



Sheriff's Office Participating In New Child Identification Project

Submitted by Onondaga County Sheriff's Office

SYRACUSE, NY - The Onondaga County Sheriff's Office is participating in a new national program unveiled Tuesday that is designed to help identify and locate missing children and adults through the use of iris biometric recognition technology.

"I commend the Nation's Missing Children Organization and National Center for Missing Adults for developing The Children's Identification and Location Database Project (www.thechildproject.org) and I look forward to participating in this effort to protect the children and families of Onondaga County." sheriff Kevin Walsh announced Tuesday. "I congratulate them on the formal kick-off of the system today in Phoenix, Ariz., and look forward to brining this technology to Onondaga County."

The sheriff's office is currently working with the national organization to secure funding for the CHILD Project through grant applications and hopes to receive the system, at no cost to the taxpayers of the county, in the near future.

The CHILD Project is a secure network and registry available to law enforcement and social services agencies across the nation that is designed to give authorized users access to data that can positively identify children in seconds. Iris recognition biometric technology determines the identity of an individual by capturing a high-resolution digital photograph of an individual's iris. The technology can tell the difference between twins or even an individual's right and left eye. The technology is non-intrusive capable of capturing an image of the iris simply by looking into the camera.

"I am honored to have sheriff Walsh's support for this unique and innovative program," said Kym Pasqualini, president and CEO of the Nation's Missing Children Organization. "With sheriff Walsh's help, we will fill an important gap in our nation's ability to quickly, and positively, identify missing children and adults."

According to U.S. Department of Justice studies, on average, more that 2,000 children are reported missing every day across the nation and there are currently over 47,000 active missing adult cases. "We are honored that sheriff Walsh has decided to participate in this program and are sure that his commitment will make a difference in our effort to reunite missing children with their families," Pasqualini added.

Participation is entirely voluntary, just as it is now with fingerprint and photo ID card programs.

"Today marks the official beginning of this important project," said Walsh. "It is my hope that over the coming years every sheriff in the nation will have access to one of these systems so that can help identify, locate and reunite missing individuals with their families."