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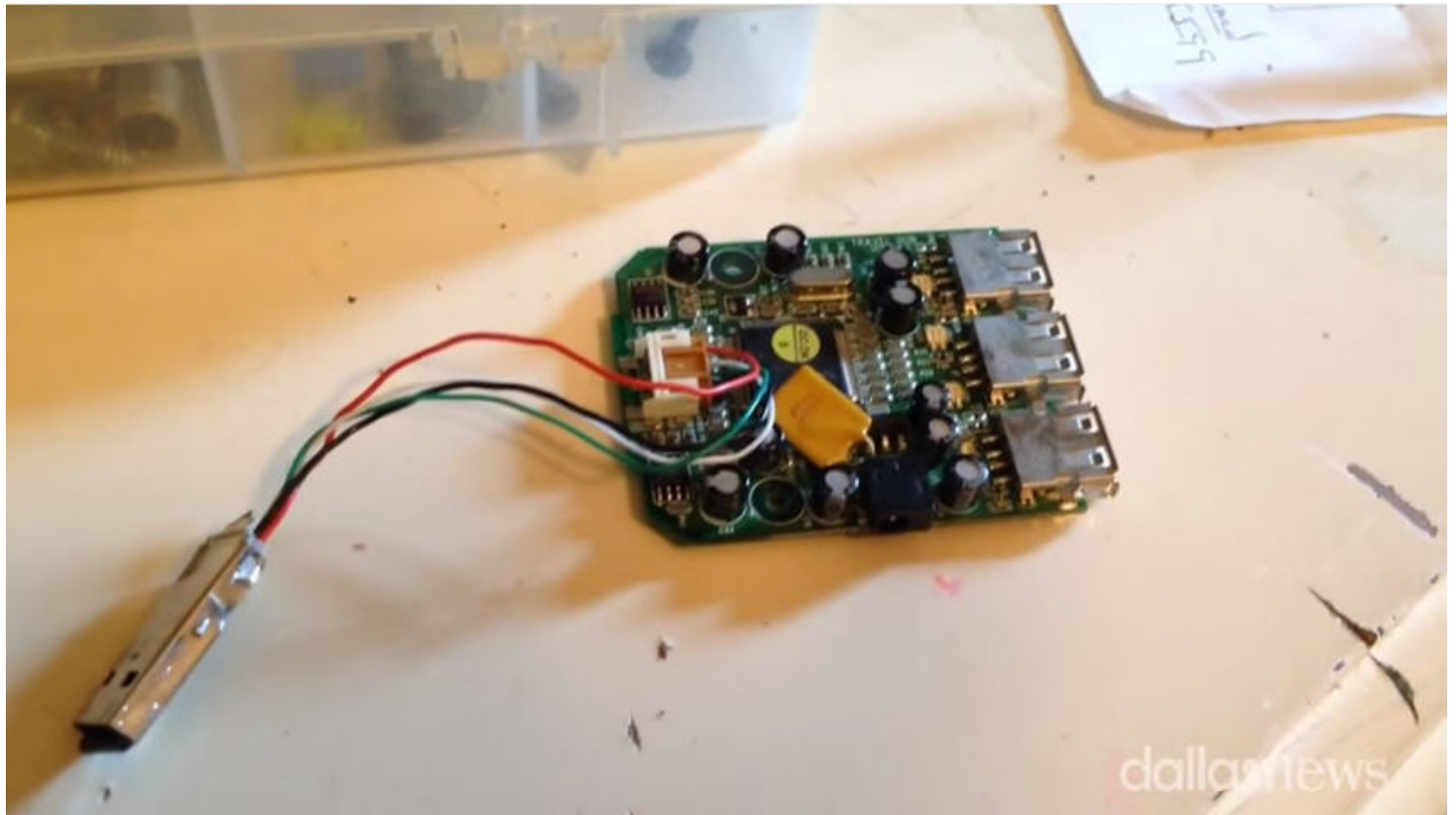
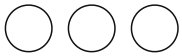
NEWS // TEXAS

Newly released emails show tension after clock boy arrest



Dylan Baddour, Houston Chronicle

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Ahmed Mohamed, 14, was arrested at a high school in Irving on Monday for building a homemade clock that his parents thought was a bomb. Dallas Morning News screenshots

A VICE media outlet has released hundreds of emails sent and received by the Irving Police Department in the days after the controversial arrest of "clock boy" Ahmed Mohamed.

Irving police arrested the 14-year-old at his North Texas high school in September, after a teacher worried a clock he had engineered may be a bomb. The story sparked outrage and quickly spread worldwide.

The emails, issued to VICE's Motherboard through a Texas Public Information Act request, convey the tension at the department as they came under widespread scrutiny.

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"This is what happens when we (IPD) screw something up," wrote senior IPD detective Rodney Bergeron in a September 17 email to another officer. "That thing didn't even look like a bomb. And now, the kid is being made into a hero."

That message followed a day of emailed insults to the police department, which would continue.

"This is obscene," someone wrote to the department on September 16. "The lack of common sense your officers displayed is embarrassing."

"You and your department are a microcosm for the absolute and unquestionable state of incompetency of

American police," someone emailed on September 17. "May the tenure of your officers and your own tenure as police chief come to abrupt and unpleasant ends."

And on September 18: "I guarantee you and everyone else involved will be sued for being so STUPID, and rightfully so."

"I also want to remind you how much of [expletive] [expletive] you are," someone wrote.

"Welcome to the Irving chapter of the Gestapo!!!" wrote another.

The department also received numerous emails from tech professionals weighing in on the identification of the clock as a possible bomb. For example, emails show that one IPD officer wrote to an automotive talk radio host to challenge his on-air telling of the story with the boy as the victim.

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Host Ed Wallace denied the officer's critiques. He wrote, "for it to be a bomb, it would have to be wired to a block of C4, dynamite, or even a pipe with explosives inside. None of which exists in Ahmed's circuit board. And that is the true stupidity of all this. Of course the police also knew this immediately and still arrested the kid. Therein lies the problem."

The department also got a request from a Wikipedia editor in Switzerland to use department photo on the online encyclopedia's article, an intimidating message claiming to be from hacktivist group Anonymous, and numerous

information requests from media near and far.

Within days, department officials expressed that they were sick of hearing about Mohamad.

On October 20, Irving senior assistant city attorney sent department officials [a news report](#) about Mohamad's intention to leave the country following the incident. The subject of his email was "Wow. Just wow."

A legal adviser for IPD, Less Moore, answered, "I don't know what to say."



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