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Subgroup/Office of Origin: Domestic Policy Council

Series/Staff Member: Christa Robinson

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U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)

Congressional Relations Division

Washington, D.C. 20530

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

Date: 7/10/96

TO:

Amish

fax:

456-6218 7028

FROM:

Brian

COPS Congressional Relations

Phone: 514-9079

Fax: 616-5898

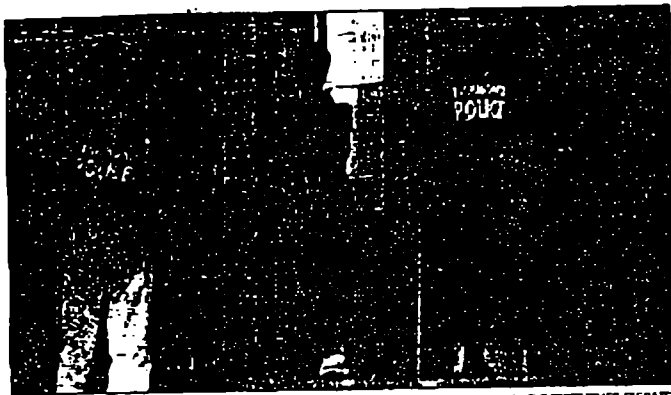
Pages (including cover):

6

MESSAGE:

Here's The article, as well as
a PTA letter supporting The YFV.

B.



CLEMENT PHOTO BY TIMES-DISPATCH

BACK HOME. Richmond Police Officers William Brereton (left) and Matthew Rollston took a youth to his Whitcomb Court home after he broke the curfew law. To protect his identity, his address was blocked out.

'Kiddie Cops' work pays off

Officers like chance to make impact on young lives

BY DORINE BETHEA
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

Denise King left the comfort of her home and entered a dark courtyard in South Richmond's Blackwell area. King, an asthmatic, was wheezing by the time she reached her teen-age daughter and Richmond police, who had handcuffed her child.

"I came out to get my baby," said King, who wore a shirt over her nightgown. It was 1:30 a.m. — two and a half hours after the city's curfew began.

King's daughter, 15, had violated the curfew ordinance. Police officers assigned to the Youth Violence Interdiction Unit had stopped the girl and a 19-year-old woman

accompanying her.

The teen, who became irritated, told police she was going home.

"We're trying to get you off the streets before you get shot," said Sgt. Leonard J. Brightwell.

King was more grateful than her daughter. "It's all right, I understand," she said. "They are enforcing the law. Whatever you do, you have to do before curfew."

The city's curfew begins at 11 p.m. It applies to anyone under 18.

"Now I know I can get in trouble for it," King said. She and her daughter were given a break. But three

PLEASE SEE CURFEW, PAGE A12 ►

Richmond Times-Dispatch
April 28, 1996

'Kiddie Cops,' curfew making impact on youths

V. CURFEW FROM PAGE A1

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Dornetta Edwards had come to police headquarters for her 16-year-old son, but authorities placed him in the Richmond Juvenile Detention Center because police previously had issued a detention order against him.

"He's just so hardheaded. He just won't do like I tell him," the youth's crying mother said.

Also that night, a 14-year-old boy was picked up, but officials released him to the custody of a relative. It was the youth's first violation.

"I didn't know you could get arrested," he said after being handcuffed in the dark courtyard. "I came out to talk to my cousin."

Later, the 14-year-old counted \$185 in \$20, \$5 and \$1 bills as he awaited the arrival of the relative at the police station and answered questions put to him by the police.

"This ain't even my money," he told authorities. He said the money belonged to the relative. But when the relative arrived, she said the money was not hers.

The area near East 10th and Everett streets, where the 14-year-old was picked up, is known for drug activity. "We didn't find the stash. The drugs were hidden somewhere," Brightwell said. "It is the first time we've come over here and didn't get anything."

Brightwell is in charge of Richmond's Youth Violence Interdiction Unit, a new squad of nine police officers that targets juveniles and youth criminal activity.

