

On April 15, 2010, Colonel Thomas W. Rice (retired) forwarded this letter to ODPS Director Cathy Collins-Taylor supporting her decision and commitment not to pursue a consolidation of the LEADS system with the ODPS Information Technology Section.

April 15th, 2010

Director Cathy Collins-Taylor
Ohio Department of Public Safety
1970 West Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43223-1102

Dear Director Collins-Taylor:

Thank you very much for making the management decision not to consolidate the LEADS system, currently under the control of the Superintendent of the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the LEADS Steering Committee, into the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Information Technology section, and for providing a copy of the Technical Assistance Report: Ohio Department of Public Safety- Information Technology Assessment: Making More Efficient Use of IT Resources, completed by SEARCH- The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics, dated February 12, 2010, for our review and evaluation.

I recently had an opportunity to meet privately with Governor Ted Strickland and he also assured me the control and management of the LEADS system would remain where it has been for the last 46 years. We also appreciate your staff removing the description of LEADS from ODPS Administration/IT page on the Department's website. After a thorough review and analysis of the SEARCH report by several former members of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, with many years of experience with the operation of the LEADS system and the LEADS Steering Committee, we have serious concerns about the report. In short, our analysis takes exception with the report's: Observations, Analysis, Findings and Recommendations; however, since you do not plan to make any changes with LEADS we will not discuss our objections at this time.

We were disappointed that the SEARCH Report failed to list the other states where alternative approaches (referring to FBI and CJIS specific requirements) are in place in managing similar data information systems. If you know or come across this information we would appreciate you letting us know so we may research the efficiency and effectiveness of these state systems.

Again, thank you for making the decision not to consolidate LEADS under the ODPS/Administration/IT section.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Rice