

Law Enforcement Support Agency – Program Narrative

CAT. I: Comprehensive Community-Based Data-Driven Approaches to Preventing and Reducing Violent Crime

L.A.R.I.A.T. – LESA’s Accelerated Response using Integrated Analysis & Technology

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM: The Law Enforcement Support Agency (LESA) provides integrated 9-1-1 communications, records management and information technology for a consortium of 15 local and federal agencies that collectively employ 2,000 law enforcement users serving over 800,000 citizens in Pierce County, and supports task forces with members from the 34 local, state, tribal and federal agencies in the county. With respect to crime in Washington state, Pierce County is best known for two interrelated statistics: (1) the highest violent crime rate and (2) the lowest officer-to-citizen staffing ratios. Under the current economy, officer-to-citizen staffing ratios remain low and many LESA agencies face layoffs.

The violent crime rate in Pierce County, the second most populated county in the state, has become one of the most urgent issues for elected officials and citizens. Indeed, the crime rate is 62% higher than the statewide average for counties, and local citizen surveys have made safety from crime the number one issue for government. Although municipalities and the county have tried to increase the tax base to provide for more criminal justice resources, those efforts are undermined by regional differences. For example, King County is the most populated county in the state and is Pierce County’s neighbor to the north. Businesses and residents are reluctant to re-locate to Pierce County due to a violent crime rate that is 32% higher than in King County (includes Seattle), and 20% higher than the average for the 13 states that define the FBI’s “Western Region” of the United States.

As demonstrated in similar projects, a significant reduction in crime rates, especially violent crime rates, can be achieved by providing key information to responding officers while a crime is still in progress. This includes linking relevant video, text, data and tips from communities and businesses with critical solvability information (clues on suspect identity and associated vehicles, locations, persons and phones) buried deep in existing disparate and unconnected law enforcement and other data warehouses. If links are made during the “*golden hour*” when a crime is still fresh, these critical connections will empower responding officers with the information they need to make immediate arrests before the violent criminal can strike again, and will enable potential victim individuals, neighborhoods and businesses to not only alert police officers more quickly to save lives and property, but also provide additional reliable and detailed information that will increase successful prosecutions of violent criminals.

USDOT’s Next Generation 9-1-1 Initiative and Washington State’s Task Force on Next Generation 9-1-1 will soon require LESA to have the capability to receive reports of 9-1-1 emergencies from other than the traditional phone call. These initiatives arose as a result of events like the Virginia Tech shooting where text messages to the local 9-1-1 center were later found on the cell phones of students killed in the shooting. The messages went nowhere because the 9-1-1 center could not process text messages. This is just one example of where police could have responded far more rapidly and effectively if all relevant data was being provided to them in real time. Recent pilot studies indicate that adding video and text reporting to 9-1-1 will increase data flow and workload by 33%. Current 9-1-1 centers do not have the staffing levels or expertise to process this heavy workload with sufficient speed to enable a quick police response.

In order to solve these problems and successfully interdict violent crime, LESA requests funding from the Department of Justice’s *Recovery Act: Edward Byrne Memorial Grant*

Program to implement **LESA's Accelerated Response using Integrated Analysis and Technology (LARIAT)** as the solution. LARIAT would create jobs and preserve existing jobs by immediately hiring an experienced staff of two (2) crime analysts, seven (7) tactical analysis coordinators, and one (1) program manager from established employment eligibility lists to perform crime analysis, data mining and data correlation in real time as crimes are in progress.

