

PART A: 1 - PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Throughout United States History, there have been trade-offs between personal freedoms and the provision of order in the country (Addicott, 2007; Deflem, 2004).

While we have certain expectations about being protected in the community by police and protection at the national level by federal policing agencies and the military, we also have expectations about the degree of human rights and privacy regarding our everyday lives. The primary question of this research project is: "To what extent do citizens balance personal privacy and freedoms in hopes of gaining order and security from the government?"

I am proposing the development of a survey of Laredo residents focusing on factors related to security provision in this region. Note that security is a complex issue that may mean many different things, ranging from individual measures of crime avoidance, the purchase of protective measures for the home, the provision of security by paid police agencies, and the national defense/homeland security system (Kilburn and Shrum, 1998). All these issues are germane to our local region and is of significant national interest.