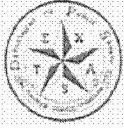


TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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THOMAS A. GAVIN, JR.
DIRECTOR

DAVID NEATHING
ASST. DIRECTOR

August 28, 2008

COMMISSION
ALLAN B. POLUNSKY, CHAIR
C. TOM CLOWE, JR.
ELIZABETH ANDERSON
CARRI MARCY BARTH

Dear Sheriff:

Enclosed is information from U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement regarding a new Criminal Alien Removal initiative named *Secure Communities*. The documents describe the nationwide initiative and how it will leverage local and state automated booking procedures to compare arrestee fingerprints against the DHS IDENT fingerprint database in addition to the state and FBI databases that are currently being checked. The IDENT search will help identify removable criminal aliens. While all individuals identified in the IDENT system may not be removed from the country, the IDENT system will provide additional information about the person in question that may not have been previously available to local law enforcement.

Of course a nationwide effort of this magnitude will require significant national resources. ICE is beginning the program in pilot sites across the country. Approximately 20 Texas law enforcement agencies have been chosen to participate, including your agency. If you choose to participate, there would be no change to your arrest and booking process. The comparison against the IDENT database would happen automatically when your livescan prints are submitted to the FBI by the DPS. There would be an additional response that would come from IDENT to the agency who has the person in custody. ICE may also choose to place a detainer, based upon the results of the IDENT search. Future correspondence will describe the detailed procedures for the pilot.

If you are interested in participating, you are being asked to fill out the enclosed survey to help ICE set up the program. Instructions for returning the survey to ICE are on the document.

Please review the Program documents, and let me know through faxing this letter back with the box checked below, or through email (david.gavin@txdps.state.tx.us) whether you choose to participate.

FBI-SC-17174

This program has the potential to improve the rate of removal of criminal aliens. The pilots are critical to determining the most appropriate procedures for a nationwide rollout. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Title] Asst. Chief
Administration

Yes, we want to participate
 No, we decline to participate
Erwin County Sheriff's Office Agency
[Signature] Signature
Please FAX attention David Gavin
At 512 424-5911