PROGRAM DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION. The LARIAT Center can be started immediately upon notification of the grant award, and commences with the hiring of two (2) crime analysts, seven (7) tactical analysis coordinators, and one (1) program manager from eligible applicants who have successfully completed initial application and testing. Located in available space within the existing LESA 9-1-1 Call Center, LARIAT would begin immediate base level operations, rapidly adding additional capability as set forth in the timeline. LARIAT's placement in the Center is deliberate and critical to the emergency response nature of the program. The space will be large enough for the placement of large LCD-type displays, interactive situational data display screens and radio, telephone and Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) stations with enhanced Geographic Information Services (GIS) and data mining capabilities. In some respects, the design will mirror the existing Real Time Crime Centers used by the police departments of New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston and Memphis. LESA staff has already made site visits to NYPD and Memphis and researched the others to develop a "blending" of the best features of these existing centers. However, LARIAT is not a "carbon copy" of any existing Real Time Crime Center, but is a deliberate shift in design to allow small and medium-sized local, state and federal law enforcement to share such a resource on a regional basis. LARIAT is also unique in the depth of its expanded community-based partnership and its direct overlay, interface and incorporation into 9-1-1 operations on a 24x7x365 basis.

Data-Driven Analysis & Intervention: The Center will conduct regional data-driven crime analysis and geo-profiling utilizing the data mining capabilities of LESA's *Force Blue NET Suite* (Appendix B); the link/nodal analysis of the *Federal LInX Northwest* system (Appendix C); and joint community/police real-time databases to empower responding officers with instantly actionable leads such as associating eyewitness-provided partial data on license plates, tattoos and street names with known persons, phones, associates and locations; vectoring officers to domestic violence/violent crime alerts; conducting time sensitive geo-profiling on known parolees, sex offenders and gang members to isolate possible suspects; and other advanced data-driven services resulting in quicker apprehension and fewer crimes.

Community-Based Technology-Assisted Intervention: Highly-advanced, technically-supported intervention through the monitoring of integrated video and text feeds from multiple community sources. This includes instant alerts by frequently victimized persons or places with small hand-carried GPS-based alarms (*ALERT Blue* – Appendix D); identification and tracking of suspects [through facial recognition, license plate recognition, GPS (*TRACK Blue*– Appendix D); video and display technology (LESA's *FOCUS Blue*– Appendix D); and incorporation of video from citizens, neighborhood organizations, businesses and other agencies] effectively creating a region-wide “cyber block watch” that is also mobile for major incidents.

The LARIAT Center will continually monitor incoming 9-1-1 calls, and will have the same access to the “emergency alert” tone as police officers in the field. Once a caller initiates a report into the 9-1-1 call center, the LARIAT staff does a brief triage to see if the call is of a nature that would benefit from LARIAT assistance. For example, following a report of a domestic violence incident in progress, LARIAT staff would do a quick work up on the suspect – including such vital information as previous law enforcement contacts, the existence of any court-issued

protection orders, and the existence of any arrest warrants for the suspect – while simultaneously cueing up any registered video cameras with a view. In addition, when domestic violence or other suspects flee a scene, LARIAT would continue to provide assistance by creating detailed localized maps and imagery with suggested perimeter lines for responding officers to contain the scene and make capture possible. This map would be proactively “pushed” to responding officers, along with any available booking photo to help make a positive identification.

Variances in the level and type of assistance would change depending on the type of emergency call and the level of information needed. For example, in the case of a missing child, LARIAT would immediately push a map of the area, highlighting the last known location of registered sex offenders in the area, along with booking photos. Or in a bank robbery, LARIAT would bring up video from the bank’s own video system and take a “snapshot” of the suspect’s face. This snapshot would then be examined (using facial recognition software) against the quarter million booking photos available for a possible match against a known subject. Even without a match, the photo would be pushed to all patrol and detective vehicles responding to the scene – a tremendous and immediate lead that would be used in a neighborhood canvass in the event that the subject had left the bank but could still be in the area on foot or had boarded a bus. An added bonus: The LARIAT Center would be used as the collection and analysis point for telephoned tips in an on-going and high-profile serial crime series. The Center could also be used as a 24-hour GIS monitoring point for parolees and sex offenders wearing court-ordered monitoring devices. These are just a few examples.

