

SEARCH Resolution 02-34

Of the Membership Group of SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics

January 13, 2002

Biometrics, Criminal History Record Information and Passenger Screening

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of the events of September 11, 2001 there are many proposals for the implementation of airline passenger screening systems;

WHEREAS, many of these proposals would require the use of a biometric to validate the identity of individuals participating in a passenger screening program;

WHEREAS, many of these proposals would require a criminal history record check as a part of a background check to help determine eligibility for enrollment in a passenger screening program; and

WHEREAS, many of these proposals call for a system in which individuals would become ineligible to participate in the system if, subsequent to their enrollment in this system, they had contact with the criminal justice system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Membership Group of SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics, that:

"The Congress, the Executive Branch and the airline industry is urged, if a passenger screening system is developed and if this system includes a national criminal history record check, which should include a biometric for identification purposes, that this biometric be a fingerprint so as to create a forensics functionality and so as to interface with existing criminal justice automated fingerprint identification systems containing digitized fingerprint information relating to millions of individuals; that, where feasible, enrollment in any passenger screening system that is created require a state initiated, fingerprint-supported criminal history record check; and, if a passenger screening system is developed, that the system interface with criminal justice in order to support post-enrollment reporting of participants' contact with the criminal justice system. The Congress, the Executive Branch and the airline industry is urged to recognize the anticipated increase in record checks will require upgrades to existing justice systems and will require funding assistance at state and local levels."