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[The Crime Bill File #1]: Crime Bill and Law Enforcement: [Police Officers]

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Minnesota Police & Peace Officers Association

Official Publication: THE MINNESOTA POLICE JOURNAL

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Dennis J. Flaherty

MEMORANDUM

[Signature]
COPY

Date: August 23, 1994

To: Senator Dave Durenberger

From: Dennis J. Flaherty, Executive Director

Re: Crime Bill

Today or tomorrow, you will be called upon to cast what the overwhelming majority of police officers in Minnesota view as a critical vote. A vote in favor of the crime bill. As you know, this comprehensive bill provides to Minnesota much needed funding for additional police officers, correctional resources, prevention, etc. In addition it contains Minnesota's own Jacob Wetterling language that Congressman Jim Ramstad worked so hard on.

It has been brought to my attention that you are considering voting with others on some procedural issue, which in essence, will critically wound this legislation.

We strongly urge you to vote against that "point of order" issue and get this crime bill passed.

The people in Minnesota, as well as throughout the entire country, have waited too long, and they deserve this legislation.

Obviously, if you and I were to sit down and draft a crime bill, ours may be different, but nevertheless, the product you have before you is worthy of an affirmative vote for its passage. Please help this bill get passed.

DJF/jmc

Sent by fax only.

Police

DEPART

STATION

'94 JU 2 11:24

EXECUTIVE

FIA

Chief's Office

1125 Locust Street

Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Office (816) 234-5010

Fax (816) 234-5013

Steven C. Bishop
Chief of Police

May 24, 1994

Ms. Janet Reno
Attorney General
Constitution Ave and 10th St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20530



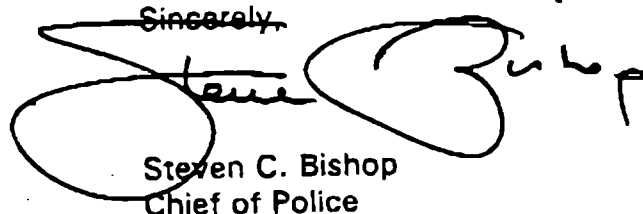
Dear Ms. Reno,

Please allow me to begin with an apology for my delay in writing to you, but the Kansas City Missouri Police Department experienced an unexpected tragedy with the deaths of two fine police officers last week. However, this tragedy only serves to underscore the reason for my correspondence.

Kansas City recently received the dubious distinction of 4th most violent city in the nation and 9th in murder rate on the F.B.I. Uniform Crime Report. It is for these reasons that the award of \$1.9 million of the Bureau of Justice Assistance Police Hiring Supplement Grant to Kansas City Missouri is so greatly appreciated. It comes at a time of desperate need and will be instrumental in vastly improving the quality of life for citizens in our community and the safety of our officers. The expansion of our community policing program will allow us to attack the root causes of crime and once again establish more personal contact with the public we serve.

Thank you again, Ms. Reno, for your constant support in providing assistance to law enforcement officers across this country. You have the sincere appreciation of the men and women of our department.

Sincerely,



Steven C. Bishop
Chief of Police

JOHN J. PARTINGTON
COMMISSIONER
COLONEL BERNARD E. GANNON
CHIEF OF POLICE

VINCENT A. CIANCI, JR.
MAYOR



Department of Public Safety, Police Department
"Building Pride In Providence"

August 24, 1994

Ms. Janet Reno
Attorney General
of the United States
Office of the US Attorney
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20531

Dear Attorney General Reno:

While the Federal legislature slowly plods along mapping out the "Crime Bill" particulars, and the citizenry queries their local law makers regarding the bill's authenticity; we the 'law enforcers' anxiously await the passage and implementation of the bill. With such a development, the criminal justice system can continue to plan ahead and consider means to accomplish their mission.

This new development can provide considerable support to those agencies which may consider financial cost alone as the single resource upon which to build their plan to alleviate the affliction of criminal activity. Such funding will help foster a more cohesive and cooperative criminal justice system with an increased interdependence of all involved agencies. More importantly, it is time for law enforcement and the criminal justice system on both regional and national fronts to blend their knowledge and experience for the benefit of everyone.

This bill will provide all criminal justice agencies an optimal opportunity to hire additional police officers, build prisons, fight violence against women, provide drug treatment for prisoners, and carry on crime-prevention programs. In addition, funding can be strategically expended for drug courts, criminal records-keeping, youth training, anti-gang activities, sports leagues and youth organizations whose development has been curtailed for lack of support and funding in the past.