The heart of the community-based data-driven process will be managed by crime analysts with the assistance of the program coordinator. The greater Pierce County community (split among the various partnering police agencies) maintains nearly 2,000 community block watches,

neighborhood councils and other organizations dedicated to interactively working with police to reduce crime and increase the feeling of safety. Using the various techniques available to the analyst, including a GIS-driven alerting system known as CEWS (Crime Early Warning System - Appendix F), crime-related information will be “pushed” via email to the block watch captains for distribution to the entire neighborhood, and citizens and neighborhood organizations will alert LARIAT of concerns or suspicious activity via a web-drive program known as TIPS (Appendix E), as well by enabling LARIAT access to their own web or security cameras.

CAPABILITIES & COMPETENCIES. Since 1974, LESA has grown to be the largest Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) in Washington state and is the only agency of its kind to provide law enforcement support in three operational divisions: 9-1-1 Communications, Records Management and Information Technology. LESA maintains a close working relationship with its 15 law enforcement partners. In 2007, LESA hosted a strategic planning summit attended by over 70 staff members of LESA’s participating agencies, at which the creation of an entity like LARIAT was identified as one of the most pressing strategic needs. LARIAT has the unanimous support of all 34 local, state, tribal, and federal agencies in the county (Appendix A).

LARIAT is also a community-based effort. When domestic violence became an intolerable issue in Pierce County, several local agencies banded together to create the Crystal Judson Family Justice Center, which is partnered with LESA in this effort. The Family Justice Center has received national awards and recognition for its innovative approach. Similarly, LESA is partnered with Safe Streets, the lead organization representing the interests of over 2,000 community block watches, neighborhood councils and concerned businesses.

Crime Analysts will perform traditional crime analysis functions as well as act as coordinators for regional crime analysis and task for support including neighboring counties.

Finally, Tactical Analysis Coordinators will be experienced former law enforcement personnel who perform the day-to-day tactical informational support (video, text, voice) 24x7x365 basis.

IMPACT/OUTCOMES, EVALUATION, SUSTAINMENT, DATA COLLECTION

PLAN FOR PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT DATA COLLECTION: LESA certifies a willingness and capacity to participate in an evaluation to be managed by the National Institute of Justice. Success of this concept is demonstrated by similar programs in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, and Memphis.

Impact/Outcomes, Evaluation and Data Collection: All data collected will be reported quarterly as required. Reporting will be done as per the timeline in Attachment 4. Evaluation will be based on benchmarking and data collection:

Community-Based: Number and effectiveness of community based partnerships. Periodic surveys of citizens, businesses, neighborhoods and law enforcement officers.

Preserve and Create Jobs: Create three (3) new positions – a Program Coordinator and two (2) Crime Analysts – and preserve seven (7) existing positions in the form of Tactical Analysis Coordinators. Tactical Analysis Coordinators will be recruited from senior detectives who are about to retire from active service. Their retirement will preserve the jobs of the seven least senior officers among the various partner police agencies who will likely face layoffs in the coming year – without a dramatic budgetary turnaround.

Data-driven reduction in Violent Crime: UCR/IBR statistics on violent crimes, violent crime arrests, violent crime prosecutions, number and success of LARIAT interventions, and the number, frequency and use of databases, video, text and other data streams.

Sustainability: Full sustainability is based on the experiences of five other similar centers throughout the country in obtaining follow-on public and private funding. A Sales Tax Ballot

Measure is slated for 2010 which would result in \$12.5 million in estimated annual revenue for Pierce County emergency communications as well as another \$1.5 million in estimated annual revenue for 9-1-1 operations as a result of 2010 excise tax amendment. Non-tax based sources of revenue include contracting with additional law enforcement agencies and/or continued attempts to secure funding through private and public grants including tribal grants. Similar centers have received funding from grants and local business improvement districts. Microsoft, Boeing, and major banks would benefit directly and their financial partnership will be fully explored.