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Greetings from the Governor

August 19, 2003

As Governor, I am pleased to extend greetings to you as a member of the Washington Integrated Justice Information Board. Your efforts will have a significant and positive impact on public safety in our state.

Since the mid-1980s, the executive and judicial branches of state and local governments have worked collaboratively in the Justice Information Network (JIN). Its objective is to provide authorized criminal justice professionals in Washington with complete, timely and accurate information on any suspect or offender, including the person's criminal history and current status. The goal is to enter the data only once and have it be available in a single computer session through automated statewide systems.

In demonstration of its support, the Legislature established the Integrated Justice Information Board to provide formal governance and direction for the Justice Information Network. As you begin your work, you will build upon the accomplishments of the former Criminal Justice Information Act Executive Committee. One of its notable achievements was a 1998 memorandum of understanding among state agencies and local government associations. The document, which remains in effect, states, "No JIN-related system or component will be designed, developed, or integrated into the network without effective participation of the state and local stakeholders." Agencies within my cabinet will continue partnering with the judiciary, local governments and other key entities in seeing this project fully realized.

Although I am heartened by the progress we have made to date, much remains to be done. I encourage you to press forward to ensure the success of this endeavor, including efforts to increase federal funding and make the most effective use of limited state and local resources.

I look forward to being kept apprised of your progress, and especially to receiving your September 2004 report. Thank you for your commitment to making Washington's communities safer through enhanced integration of automated justice information.

Sincerely,

Gary Locke
Governor