

**FOUO // LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF NEW YORK**

**INTELLIGENCE DIVISION  
STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE UNIT**



**BRIEFING REPORT**

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# INTELLIGENCE DIVISION STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE UNIT BRIEFING REPORT



January 02, 2009

## Buffalo, New York

On Tuesday, December 30, 2008 Capt. ■■■■, Lt. ■■■■ and Sgt. ■■■■ met with Erie County Under Sheriff Richard Donovan (XO to the Erie County New York Sheriff) regarding the Somalia Project.

*(Note: Under Sheriff Donovan is a seasoned law enforcement executive and a valued Sentry partner. He started with the Buffalo Police Department as a Patrolman in 1971, retiring from there in 1994 as the Police Commissioner. He then moved on to his current position. He is our key Sentry POC in western NY State).*

The following topics were discussed:

- Somalia specific concerns
- Persons of interest
- Points of contacts
- Future Intelligence Collection steps

### Key Points:

- Under Sheriff Donovan provided the members of SIU with an overview of the ethnic Somalian Community in the Buffalo area, where there are in excess of 1,000 Somali immigrants residing. There are also an estimated 300 Somali students in the public school system, mostly enrolled in one of two schools which service the West side of Buffalo:
  - **PS 202 Grover Cleveland High School**  
110 Fourteenth Street  
Buffalo, NY 14213
  - **PS 204 Lafayette High School**  
370 Lafayette Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14213
- The ethnic Somalian population has predominantly settled within the West end area of Buffalo. They were assisted in settling there starting in the 1990's in large

part due to the assistance of various Non-Governmental Aid Organizations (NGO's), such as Catholic relief groups and other immigrant assistance groups.

- The ethnic Somalia population chooses to settle in the predominantly Hispanic neighborhoods in Buffalo rather than in American black neighborhoods.
- *Note: SIU has found this as well in the Boston and Maine areas where the Somalia populations settle in predominantly White or Hispanic communities. This is allegedly due in part to an apparently unfavorable opinion that many Somalia's supposedly have regarding the American black community.*
- Under Sheriff Donovan was not aware of any crime trends or crime patterns attributed to the ethnic Somali Community, but acknowledged that a lot of attention has not been paid to this community. The Under Sheriff assured us that more attention will now be given to that area.
  - *Note: The Erie County Sherriff's Office will research crime trends and travel habits of ethnic Somalis involved in criminal activity of any type and share all results with us.*
- SIU inquired about the use or sale of "Khat" within the Buffalo area. The Sherriff's Office was unaware of any arrests for "Khat" within Buffalo or Erie County.
- While in the Buffalo area Captain ■■■■, Lieutenant ■■■■ and Sergeant ■■■■ did also conduct a vehicle reconnaissance of Somalian populated neighborhoods for area familiarization purposes.

#### **Points of Contact:**

- Under Sheriff Donovan provided SIU with the contact information for his new FIO assigned to the Erie County Jail system. He pledged the assistance of his FIO in helping to secure new joint sources of information within the Buffalo area. *Detective ■■■■ will be the lead investigator for SIU efforts in the Buffalo area.*

#### **Investigative Plan:**

- Under Sheriff Donavan has already tasked his FIO and additional personnel to gather information on persons of interest within the Jail system and within the Buffalo area (Arrests, travel, complaints) so debriefings and intelligence gathering efforts can begin immediately, with the goal of joint asset (NYPD and Erie County Sheriff's Office) development.

- Under Sheriff Donovan approved our request to develop assets jointly in the Buffalo area, to act as listening posts within the ethnic Somalian community, especially regarding any ethnic Somali person(s) who may travel overseas for terrorism related training and / or operational purposes.
- Detective ■■■■ will meet with Erie County Sheriff Personnel during the second week in January to enhance these Intelligence collection efforts.
- **For DCI approval:** Under Sheriff Donovan offered to facilitate a relationship between the Security Chief at the University of Buffalo (retired Buffalo PD Captain) and SIU in the event we need their assistance at some future time. Sheriff Donovan did note that there are some Somali Professors and students at SUNY Buffalo and it would be worthwhile to further analyze that population.
- Assistance from the Liaison Unit, specifically from the Canada posts. Under Sheriff Donovan had an interesting suggestion for us to investigate the Somali population in Canada. He stated that due to the more relaxed and generous Canadian public assistance programs, it is reasonable to assume that some ethnic Somalis, who may have originally travelled to the Buffalo New York area, may have opted instead to settle right over the border in Canada. Therefore, we will request the Intel Division Liaison Unit to investigate this.

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