Justice Information Sharing Solutions Implementation Program FY14
Concept Paper

Lead Agency:
The Orlando Police Department (OPD) will serve as the lead agency for the Justice Information Sharing Solutions grant project. OPD will use grant funding to address the *data analytics priority area*, through the implementation of a social media monitoring tool that will enhance crime analysis and data analysis conducted by regional law enforcement partners in Central Florida.

Crime Problem:
Central Florida has seen a rise in violent criminals also committing property crimes. It is believed that these suspects are turning to crimes with a perceived lower risk of imprisonment. There have been several cases in which robbery suspects in one jurisdiction have also been identified as suspects in crime rings committing grand thefts in jurisdictions throughout the region. In some cases, these crime rings are operating in multiple states throughout the nation. Cross-agency information sharing and social media have both played an essential role in investigating these cases and successfully identifying these suspects.

The number of crime guns seized is an indicator of the potential for violent crime in the community. Between 2012 and 2013, OPD saw a 25% increase in the number of crime guns seized. These firearms are often stolen during residential and commercial burglaries and later used in violent crimes. During the last few years, the number of both violent and property crimes in Orlando has remained high. In 2013, there were 2,316 violent crimes and 16,489 property crimes. In 2012, the crime rate per 100,000 in Orlando was 7,665.8, which is double the rate for the state of Florida (3,805.5). Throughout Central Florida, there were 19,107 violent crimes and 124,529 property crimes in 2012. Local agencies believe that an untold number of these crimes are linked to the same groups of career offenders who commit multiple types of offenses.

Project Management:
OPD proposes to oversee the acquisition and implementation of a social media monitoring tool to enhance investigations of both violent crimes and property crimes. This tool will enable information sharing between the City of Orlando and partner agencies on the local homicide task force – the Joint Homicide Investigative Team (JHIT) and at the local fusion center, the Central Florida Intelligence Exchange (CFIX).

JHIT is a cross-agency collaboration involving 12 local law enforcement agencies. Detectives from partner agencies are located at OPD headquarters, and jointly investigate homicides throughout Central Florida. This collaboration facilitates sharing of information, resources and investigative experience, and has resulted in 33 solved homicides in the past two years.

Based in Orlando, CFIX houses 15 agencies including the Federal Bureau of Investigation; Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; Department of Homeland Security; Internal Revenue Service; Florida Department of Law Enforcement; Seminole County Sheriff's Office; Osceola County Sheriff's Office; OPD and private sector partners. CFIX serves a nine-county region including Brevard, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Volusia,

Seminole, St. Lucie, Martin, and Indian River Counties. Currently, an OPD lieutenant serves as the Deputy Director of CFIX.

While OPD would serve as the lead agency for the grant, governance and key decision-making would be coordinated with the CFIX Governance Board and agency partners. OPD would coordinate execution of deliverables, and track and report project outcomes and outputs.

A key outcome of this program will be increasing the number of agencies using the social media monitoring tool, and the number of agencies sharing intelligence gathered from the tool. It is expected that one of the ultimate outcomes will be a greater number of investigations that incorporate information gathered using the tool.

Proposed Solution:
Social media has proven to be an effective crime-fighting tool in violent crime and related property crimes. OPD, in collaboration with other jurisdictions, has used information from Twitter, Facebook and iCloud to identify suspects in robbery cases and related auto theft and grand theft cases. In many cases, suspects have posted images of themselves with stolen property using social media. This information has enabled investigators to link these suspects to multiple cases across jurisdictions.

In order to address these crime problems using a regional approach, OPD proposes to implement a social media monitoring tool to collect and share information among OPD, the Joint Homicide Investigation Team (JHIT) and members of the local fusion center, the Central Florida Intelligence Exchange (CFIX). Through integration with the fusion center, this tool will enable information sharing among not only local law enforcement but also federal and state agencies.

A social media monitoring tool shared by fusion center members and task force partners will significantly enhance the Central Florida region's crime-fighting capabilities by enabling agencies to better harness "big data" available through social media, and by dedicating staff and resources to strategic analysis of this data. Currently, there is not a concerted effort to monitor social media among law enforcement agencies in Central Florida. Two local agencies, in addition to OPD, have begun to use social media monitoring on a limited basis. However, the information gathered from these tools is not systematically shared across agencies.

Both JHIT and CFIX have established policies and procedures to facilitate information sharing. A grant through the Justice Information Sharing (JIS) Solutions Implementation Program would enable this region to build upon the infrastructure and policies that are already in place.

A social media monitoring tool would enable Crime Analysts to create alerts based on geographic boundaries and key words. The tool captures events taking place on social media, including tweets and Facebook posts, and enables users to search historical records. This would enhance investigations by gathering and filtering potentially relevant information about crimes that have occurred. It is also expected to help prevent crimes by alerting law enforcement about planned criminal activity.

The tools that OPD has researched offer various pricing levels, based on the amount of events (e.g., tweets or Facebook posts) and number of subjects (e.g., individual users) that are monitored. The level that would best serve the nine-county Central Florida region is estimated at $212,400. Grant funds would be used to purchase this level of access for staff members in the Crime Analysis Unit of the Orlando Police Department, as well as JHIT and CFIX.

Grant funding would also be used to hire two contract Crime Analysts to manage alerts and information gathered using social media monitoring. One Crime Analyst would support OPD's investigations and JHIT homicide investigations. Funds would also be used to equip this contract staff member with a GIS-capable computer to enable them to use mapping software to analyze the data gathered using the social media monitoring tool.

The second Crime Analyst would be onsite at the CFIX, and would be dedicated to assisting member agencies with using the social media monitoring tool. This staff member would serve as an onsite coordinator to help ensure maximal use of this tool.

OPD has tested various social media monitoring tools, and is planning to pilot a tool in 2014. Grant funding would be used to expand and enhance this program to develop a regional effort.

As a member of the National Fusion Center Association, CFIX adheres to the National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan and models its policies to align with the Global Standards Package (GSP), including the National Information Exchange Model and the Global Reference Architecture. The proposed technology solution will leverage the GSP by integrating with applicable components. The grantee will work closely with the BJA-designated technical assistance provider to ensure that the social media monitoring project is aligned with the justice information sharing standards provided by the GSP.

Budget Summary:

Category	Amount
A. **Personnel** – *2 Crime Analysts at $42,848 annually*	$85,696
B. **Fringe Benefits**	$7,104
C. **Travel** – *Required 2-day training in Washington D.C. x 4 team members*	$3,780
D. **Equipment**	$0
E. **Supplies** – *GIS computer ($4,000) and related software ($14,300)*	$18,300
F. **Construction**	$0
G. **Consultants/Contracts** – *Social media monitoring tool subscription*	$212,400
H. **Other**	$0
Total:	**$327,280**