

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Cabinet Affairs

Series/Staff Member: Stephen Silverman

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 4615

FolderID:

Folder Title:

Memo - Attorney General to POTUS; re: Crime Bill

Stack:

S

Row:

25

Section:

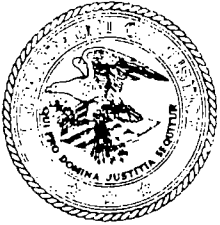
2

Shelf:

3

Position:

1



Office of the Attorney General

Washington, D. C. 20530

May 24, 1993

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: The Attorney General

SUBJECT: Crime Bill -- Policing and Public Safety Initiatives

SUMMARY: The policing and public safety initiative, proposed for inclusion as Title I of the Crime Bill, will provide resources to increase the number of state and local police officers. However, there are a number of outstanding policy issues which remain to be resolved to assure that this initiative also truly enhances public safety, crime and violence prevention and community development. This memorandum provides my views on the most critical elements of this initiative.

I understand that the Administration wants to move quickly regarding the crime legislation. We are very nearly ready to go forward with a modified version of 1992 Conference Report, expected to be introduced by Chairmen Biden and Brooks.

From my perspective the most substantive element of the bill, the Brady Bill aside, is the new "Policing and Public Safety" title the Administration plans to propose. This title of the crime bill will be the Administration's first (and perhaps only) major legislative opportunity to impact significantly crime control and prevention activities nationwide. Indeed, the Administration should use this piece of the crime bill to implement prevention initiatives.

Putting additional police on the streets is not alone enough; we must change the nature of policing to have an effective and preventive impact on crime and violence in our communities. This is a threshold and necessary predicate to community stability and economic growth. The resources available for hiring police must be spent as part of a more comprehensive public safety strategy to reorient policing away from reactive and discrete response and toward crime and violence prevention and problem solving.

To achieve this goal, my staff has been working with the staff of the Domestic Policy Council to prepare a policing

proposal that will add more than half of the new officers you seek. This title of the crime bill will consist of a flexible discretionary grants program and a substantially streamlined police corps proposal.

Our proposal will ensure that police officers added under this initiative be used as part of a locally-designed public safety program to support community policing activities; assist communities and police departments in developing proactive and preventive crime control programs; and enhance training and educational opportunities for police officers to ensure they have the necessary skills to meet the challenges they face. The proposal also supports a limited police corps program for individuals interested in law enforcement careers.

However, I am concerned by what seems to be a focus on simply hiring new officers as quickly as possible. Such an approach would jeopardize, wholly unnecessarily, the following key elements of the Department's proposal:

Discretionary Grants.

- Funds should be distributed through discretionary grants, not formula grants, in order to:
 - ▶ Target funds to specific localities most in need of assistance.
 - ▶ Facilitate the development of locally-designed, long-term public safety plans.
 - ▶ Promote community commitment and involvement in public safety plans by establishing incentive mechanisms based on levels of community support.
 - ▶ Eliminate risk of funds being simply banked by state or local authorities or used for one-time investments such as for equipment or overtime.
 - ▶ Provide flexibility necessary for the program to respond to the changing policing needs of communities.
- Under a discretionary grant program, the process would function as follows:
 - ▶ Applications would require a long-term strategy and a detailed implementation plan by a local steering committee (including consultation with community groups and other appropriate public and private agencies) which:

(1) demonstrates a specific public safety need;

- (2) explains the locality's inability to meet the need without federal assistance;
 - (3) sets forth plans to redirect local government resources or alter policing practices to support the initiative;
 - (4) outlines related local government initiatives which complement the policing proposal; and
 - (5) identifies the initial and ongoing level of community support.
- ▶ Detailed applications will be submitted to the Byrne grant agency in each state, which will review the applications and forward the best proposals (measured against criteria promulgated by the Attorney General) to the Department of Justice.
 - ▶ The Department will review the applications of all finalists designated by the states and determine the winners. Each state will be eligible for multiple awards. The maximum number of grantees per state will be determined by a population-based formula.

Allocation of Funds to Maximize Impact.

- The legislation would reserve sixty percent of the discretionary funds available to the Department to programs to hire, rehire and/or redeploy police officers. Forty percent of the funds also would be available to support other policing-related public safety and crime prevention activities such as multidisciplinary-early intervention teams, or other innovative ideas proposed by community groups or local agencies.
- The program should allow us to sponsor policing and public safety initiatives nationwide, including sites not affiliated with the Economic Empowerment Act. The Administration should not place limits on which sites are eligible for funding.
- New hire assistance must be sufficient for fiscally strapped cities, who may be unable to provide any matching funds. Given this, \$50,000 per new hire over the life of the program is not adequate.
- The police corps initiative should be as small as politically feasible. In my view, the Community Policing Corps proposal, combined with the National Service Program, is a good faith effort to measure the effects of educational enhancements for police and honor related campaign promises.

We must, of course, make good on the Administration's commitment to assist communities with additional resources for community policing, but we must do so in a way that makes the investment felt long-term in the particular communities chosen. The program outlined above will, I believe based on my experience in Miami, accomplish that end and will, in addition, integrate well with other community crime and violence prevention, health, education, and economic development initiatives underway. Finally, nothing in the Department of Justice's proposal will delay the final preparation and submission of the legislation.

I look forward to working with your staff to quickly resolve these outstanding policy issues.

CC: Chief of Staff

Secretary to the Cabinet

Office of the Secretary

Steve -

I don't know if you got message, but Rich Rosenzweig and I are trying to get a blue "Other Government Agency" badge for White House meeting access. This was suggested by Craig Livingston, but he needs sponsoring office.

Can you handle?

Ronny Diaz
586-6210

SBS -
— call him
e this
Call Craig

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Steve Silverman