

Source: Spinal Column Newsweekly

County getting federal funds to identify criminals

by Lisa Brody

December 30, 2009

The Oakland County Sheriff's Department has received a \$1.02 million appropriation from the federal government to help law enforcement officers identify criminals in the field.

U.S. Sens. Debbie Stabenow (D-Lansing) and Carl Levin (D-Detroit), and U.S. Reps. Gary Peters (D-Waterford, West Bloomfield, Orchard Lake) and Mike Rogers (D-Brighton) worked to secure the allocation for Oakland County.

The money is for the Oakland County Courts and Law Enforcement Management Information System (CLEMIS), a countywide system that shares and utilizes law enforcement and judicial information. The funding will be used for the enhancement of a biometric identification project to benefit a consortium of 1,055 law enforcement agencies across nine counties in southeastern Michigan. Over \$1 million will go to Oakland County for use in this project.

Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard said his department is the fiduciary agency for the appropriation, with CLEMIS serving as the operational organization.

The money will specifically help fund an upgrade of an existing palm print system, and streamline a LiveID application delivery method to over 3,500 patrol vehicles using the software in the field. It will also assist the sheriff's department in purchasing 62 portable devices to provide an "on-the-street" means of suspect identification through biometric technology.

"We serve (through CLEMIS) virtually every law enforcement agency in the county, which means every community is a benefactor," Bouchard said.

"This should identify and allow the arrest of more criminals, increasing public safety and law enforcement efficiency across southeastern Michigan," said Cullen Schwarz, a spokesperson for Peters.

"By combining and sharing the resources in the county, we've maximized the reduced resources for everyone, and made us very responsible," Bouchard said. "CLEMIS is a very forward-looking group. (This) recognizes one of the best law enforcement consortia in the country."