

3/10/2004 WED 10:35 FAX 485 5051 NYSP Administration



WAYNE E. BENNETT
SUPERINTENDENT

NEW YORK STATE POLICE
BUILDING 22
1220 WASHINGTON AVE.
ALBANY, N. Y. 12226-2252

Sarna -
FYI
RE: Matrix
[Signature]

March 9, 2004

Commissioner Guy Tunnell
Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Chairman of the MATRIX
Executive Committee
Post Office Box 1489
Tallahassee, Florida 32302

Dear Commissioner Tunnell:

The impetus for proposing the MATRIX pilot project stemmed from the need to improve information sharing among law enforcement on a multi-state level. A primary goal of the project was to pilot a multi-state variation of the factual data analysis application that had been in use by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement after the events of 09/11/01. Initially, agencies from thirteen states, including New York, expressed an interest in the project. The project was designed in a manner to allow additional states to be included as the pilot proceeded. Identified as essential by all project participants was the requirement to address the security of information accessed, privacy concerns and use and dissemination policies.

The need to improve information sharing and the need to provide law enforcement investigators with improved access to information and data sources that are legally available to them remains more critical today than ever before. Although the New York State Police continues to be involved in several efforts to meet this need, we have determined that we will no longer participate in the MATRIX project as it is currently designed. I am, therefore, writing to you in your capacity as Chairperson of the MATRIX project to provide 30-day notice of our intent to withdraw from the project. A copy of this letter will also be sent to MATRIX board members from the remaining participating states.

Unfortunately, instead of increasing the number of participating states over time to improve the potential benefits of the pilot, to date nearly two-thirds of the initial states have opted out of the project. The uncertainty of continued funding and the valid concerns about the feasibility of expanding the project in its current physical data warehouse design have been the most crucial reasons provided for withdrawing.


1/10/2004 WED 10:35 FAX 485 5051 NYSP Administration

2

The initial thirteen states contained over fifty percent of the nation's population and accounted for over fifty percent of reported crime. The New York State Police must now consider the diminished benefits of participating in a five state pilot, as well as the uncertainty of future funding availability. Given those circumstances, I believe it is an appropriate time to withdraw.

I appreciate the many efforts of your outstanding staff to further the MATRIX project. I also assure you that the New York State Police remains receptive to exploring other efforts to improve law enforcement information sharing and to improve the overall capabilities of law enforcement in our nation. I look forward to working with you on these efforts and on all matters of mutual concern.

Sincerely,



Steven F. Cumoletti
Lieutenant Colonel
Assistant Deputy Superintendent

cc: Colonel Timothy Barry, Connecticut State Police
Inspector Karen R. Halliday, Michigan State Police
Mr. John Monce, Jr., Superintendent, Ohio Office of the Attorney General
Lt. Colonel Ralph Periandi, Pennsylvania State Police
Mr. R. Clay Jester, Institute for Intergovernmental Research