They can call us what they want

"A lot of guys tease us by calling us 'kiddie cops.' At first, it was irritating," he said. "But anytime we can go and make 30 arrests a night, they can call us what they want."

Brightwell said the unit has made 88 felony arrests and 113 misdemeanor arrests of youngsters under 18 since it hit the streets last fall. The nine-member squad was created with grant money awarded by the federal Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

The office, a division of the U.S. Department of Justice, awarded Richmond nearly \$700,000 to develop a yearlong program to curb the rise of youth firearm-related violence.

"Our primary goal is to get the guns off the streets," said Brightwell, who recalled arresting a 16-year-old curfew violator who had a .357-magnum revolver. "He had a gun in his belt that was bigger than mine."

The boy was charged with possession of a firearm and taken to the Richmond Juvenile Detention Center. The unit has seized 21 guns, 19 knives and \$5,074 cash from youngsters under 18.

It has confiscated more cocaine than marijuana from youths. The squad picked up 269.68 grams of cocaine, compared to 151.43 grams of marijuana. Also, 1.2 grams of heroin was seized, he said.

The officers believe they can make a difference. Despite the teasing, they welcome the assignment because it offers a chance to make an impact on young lives.

"The problem we've got is [that] kids are accepting certain behaviors. You've got to change the mentality, and hopefully we can do that," said Officer Alvin Prince. "With this unit, we are getting to them at a younger age." Added Officer Robin L. Shelton, "When they are

Counties have curfews, too

Youngsters in Henrico and Chesterfield counties also must observe 11 p.m. curfews.

In Chesterfield, the law applies to anyone under 18, while the Henrico ordinance applies to those age 16 and under.

Henrico Juvenile Detective Ed Kopacki said county police usually take curfew violators home to their parents or legal guardian. Parents are not required to pay a processing fee if their child is held.

"Rarely will you find drugs," Kopacki said. "Occasionally, you will find marijuana. That is rare and even more so with any weapons. If anything of any magnitude, you are going to find alcohol."

In Chesterfield, anyone under 18 caught out after 11 p.m. is in violation of the curfew law unless the youth is with an adult or has a valid reason for being out after 11. That includes going to or from work or attending religious functions, according to Chesterfield Police Lt. Marvin Starnes.

Youngsters usually are returned to a parent or legal guardian unless there is an outstanding detention order against the youth. Then, the youngster is taken to a detention center.

Starnes said Chesterfield police enforce the curfew as situations arise. While investigating other situations, officers may find curfew violators and then enforce the law. The department does not have a special unit to work solely on curfew problems.



TO DETENTION. Officer William Brereton (left) of the youth violence unit takes two juveniles to the city detention center after an early morning curfew stop. One youth is wearing a jersey with the name 'BETTIS' and the number '36'.

CLEMENT BRYANT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

③

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Anthony Ested, one of two detectives in the unit, counseled a 15-year-old who believed his arrest for curfew violation and trip to police headquarters were a waste of time.

"I don't see the purpose of it. I could see if we were out on the street doing something," the boy said.

'Let this be a learning experience'

Ested told the youth to "listen to your mother. She told you right. You don't need to be here. Let this be a learning experience."

The department received the federal grant at a time more and more youths are enticed into the drug trade and armed for protection or intimidation. Similar grants were awarded to 10 other cities.

According to Officer Wes Partin, the federal funding will be needed into the 21st century because the national population of youths between ages 10 and 17 is expected to grow 20 percent in the next decade.

Statistics Partin gathered from Northwestern University's Criminal Justice Department show that 85 percent of all juveniles arrested between 1983 and 1992 were rearrested. The homicide rate among youths ages 14 to 17 increased 165 percent during that same period, Partin said.

"Juvenile crime is where it is at," he said. "What I've seen is, the adults will get juveniles to hold the drugs and pagers because they know they'll only get a slap on the wrist."

Even that could change through the efforts of the Youth Violence Interdiction Unit and its close relationship with Richmond Public Schools and Richmond Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

Young offenders caught with firearms are taken before a judge more swiftly now. The backlog of cases in juvenile court usually meant months passed before a youth found in possession of a firearm went before the judge.

