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Edward A. Flynn
Secretary of Public Safety
Executive Office of Public Safety
One Ashburton Place, Room 2113
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Public Records Request

Dear Secretary Flynn:

This is a request under the Public Records Law, G.L. c. 66, § 10, for records made or received by the Executive Office of Public Safety concerning (a) the planning for, establishment and funding of a "fusion center" for the collection of intelligence and other information by agencies of the government of Massachusetts, and (b) other measures addressing intelligence gathering by state and local officials.

In the State Homeland Security Strategy prepared by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and approved by the Office of Domestic Preparedness in February 2004, the Commonwealth announced its plan to establish a "24/7 information fusion center maintained by the Massachusetts State Police Criminal Intelligence Section," which would work closely with the Joint Terrorism Task Force, to collect data on a wide range of subjects, including but not limited to threat and vulnerability, terrorism, public safety, law enforcement, public health, social service, public works and transportation. The creation of the fusion center follows closely the recommendation made by Governor Romney in December 2004 as the chair of the DHS Homeland Security Advisory Council's Intelligence and Information Sharing Working Group, that "[s]tatewide intelligence/information fusion centers should be an important part of national intelligence/ information sharing efforts" and recommended that "[e]ach state should establish and information center that serves as a 24/7 'all source,' multi-disciplinary, information fusion center" which would work cooperatively with government and private sector information sources.

While one goal of such fusion centers is to provide a single conduit for intelligence provided by federal agencies, they have been variously described as having substantial and independent intelligence and information gathering responsibilities. Indeed, in announcing what was described as the unveiling of the fusion center this morning, the Governor stated that "We have so many sources of information: local law enforcement, MBTA Police, National Guard, private sector, private security firms, individual citizens who see things. That information

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