Nevada Department of PUBLIC SAFETY
Dedication, Pride, Service

DATE: 5/25/07

TO: Captain PK O'Neill
CC: Mindy McKay, Julie Butler, Catherine Krause, Stan Shafer, Jaleth Rivas

FROM: Josh Porter

SUBJECT: SEARCH Survey Results

In April of 2007 SEARCH performed a national survey of US state's and territories' criminal justice and non-criminal justice (i.e. civil and referred to as such from this point forth) fingerprint criminal history record checks done in 2006. 43 states and Puerto Rico responded. Using the data provided by SEARCH and population data from the US Census Bureau a per 100 population ratio was created to rank the respondent states. Below is a summary of the results:

Civil Based Background Checks

Nevada's Population Percentage to the Total of Participating States: 1%

Total Civil Background Checks Performed: 6,639,441
Nevada Civil Background Checks Performed: 163,681
Nevada's Percentage of Civil Background Checks Performed: 2.5%

Top 5 Civil History Checks per 100 Population

1) Nevada   7 per 100
2) Florida   6 per 100
3) California   5 per 100
4) Arizona   4 per 100
5) Idaho   4 per 100

Average National Civil History Checks per State: 2 per 100 Population

Nevada's Average Civil Response time for non electronic submissions in 4th Quarter FY 2006   53.27 days
Nevada's Average Civil Response time for non electronic submissions in 3rd Quarter FY 2007   31.28 days
Nevada's Average Civil Response Time for Electronic submissions has remained under 2 days for the year.

This survey places Nevada as the highest producer of per population civil fingerprint background checks and 3.5 times higher than the national average.

Criminal Fingerprint Based Background Checks

Nevada's Population Percentage to the Total of Participating States: 1%

Total Criminal Background Checks Performed: 9,101,485
Nevada Criminal Background Checks Performed: 74,269
Nevada's Percentage of Criminal Background Checks: 1%

Top 5 Criminal History Checks per 100 Population

1) Nebraska   37 per 100*
2) Florida   6 per 100
3) Illinois   6 per 100
4) Georgia   6 per 100
5) Colorado   6 per 100
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28) Nevada   3 per 100

Average National Criminal History Checks: 4 per 100 Population

Nevada's Average Response time for manual submissions in 4th Quarter FY 2006   34.09 days
Nevada's Average Response time for manual submissions in 3rd Quarter FY 2007   40.25 days
Nevada's Average Response Time for Electronic submissions has remained under 2 days for the year.

* I believe this to be an error in data entry from the source or an outlier.

Criminal and Civil Fingerprint Based Background Checks

Nevada's Population Percentage to the Total of Participating States: 1%

Total Criminal and Civil Background Checks Performed: 15,902,638
Nevada Criminal and Civil Background Checks Performed: 237,950
Nevada's Percentage of Criminal and Civil Background Checks: 1.5%

Top 5 Total Criminal and Civil History Checks per 100 Population

1) Nebraska   38 per 100*
2) New Hampshire   12 per 100**
3) Florida   12 per 100
4) Nevada   10 per 100
5) Idaho   9 per 100

Average National Criminal and Non-Criminal History Checks: 6 per 100 Population

* I believe this to be an error in data entry from the source or an outlier.
** No breakdown of criminal/non-criminal exists, labeled as 2006 total, additional data not available at this time.

Summary

The survey shows that Nevada is the leading per person conductor of Civil Fingerprint Based Background Checks for the year 2006. This is impressive as Nevada barely makes up a percentage of the country's population. Also, it should be noted that other than Nevada only 9 other states perform more civil checks than criminal.