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Mobile Payment Application for Law Enforcement enabling them to Collect on Outstanding Warrants in the Field in Real-Time



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Interview conducted by: Lynn Fosse, Senior Editor CEOCFO Magazine

CEOCFO: Mr. Tillman, what is the concept behind TECSIQ?

Mr. Tillman: TECSIQ is a mobile application that enables police officers to accept payment for outstanding warrants in the field as they are making a routine traffic stop. This is in lieu of making the obligatory arrest because the person has an outstanding warrant. It facilitates a transaction to happen where we can move the monies to any court that the warrant is domiciled in, as well as update that warrant data base and do all of that in real-time.

CEOCFO: Have municipalities been looking for a better way to accept payment?

Mr. Tillman: Over the decades police officers have done a number of things, one which is to actually take the offender to a local convenience store to process a money order to clear their warrant, rather than arrest the individual. It is pretty archaic and problematic for an officer to go through those pains to do that. In many cases, if it is from a jurisdiction that is too far for that officer to take that person in to that jail and book them into the jail of the domicile warrant then they just let people go. Arrest is a key collection mechanism for these outstanding warrants and when you have them in custody, is the time to make collection happen. Therefore, there have been a couple of other methodologies to help expedite this, but in Texas they passed a law, House Bill 121, and it gives the authority to the officer to accept debit and credit cards to facilitate this transaction happening. Therefore, the legislature passed the law by a super majority, recognizing it as a problem and said, "We need to do something to aid our officers to keep them on the street and avoid this unnecessary process of arrest, reduce jail congestion and the overall cost of processing that outstanding warrant". Therefore, in Texas in particular, we have a law that supports this program.

CEOCFO: What has been the response from the courts?

Mr. Tillman: It has been overwhelmingly positive! We have not had a single jurisdiction say no! We have a couple of dozen jurisdictions that we are in dialog with right now. We think that in the next several months it will be a cascading affect where once we start signing jurisdictions up it will happen; it will start snowballing. It has been unanimous. Law enforcement has said, "We've needed this for decades!" The really unique way that we have done this, Lynn, is that there are a couple of competing platforms and they require the officer to physically handle the credit cards. That credit card device is connected to a single merchant processor, so it does not have the versatility of being able to move the money where it needs to go. It can only go to that one bank account. Then those funds are then managed and disseminated by