But a court order issued by Juvenile Judge Kimberly B. O'Donnell now requires that any child with a firearm be put into the system immediately and detained. Carrying a concealed weapon is a misdemeanor, Brightwell said. Before the order was issued, a youngster caught with a concealed weapon was typically released and required to appear in court at a later date.

Judges behind the program

"Judges have really gotten behind us on this thing," Partin said.

The unit's thinking and planning usually are done in a small office crammed with about a dozen desks at the former 3rd Precinct building on West Laburnum Avenue. A recent shift began with a short briefing.

The officers focused on corners and areas in the city where youngsters hang out after curfew. They also talked about complaints from residents in neighborhoods throughout the city.

Brightwell said the officers waste no time responding to complaints. The squad moves into those areas quickly because they have the potential to become "hot spots." Brightwell said the police stand on the corners with young males and, in effect, deter drug sales.

Detective Conrad Sunms identified target areas — Shields and Idlewood, East 16th Street and Boston Avenue, for example. At 11:10 p.m., the meeting broke up, and members got into their vehicles. In one patrol car, a tape of the theme song, "Bad Boys," from the television show "Cops" was pushed into the cassette player.

Stop, question, go and stop again

First stop, the 2700 block of Rosewood Avenue. The officers stopped a young man, asked to see identification and questioned his age. At 19, the man was not violating curfew.

The officers would stop and go and stop again. By the time the shift ended about 3:45 a.m., they had taken six youths to the center and returned three home.

Connie Smith, a city social worker, said reports against all first-time curfew offenders are filed with an intake officer at juvenile court. If there is a second offense, letters are sent to the parent or guardian.

When a third curfew offense occurs, the parent and the youth are summoned to appear in court.

Smith works at the center with an officer from the Police Athletic League. She tells guardians that their child is at the center. The child is usually released if a parent or guardian arrives before 5 a.m. and pays a fee of up to \$16 an hour.

If a guardian doesn't pick up the child by 5 a.m., Smith said, an officer takes the youth to St. Joseph's Villa until noon. Child Protective Services is called if the guardian doesn't show up by noon.

"A lot of them are relieved that the kids are picked up," Smith said, referring to the parents. "In some ways, it gives the parents some measure of control. For the most part, the parents are asking for help."

The squad has received training in forensic science and crime scene protection. Squad members exchange ideas and information with police officials in cities that began similar federally funded programs.



CLEMENT BRYANT/TIMES-DISPATCH

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But there is more to policing youths than curfew enforcement. The team also enforces truancy and trespassing laws. It executes search warrants, operates surveillance and conducts random checks at schools with school security personnel.

On a recent sunny but brisk spring morning, unit members headed to a middle school in North Richmond. With school security, they set up metal detectors and performed a random check of a line of students that trickled inside from three school buses.

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PARENT-TEACHER-STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The Governor's School for Government & International Studies

4100 West Grace Street
Richmond, Virginia 23230

559-2204

March 28, 1996

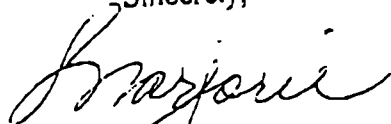
Sgt. L. J. Brightwell
Richmond Police Department
501 North Ninth Street
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Dear Sgt. Brightwell:

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You did a wonderful job in the presentation of material and reassured the parents at the same time. Again, thank you so much for making the time to be with us on that evening.

Sincerely,

Marjorie R. Morris
President - PTSAPresident
Marjorie Morris1st Vice President
John Redd2nd Vice President
Ron WhiteCorrespondence Secretary
Eileen AmeshuryTreasurer
John DruryRecording Secretary
Lauren Carter

Caroline County

Charles City County

Chesterfield County

Colonial Heights

Dinwiddie County

Goochland County

Hanover County

Henrico County

Hopewell City

King & Queen County

King William County

New Kent County

Petersburg City

Powhatan County

Richmond City

West Point



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Congressional Relations Division

