

LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

RELEASE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION



Larry Campbell, Sheriff

Leon County Sheriff's Office
2825 Municipal Way Tallahassee, FL 32304
(850) 922-3300
www.leoncountytso.com

DATE: 4/26/2010

Leon County Sheriff's Office Joins ICE Secure Communities Initiative to Enhance Identification and Removal of Criminal Aliens

Recently the Leon County Sheriff's Office successfully implemented a new information-sharing capability made available by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) -- called Secure Communities -- that will help identify and remove criminal aliens from the United States. The Leon County Sheriff's Office, along with law enforcement agencies in Escambia, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Polk, Sarasota, and Volusia counties will now use the system to check the criminal and immigration records of everyone arrested and booked into jail via the Secure Communities initiative.

"We want to make sure that our local law enforcement partners know as much as possible about the people in their custody," said David Bradley, ICE's acting deputy field office director for Miami Field Office of Detention and Removal, the office overseeing the Secure Communities initiative in Florida.

Previously, local arrestees' fingerprints were taken and checked for criminal history information against the Department of Justice's Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS) maintained by the FBI. Now, as part of the Secure Communities strategy, fingerprint information submitted by the Leon County Sheriff's Office will now be simultaneously checked against both the FBI criminal history records in IAFIS and the biometrics-based immigration records in the Department of Homeland Security's Automated Biometric Identification System (IDENT).

"Secure Communities is about information sharing and will reduce allegations of racial and ethnic profiling. This is not a random sampling of fingerprints submitted by officers on the street. The fingerprints of every person arrested and booked into the Leon County Jail will be checked against immigration records" said Sheriff Larry Campbell. "The use of Secure Communities means criminal aliens can no longer hide behind a long list of aliases."

"The Secure Communities strategy provides local law enforcement with an effective tool to identify criminal aliens," said Secure Communities Executive Director David Venturella. "Enhancing public safety is at the core of ICE's mission. Our goal is to use biometric information sharing to prevent criminal aliens from being released back into the community, with little or no additional burden on our law enforcement partners."

Sgt. Tony Drzewiecki, Public Information Officer
Office-(850) 922-0732 Fax-(850) 410-2960
DrzewieT@leoncountyfl.gov

