As citizens of the United States, we are privileged with certain rights that protect us from certain actions. These rights, listed in the United States Constitution, ensure that our freedoms are protected. They are in place to provide answers to questionable issues, such as security and privacy rights for American citizens. These rights are outlined in the fourth amendment to our Constitution, yet modern technological advancements present new concerns and questions as to where and when such rights apply. Now, we are presented with a question as to whether or not it violates these rights to be monitored in our homes via governmental drone, or tracked via phone location.

One’s location can be pulled from virtually anywhere today. Ranging from

a post on any social media network to disclosing location information upon downloading a smart phone application, many corporations have access to location data. Therefore, we don’t believe that governmental phone-location tracking dismembers what the fourth amendment establishes. The fourth amendment is stated as the right of citizens to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects. This being said, as long as only our location is being tracked, our privacy rights established in the fourth amendment have not been violated. By definition, privacy is the freedom from unauthorized intrusion on personal affairs. No personal information would be disclosed by having your location tracked. We believe that any governmental investigation should have justified cause, but tracking an individual via phone location violates no fourth amendment right since the government would have no more personal information than you allow your social media sites access to.

There is a considerable difference, however, between having your location tracked and having personal information at the disposal of the American government. Governmental drone imaging could acquire such personal information. Unwarranted and unjustified, it is a clear violation of fourth amendment rights to have a governmental drone track a citizen and record events occurring within private property. The fourth amendment guarantees security in a citizen’s houses, effects, papers, and property, and assures that this security is not to be violated without a warrant. To have an investigative drone record or photograph personal belongings, activities, or people on any private property would be to disclose a greater amount of personal information than knowing one’s location would provide. Discovering this information is searching and seizing, regardless of the method in which it is acquired. Therefore, a warrant is required.

The ruling of this court, to ensure that the fourth amendment to our Constitution is upheld, is the requirement of a warrant in any case of search and seizure. Something so easily accessed, such as location, that does not entail personal information does not violate what is stated in the fourth amendment of our Constitution. However, things such as recording, photographing, or viewing objects, people or activities on privately owned land should require a warrant, as it is a form of search and seizure. The rights listed in our Constitution are in place to provide Americans with a sense of freedom, as is the foundation of this nation. Regarding the fourth amendment, citizens should feel secure in the fact that their privacy rights remain protected, by both governmental and foreign figures.