I wholeheartedly support this Nation's effort to "invest" in this most needed array of programming and maintain high aspirations of the Crime Bill's final but ultimate passage.

Sincerely,


BERNARD E. GANNON
Colonel
Chief of Police



**GAINESVILLE
POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

Post Office Box 1250
Gainesville, FL 32602
(804) 334-2400

Wayland Clifton, Jr.
Chief of Police

William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington D.C. 20500

A large, stylized handwritten signature, likely of Representative Karen Thurman, written in black ink.

Dear Mr. President:

Attached, please find my recent correspondence to Representative Karen Thurman pertaining my strong and unequivocal support of the current comprehensive crime bill. Please let me know how I may be of assistance.

Keep up the great representation of crime control and other pertinent law enforcement issues.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature of Wayland Clifton Jr. in black ink.

Wayland Clifton Jr.
Chief of Police
Gainesville, Florida





GAINESVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Post Office Box 1250
Gainesville, FL 32602
(904) 334-2400

Wayland Clifton, Jr.
Chief of Police

Honorable Karen L. Thurman
Member of Congress
5th District of Florida
130 Cannon Building
Washington D. C. 20515

August 16, 1994

Karen
Dear Representative Thurman:

I am most concerned about your recent opposition to the comprehensive crime bill.

I represent the City of Gainesville as Chief of Police of the largest metropolitan area within the congressional district which you represent. I witness on a daily basis the frustration of the dedicated law enforcement professionals who are severely outnumbered and "outgunned" by thugs bent upon violent career crime as a vocation. The City of Gainesville, with a crime rate of 12,291 part one crimes is more than double (117%) the national average. The officers on the streets of Gainesville and virtually every city across the country desperately need reinforcements, and while the current crime bill is no panacea, it certainly offers a message of hope from Washington which for so long has been absent.

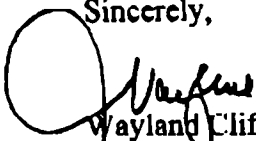
Representative Thurman, I realize that you may have philosophical differences with the firearms limitations contained within the crime bill. As an individual who has personally witnessed the tragedy associated with the exponential increase in the presence of firearms in our society, I emphatically disagree with your position. However, from a more practical standpoint, it makes absolutely no sense to eliminate the possibility of crime fighting relief as contained within the crime bill in order to protect our "right" to own Assault Weapons!



I am requesting that you put your personal feelings about gun control aside with regard to the crime bill. Please join the International Association of Chiefs of Police and most chiefs in the State of Florida in supporting the language of this crime bill. The demise of the crime bill would mean the possible negative financial impact to the City of Gainesville of over \$3 million in lost grant applications pertaining to Weed and Seed, COPS on the Street, and juvenile crime prevention. The City of Gainesville has also been privileged to have been selected, with only seventeen other cities nationwide, as a National Performance Review demonstration site for community restoration programming. This status would also be placed in jeopardy with your position on this bill. An affirmative vote is a position in favor of protection of Community Policing, Weed and Seed, and innovative juvenile crime prevention programs which are desperately needed in the City of Gainesville.

Thank you for all of your previous support for law enforcement issues, and please feel free to contact me if clarification of my position is needed.

Sincerely,



Wayland Clifton Jr.,
Chief of Police

xc: President Bill Clinton ✓
Attorney General Janet Reno



West Valley City

July 19, 1994

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
147 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hatch:

As the conference committee meets to resolve differences in the House and Senate versions of the crime bills, I am writing to discuss the issue of flexibility relating to the Cops on the Beat Program.

We urge you to assure that local police departments be given extra flexibility use from the funds that will be available to hire additional police officers. Over 15 percent (such as 35 percent) should be available for costs such as overtime, training, equipment, technology and civilian support staff to assist in the implementation of community policing. During the early years of the program, overtime is particularly important. Cities can expand the presence of police officers on the streets while new officers are being recruited and trained.

On many occasions, Mayors and police chiefs have informed us that this flexibility is critical if the funds are to be spent in the most effective manner possible. This will enable police departments to increase the presence of officers on the streets quickly and to make the best possible use of those officers' time.

We commend the leadership you have shown on the crime bill this year and on resolving differences between the House and Senate versions and are confident that you will do everything possible to assure that cities are able to make the best possible use of the police hiring funds that become available.

