officer is attempting to “obtain identification” from you when you’re walking (as opposed to driving or biking).

The app will suggest you ask the police if you’re being arrested or detained. In the case of carding, the answer is no.

So, the app will inform you that you can say, “Given I am not being arrested or detained, I refuse to answer any questions. I am not required to speak with you or stay here any longer,” and then leave.

The app also has a record-

ing function that will send any video you take to your Dropbox cloud storage account.

You can also set up emergency contacts that you can alert with a message containing your geographic location.

Levien said he’s launching the event in Toronto on Saturday. “We’re going to introduce the app the world and discuss our future plans,” he said.

Three anti-carding activists, Desmond Cole, Omar Ha-Re-deye and Idil Burale, will be speaking.



LIZ BEDDALL/METRO