

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROBERT BENTLEY
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STATE OF ALABAMA

June 10, 2016

Assistant Director Stephen L. Morris
Federal Bureau of Investigation – CJIS Division
1000 Custer Hollow Road
Clarksburg, WV 26306

Dear Assistant Director Morris:

Last week, I met with Secretary Stan Stabler of the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) who made me aware of a Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) issue within the Alabama Department of Finance, Information Services Division (ISD). Secretary Stabler informed me that several contract personnel working for ISD were improperly granted access to IT resources that support ALEA and the State of Alabama's CJIS network. Furthermore, he informed me that, in the process of investigating the improper access, ALEA has identified several major security concerns with regard to the State of Alabama's wide area network (WAN) that is currently being operated/managed by ISD and its contractors/vendors.

Today, Secretary Stabler informed me that ALEA has met with members of the Office of the United States Attorney here in Montgomery and confirmed that some of the actions of senior managers within the Department of Finance and its Information Services Division are potentially criminal in nature. Since honesty and integrity are two virtues that I have and will continue to prioritize for my Administration, I was very disheartened to know that the improper actions of a few appear to have had a significant negative impact on the security of the state's technology resources, especially those serving our criminal justice community. While ALEA is continuing to actively investigate these matters, I have taken the proactive step of directing the state's Finance Director, Bill Newton, to remove Assistant Finance Director Rex McDowell and ISD Director James Nolin from their duties with the State of Alabama.

In addition to the proactive steps already underway, I hereby request that the Federal Bureau of Investigation partner with the State of Alabama to provide appropriate audit and investigative personnel to assist ALEA in determining the full scope of CJIS Security Policy non-compliance and/or criminal activity of current or former employees of the Alabama Department of Finance.

It is my desire to quickly resolve these issues and ensure the security of our state's IT resources and criminal justice information systems. In order to facilitate the quickest resolution possible, I am requesting that you coordinate the FBI's response directly with Secretary Stabler or his designee. Secretary Stabler has been directed to keep me informed of our progress and partnership as we move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert Bentley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Bentley" clearly legible.

Robert Bentley
Governor

cc: Secretary Stan Stabler