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Menomonee Falls Police Department Joins the WIJIS Justice Gateway

Members of the Menomonee Falls Police Department can now use the power of the internet to track down criminals and terror suspects after the department officially joined the Wisconsin Justice Information Sharing (WIJIS) Gateway, a statewide network that allows officers to electronically search the databases of other police departments across the state.

"The Menomonee Falls Police Department recognizes that information sharing enhances our ability to keep our community safe. By being connected to the WIJIS system, our officers will have access to information throughout the State that will foster better coordination and cooperation with other law enforcement jurisdictions. We look forward to fostering those relationships for the safety of all citizens in our community and around the State" said Menomonee Falls Police Chief Anna M. Ruzinski.

The Justice Gateway allows authorized users to electronically search the databases of law enforcement agencies throughout the area and state. The Menomonee Falls Police Department joins Brown Deer, Greenfield, Wauwatosa, Bayside, River Hills, Fox Point and over 100 other police and sheriff's departments across the state connected or in the process of connecting with the Gateway.

"Crime and criminals don't stay within jurisdictional boundaries," said OJA Executive Director and former Menomonee Falls Chief of Police David Steingraber. "The Justice Gateway ensures that critical justice data flows across these boundaries more quickly than the criminals do."

The Justice Gateway, developed and operated by the state using federal homeland security and justice funding, is a unique tool that allows police, prosecutors, and other justice officials to securely view each other's files and records. The WIJIS Program uses national standards such as the National Information Exchange Model coupled with the most advanced internet technologies to allow those computer systems to "talk" to each other seamlessly.

Currently, the Gateway has over 1,400 authorized users who can search over 2.3 million records. By the end of 2008, nearly 5,000 users will have access to close to 5 million records from 130 police and sheriff's departments. Data from 66 District Attorneys offices will also be available in 2008. For more information on the Gateway, visit www.oja.wi.gov/wijis or contact WIJIS Director Jim Pingel at wijis@wisconsin.gov.