Sincerely,

Dennis Nordfelt
Chief of Police



West Valley City

July 19, 1994

The Honorable Joseph Biden, Chair
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Biden:

As the conference committee meets to resolve differences in the House and Senate versions of the crime bills, I am writing to discuss the issue of flexibility relating to the Cops on the Beat Program.

We urge you to assure that local police departments be given extra flexibility use from the funds that will be available to hire additional police officers. Over 15 percent (such as 35 percent) should be available for costs such as overtime, training, equipment, technology and civilian support staff to assist in the implementation of community policing. During the early years of the program, overtime is particularly important. Cities can expand the presence of police officers on the streets while new officers are being recruited and trained.

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Sincerely,

Dennis Nordfelt
Chief of Police

15

CITY OF CHICAGO / DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

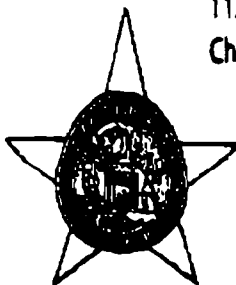
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Richard M. Daley, Mayor
Matt L. Rodriguez, Superintendent of Police

July 14, 1994

The Honorable Jack Brooks
United States House of Representatives
2449 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Brooks:

The passage of the Crime Bill will be a major accomplishment for Congress and a major victory for police agencies and the communities we serve.

As the Conference Committee meets to resolve differences in the House and Senate versions of the bill, I am writing to urge that the final version of the Crime Bill include language providing for an exemption for state and local police agencies in the Age Discrimination in Employment Act.

As you know, such an exemption had been in effect for the last seven years, but expired at the end of 1993. Reinstating the exemption is strongly supported by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Fraternal Order of Police, and practically every other major police organization representing both management and labor.

The reason for such widespread support is simple. All of us recognize that the United States has been built on the principle of local control of the police, and that federal legislation in this area erodes that basic principle.

It is our firm belief that police retirement and other personnel matters should be decided at the local level, based on the needs and wants of our employees and the individual communities we serve. By failing to reinstate the exemption, the federal government would, in many cases, be negating local contractual provisions and seriously interfering with the ability of local officials to manage their resources efficiently. The federal government would also be increasing the liability risks for local police agencies, at a time when our resources are already stretched.

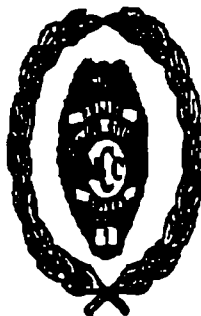
I appreciate the leadership you have demonstrated on the Crime Bill and I am confident that with your support, the police exemption to the ADEA will be reinstated and control over police personnel matters will be rightfully returned to local governments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Matt L. Rodriguez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matt" being particularly prominent.

Matt L. Rodriguez
Superintendent of Police

(14)



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July 14, 1994

The Honorable Joseph Biden
 United States Senate
 221 Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Biden:

The passage of the Crime Bill will be a major accomplishment for Congress and a major victory for police agencies and the communities we serve.

As the Conference Committee meets to resolve differences in the House and Senate versions of the bill, I am writing on behalf of police executives in the nation's 45 largest jurisdictions to discuss one specific issue relating to the Cops on the Beat Program: flexibility.

The Major Cities Chiefs Association urges the conferees to ensure that local police agencies be given sufficient flexibility in the use of the funds that will be available to expand or implement community policing initiatives. While the majority of these funds will be used to hire more officers, a significant percentage of the funds should be available for such critical costs as overtime, training, equipment, technology and civilian support staff.

Overtime will be particularly important during the first year of the program, as new officers are being hired and trained. Many of our members have found that during a period of police hiring, increased use of overtime for existing personnel can quickly and efficiently increase police presence on the street while new officers complete their recruit training.

Flexibility in the use of funds for training will also be crucial. With community policing, we are training our personnel in an entirely new philosophy of policing, not just a new set of policies or procedures. This type of in-depth training requires considerable time, resources and expertise.

The Major Cities Chiefs Association appreciates the leadership you have demonstrated on the Crime Bill. We are confident that you will help ensure that urban police agencies be given the flexibility to make the best possible use of the police hiring funds that become available.

Sincerely,

Matt L. Rodriguez
 Superintendent of Police, Chicago
 Chairman, Major Cities Chiefs Association