



GEORGIA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Kent Wilson

February 11, 2003

Mr. Jim Lientz
Chief Operating Officer
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Mr. Lientz: *JK*

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) has advised me that within the next two weeks Governor Jeb Bush will telephone Governor Perdue to encourage Georgia's full participation in the Multistate Anti-Terrorism Information Exchange (MATRIX). The purpose of this correspondence is to provide Governor Perdue with information regarding MATRIX and to obtain authorization to participate in all aspects of the project.

The MATRIX project is composed of 13 states, including Georgia, and is designed to enhance the exchange of sensitive terrorism and other criminal information between local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. MATRIX is a federally funded pilot project with a current budget of \$4 million and strong support from the U.S. Department of Justice. It is the intent of participating states that the grant pay for all costs associated with MATRIX.

There are three components to MATRIX:

1. Use of Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) as a secure mechanism to communicate with enforcement agencies in other states. RISS is an established, national intelligence system developed by local and state law enforcement agencies and funded by the U.S. Department of Justice. GBI has been a member of the RISS network for several years.
2. Establishment of secure law enforcement websites in each of the 13 states to permit the dissemination of sensitive information to authorized users.
3. Integration of restricted government information from the 13 states into a single database which can be accessed for criminal investigation purposes. As MATRIX participants, the GBI and the other states will be requested to provide FDLE with the following government databases:
 - Criminal History Records (restricted information in Georgia)
 - Sexual Offender Registry (public information in Georgia)

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- Drivers License Records (restricted information in Georgia)
- Motor Vehicle Registrations (restricted information in Georgia)
- Department of Corrections records (public information in Georgia)

FDLE will maintain confidentiality and security of these databases which can be accessed only by authorized law enforcement agencies conducting criminal investigations. Appropriate restrictive measures and audit trails will be established to control access and use.

Under provisions of the MATRIX grant, FDLE will contract with Seisint (private company) to integrate and manage the government information. Participating state investigative agencies can access the restricted government information as well as the public databases owned by Seisint. Such immediate and simultaneous access to such information will be of immense value to criminal investigators. FDLE has been employing this type of factual information analysis with tremendous success since the September 11 terrorist attacks.

If authorized by Governor Perdue, the GBI will coordinate the transfer of Georgia criminal history, drivers history, motor vehicle registration and Department of Corrections information to FDLE and the MATRIX project. Because the information will be used only for law enforcement purposes, it is the analysis of the GBI that no changes in existing laws are required to allow the transfer of this information. Further, I will execute the Memorandum of Understanding which restricts the information for law enforcement purposes.

The attached document further summarizes the MATRIX objectives. I am prepared to provide any additional information you or Governor Perdue may require.

Sincerely,



Vernon M. Keenan
Director

VMK/db

Attachment

cc: William W. Hitchens, Jr.
Director, Office of Homeland Security