



**For Immediate Release**  
January 29, 2008

Contact: Ryan Sugden, Office of Justice Assistance, 608-266-6476  
Officer Jennifer Mioduszewski, Bayside Police Department, 414-351-8800

## **Bayside Police Department Joins Information Sharing Network**

### ***River Hills, Fox Point Police Departments Also Join Statewide Initiative***

Last week, Village of Bayside Police Chief Bruce Resnick's vision became a reality. The Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance certified the Bayside Police Department as one of the first law enforcement agencies in the Milwaukee area to join the Justice Gateway, a statewide network that offers unprecedented levels of law enforcement information sharing. The Villages of River Hills and Fox Point also join the network as their records are stored on Bayside's server. In June, Wauwatosa became the first Milwaukee area police department to join. Brown Deer Police joined shortly after and the Greenfield Police Department connected its computer system to the Gateway in recent weeks.

The Justice Gateway, also referred to as Wisconsin Justice Information Sharing (or WIJIS) program was developed by and is operated by the state using federal homeland security and justice funding, is a tool that allows police, prosecutors and other justice officials to securely view each other's files and records. It allows various computer systems to "talk" to each other seamlessly. Authorized users are able to search the databases of law enforcement agencies throughout the state. With the addition of the Bayside, River Hills and Fox Point Police Departments, over 100 police and sheriff's departments across the state are connected or in the process of connecting with the Gateway. There are nearly 1,200 authorized users able to search over 1.8 million records. By the end of 2008 up to 5,000 users will have access to almost 5 million records from 130 police and sheriff's departments. Data from 66 District Attorneys Offices will also become available in 2008.

"This is an important and long overdue step in information sharing, providing valuable tools to law enforcement that will bring unique efficiencies to the law enforcement workplace," said Bayside Police Chief Bruce Resnick. "The Office of Justice Assistance should be commended for their leadership role in bringing this technology to fruition." Chief Resnick has long stressed the need for greater information sharing among police departments-especially in a metropolitan area like Milwaukee, where gang members and other criminal suspects can easily cross municipal boundaries.

"Crime and criminals don't stay within jurisdictional boundaries" said OJA Executive Director David Steingraber. "The Justice Gateway ensures that critical justice data flows across these boundaries more quickly than the criminals do." For more information on the Gateway, visit [OJA.wi.gov/WIJIS](http://OJA.wi.gov/WIJIS) or contact WIJIS Director Jim Pingel at [wijis@wisconsin.gov](mailto:wijis@wisconsin.gov).