

SEARCH Resolution 02-36

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

July 21, 2002

State and Local Justice Information Systems and Homeland Security

WHEREAS, State and local justice information systems and the State central repositories possess comprehensive and important resources for use in the War on Terrorism;

WHEREAS, these resources include criminal history records, fingerprint and other positive identification capabilities, wants and warrants records, mug shot records, firearms records, domestic violence records, sex offender records, investigative records, communications networks and other communications resources; and expertise in the development, operation and use of the all of the above;

WHEREAS, these State and local resources can be combined with and coordinated with complementary resources provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the State and Federal intelligence community, the first responder community, and state Homeland Security offices and offices responsible for physical and cyber security; and

WHEREAS, the State central repositories and other State and local justice agencies and Federal and State agencies responsible for homeland security should work in partnership to apply these resources to the War on Terrorism;

WHEREAS, these resources are presently used primarily to prevent crime and mitigate risk and can be used to effectively aid in disaster recovery and first responder efforts.

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

“State and Federal agencies responsible for homeland security are urged to use State and local justice agency and State central repository expertise, networks and information, identification and communications resources to establish strategies and programs for use in the War on Terrorism; and that State and Federal agencies responsible for homeland security use these existing resources in order to avoid the unnecessary delay and expense of developing new and redundant systems; and that homeland security agencies, State legislatures and the Congress provide funding and other support for the continued development of the criminal justice information infrastructure, interoperability and integrated systems necessary to provide the tools to combat terrorism; and, further, that Federal agencies responsible for homeland security, publicize, encourage and promote the availability of these resources for use by State homeland security agencies and other agencies in the War on Terrorism.”