



Hon. Robin Pavia
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CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

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RE: Criminal Justice Information System Access

Dear CJIS-CT Governing Board,

We are writing on behalf of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission to request that the Commission be authorized to become a User of the Connecticut Information Sharing System (CISS) and Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS).

As you know the Sentencing Commission is a criminal justice agency under CGS §54-300(n). Furthermore, under CGS §54-300(i), "the commission shall have access to confidential information received by sentencing courts and the Board of Pardons and Paroles including, but not limited to, arrest data, criminal history records, medical records and other nonconviction information."

The Commission's capacity to respond to its mission under CGS §54-300 to review, research, and make recommendations concerning the state's criminal justice system, would be greatly enhanced with access to CISS data. The prospect of the Commission being a CISS user has been explored since our inception and was the topic of former CJIS Executive Director Sean Thakkar's presentation at the Commission's second meeting on April 28, 2011. Now that the reality of being a user has come to fruition, granting this status to the Commission and gaining access to the defined data reports produced by CISS on a regular basis such as Pending Charges by Defendant, Controlling Offenses by Inmate, Sentencing, Arrests, Sentence Modification and Bond Reporting, would allow the Commission to make important decisions about pending and new projects to improve the State's criminal justice system.

The Sentencing Commission has already worked with CJIS the past. Its staff have been working to obtain data through CJIS per Special Act No. 19-17, *An Act Concerning a Study of the Disparities in Pretrial and Sentencing Outcomes of Criminal Defendants*. The Special Act charged the Commission with studying potential disparities in pretrial and sentencing outcomes related to the racial, ethnic, gender and socioeconomic status of a criminal defendants. In addition, the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP) that staffs the Sentencing Commission has routinely worked with CJIS on

behalf of the Office of Policy and Management. As one example, IMRP staff have worked with CJIS to help oversee the design, evaluation, and management of the racial profiling study mandated by state statute. This novel approach to collecting and analyzing traffic stop data for evidence of disparate treatment is widely considered to be a national model of best practice.

We thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with the Governing Board in an effort to continue to improve the state's criminal justice system.

Sincerely,

Honorable Robin Pavia
Chair

Alex Tsarkov
Executive Director