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Award-winning NJ Parole Board Project Helps Protect Police Nationally

TRENTON – Law enforcement officers in New Jersey and all over the nation are safer due to an award-winning system developed by the New Jersey State Parole Board (SPB.)

“The Supervised Release File Project” notifies officers nationwide in real time when they encounter one of the more than 15,000 individuals under parole supervision in New Jersey.

The project links the National Crime Information Center (NIC,) administered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and available to virtually all law enforcement agencies in the country, with the SPB’s Parole Board Information System, which contains names and case information about all New Jersey parolees.

“This initiative literally makes police throughout the country safer because they know immediately that they are dealing with someone with a criminal record,” said James T. Plousis, SPB chairman.

In March, the project was awarded the 2016 Technology Solutions Award in the public safety category by the national Public Technology Institute. The project was developed in collaboration with the NJ State Police (NJSP) and the NJ Division of Criminal Justice.

Using the linked systems, a police officer in California making a routine motor-vehicle stop, for example, can get near instant notification via a computer in his patrol car that the driver he has encountered is on parole in New Jersey. The system also immediately notifies the parole officer in New Jersey responsible for that parolee. Local officers can also directly query officers in New Jersey for additional information.

Since the system went on line in September, the SPB has received dozens of notifications daily from police agencies around the country in contact with New Jersey parolees.

As an added benefit, the computer infrastructure designed for the project will lend itself to expanded exchange of data in the future. For example, the names and identifying information about parolees gone missing in New Jersey can be added immediately to the NCIC. The new technology will also decrease reliance on older, less efficient technology.

“This is just the beginning. This project will allow the SPB to continually add to the tools we give our officers and their counterparts all over the United States,” said Jeremy Jedynak, chief information officer for the SPB.

The project was funded by grants of \$318,000 from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, awarded by the state Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Policy Advisory Committee, and \$190,000 from the Parole Board.

The award-winning project team included:

Jeremy Jedynak, CIO, SPB

Dennis MacPherson, IT Infrastructure Supervisor, SPB

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