

# City of Cincinnati



Interdepartmental  
Correspondence Sheet

Date: 2/5/07

To: Colonel Thomas H. Streicher, Jr., Police Chief  
From: Captain Stephen G. Luebbe, Commander, Criminal Investigation Section  
Copies to:  
Subject: FINANCIAL CRIMES 4th QUARTER PROBLEM SOLVING REPORT 2006

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Category: Program / Project      Case #:      District:      Neighborhood: All

Tri-State Area: Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky  
Surrounding area: World WideWeb

Coordinating Personnel: Sergeant Jamel Smith, Supervisor, Financial Crimes Squad

Description of Problem: Project Identity Theft

Phase of SARA: Assessment

## SARA Documentation

Scanning (state problem): Program/Project Identity Theft

Analysis (identify factual support): Problem Scope:

### 1. Project Identity Theft - Other: Fraudulent Offenses

#### a. What exactly is the problem?

Identity theft occurs when a criminal obtains and uses someone else's personal information, such as credit card numbers, bank statements, checks, insurance information and other forms of ID to steal from citizens, businesses, or the government or otherwise fraudulently portray themselves as another.

#### b. Who is involved?

i. Victims: The elderly make up 41% of the victims, though we have reports from victims between 15 and 92.

ii. Offenders: There is no clear profile of someone committing Identity Theft Crimes. Offenders come from all walks of life.

#### c) When does the problem occur?

Identity Theft offenses are constant and on-going (It occurs 24 hours a day.)

#### d) Why is this a problem? What are the consequences?

In this age of information criminals can acquire personal information much easier than before. The consequence is that it opens the door for all types of fraudulent activity and cyber-crimes to occur.

### 2. Were any "best practices" resources utilized? Was any research done to combat the problem/concern? (via <http://192.168.100.200/cpop/library.aspx>).

- Best practices - Yes. The Ohio Attorney General brought together a coalition of agencies with the special mission of helping victims through a program called the Identity Theft Verification Passport Program.

### 3. What is the goal or end result expected?

Under the Passport Program, victims reporting Identity Theft to local authorities are given step-by-step instructions about how to alert creditors to fraudulent activity in their names and simple fill-in-the-blank affidavits to send to credit bureaus, creditors and law enforcement agencies to establish conclusive proof that they have been the victim of a crime.

Response (define action taken):

1. Recommended specific actions that address problems / concerns for the reporting quarter:
  - Educate the citizens on preventative actions against Identity Theft. Make people more aware of basic information that is needed to protect their credit and personal information. Once the criminal offense has been committed, aggressively investigate it to find the source and method of operation and liaison with applicable law enforcement agencies to disrupt the continuing offenses and/or apprehend the offenders.

2. Actions actually taken:

In January of 2005, the Cincinnati Police Department collaborated with the Ohio Attorney General's Office to assist with the Identity Theft Verification Passport Program. The Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG) a special web site for law enforcement across Ohio to share information. Basic information is entered into OHLEG sharing it with all Ohio law enforcement agencies. The Attorney General's Office verifies the information and issues a Passport card with a unique identifying number. The Passport card assist those victims that had their information fraudulently taken. This program is very effective within the state of Ohio, and assists those that have had problems rebuilding their credit.

a) Resources / Sections / Unit utilized:

The Attorney General's Office, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, F.B.I., U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Internal Revenue Service, and Hamilton County Sheriff's Department.

Assessment (document measurement):

1. Progress made toward identified problems / concerns:
  - a. Measurement of progress:
    - i. Arrests:  
0
    - ii. Property / Contraband confiscated:  
0
  - b. Degree of success:  
Problem Reduced

**Police Participation: Multiple Bureaus**

Specific Feedback:

The number of ID thefts reported to the Financial Crimes Squad was down 38% during 2006. The primary reason that Financial Crimes Unit has seen a large reduction in reported offenses basically was the way the reports were classified in files/data base. Cases deemed unsolvable such as informational cases go without being investigated for reason such as: no suspect, jurisdiction of offense, reports generated for Financial Institution loss of funds, and theft of energy services. Identity Theft is on the rise through out the state of Ohio. Large cities such as Dayton, Columbus and Cleveland all report increases in fraudulent activity, however they classify the offenses differently. During 2006 Financial Crimes investigated more high profile cases of fraud and embezzlement cases than previous years.

**City Department Participation**

Specific Feedback

- Buildings and Inspections
- Community Development & Planning
- Fire Department
- Health
- Metropolitan Sewer District
- Parks
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation & Engineering
- Water Works