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OHIO HOMELAND SECURITY LAUNCHES COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS
Establishes Multicultural Affairs Office, Announces Partnership with Hispanic Coalition

COLUMBUS – Advancing the mission to protect Ohioans from terrorism, Ohio Homeland Security Director John Overly today highlighted statewide community outreach efforts through the establishment of a new Office of Multicultural Affairs and the “*See Something*” public awareness campaign.

The Office of Multicultural Affairs, led by Omar Alomari, was established to develop a culturally-diverse outreach program for all Ohioans, including the Hispanic and Arab/Muslim American communities. Mr. Alomari outlined his vision at a press conference held at the Ohio Hispanic Coalition. Also attending the press conference were Ohio Hispanic Coalition Director Julia Arbini-Carbonell and Council on American Islamic Relations Director Adnan Mirza.

“Ohio Homeland Security recognizes the importance and value of building relationships with the culturally-diverse communities across Ohio,” said Director Overly. “We want every Ohioan to know that they too can play a role in strengthening our homeland security efforts and protecting the citizens of our state.”

Director Overly also highlighted a newly-formed partnership with the Ohio Hispanic Coalition to educate the Latino community on the possible signs of terrorism and encourage the public to report suspicious activity to law enforcement through “*See Something, Say Something*” materials, which have been translated into Spanish. The Ohio Hispanic Coalition will distribute materials throughout the Hispanic community in places such as health clinics, markets, shopping centers and other venues.

In addition to Spanish, the “*See Something*” materials also will be translated into Arabic, Somali and other languages. The materials provide examples of suspicious behavior and encourage the public to contact local law enforcement or the Ohio Terrorism Tip line (1-877-OHS-INTEL) if suspicious activity is observed.

The posters remind Ohioans to “always be alert and aware of surroundings” and to report things that seem out of the ordinary such as:

- **Unattended or abandoned bags in public places**
- **Suspicious or unusual behavior such as someone tampering with security equipment; videotaping or casing a government building; or wearing a bulky winter coat on a hot summer day**

On Saturday, April 29, Public Safety will join the Ohio Hispanic Coalition as they present the sixth annual Día de los Niños - sponsored by Nationwide Insurance Celebrating Young Americans. Dedicated to children and their families, Día de los Niños (children's day), provides a full day of free activities including games, education, health screenings, arts and culture. Public Safety will staff a booth at the event to provide “*See Something*” materials.

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