Washington, D.C. 20530

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Date: 7/10/96

TO: Chmista

fax: 456-6618 7028

FROM: Brian

COPS Congressional Relations

Phone: 514-9079

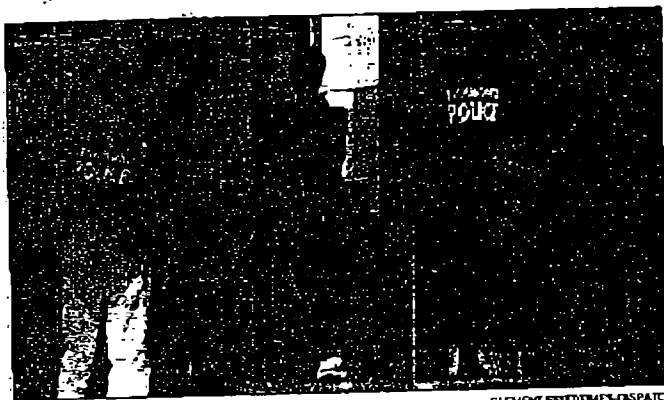
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CLEMENT BRITTON/STAFF-REPORTER

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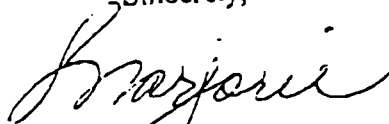
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Marjorie R. Morris
President - PTSA

President
Marjorie Morris

1st Vice President
John Redd

2nd Vice President
Ron White

Correspondence Secretary
Eileen Amesbury

Treasurer
John Drury

Recording Secretary
Lauren Carter

Caroline County

Charles City County

Chesterfield County

Colonial Heights

Dinwiddie County

Goochland County

Hamover County

Henrico County

Hopewell City

King & Queen County

King William County

New Kent County

Petersburg City

Powhatan County

Richmond City

West Point

Crime and Law Enforcement Report

Richmond, Virginia- 7/09/96

Relevant Crime Rates:

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994/95 Percent Change</u>
Murder -	160	120	- 25%
Rape-	169	171	+ 01%
Robbery-	1,586	1,491	- 06 %
Total Crime-	21,939	20,984	- 04 %

COPS

- * Virginia has been awarded \$43.2 million in COPS funding to hire or redeploy 719 police officers.
- * In addition, the COPS office will announce on 7/10/96, an additional \$586,440 for 10 officers
- * The City of Richmond has been awarded \$4.36 million in COPS funding to hire or redeploy 38 officers
- * Included in the total award is \$692,605 for the Youth Firearms Violence Initiative and \$136,910 for the Domestic Violence Initiative.

Curfews:

Richmond currently has a curfew program in effect.

Drug Courts

Planning Grant	Charlottesville Commonwealth Attorney (Charlottesville, VA) \$35,000
Implementation Grant	Commonwealth of Virginia (Roanoke, VA) \$200,000

VIPs:

Richmond:

Mayor:	Leonidas Young	(804) 780-7977
Chief of Police:	Jerry Oliver	(804) 780-6700

Safe & Drug Free Schools Program:

- * The state of Virginia received approximately \$7.9 million in FY95 for the Safe & Drug Free Schools Program.
- * Roughly 40 million students benefit from this program in 97% of America's school districts.

* Source: Dept of Education

Victims of Crime Act:

- * In FY96, the Justice Department will return \$3.7 million to Virginia for crime victim programs. These funds represent a percentage of criminal fines paid in Federal cases brought in the state of Virginia.

* Source: Dept of Justice

Violence Against Women Act:

- * In FY95 under the S.T.O.P (Services *Training *Officers * Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Act, the state of Virginia received \$426,346, as did every other state and territory. This represents the first step in helping restructure the criminal justice system's response to crime of violence against women.

- * In FY96, Virginia will receive \$2.8 million in VAWA grants.

Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative - Statement of Participants

The undersigned federal and local law enforcement officials concur in the statements below and commit to work cooperatively to further the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII):

1) While it has become increasingly difficult for prohibited purchasers, such as convicted felons, those under age 18, and those subject to protective orders, to obtain firearms through licensed firearms dealers, criminals continue to obtain guns from straw purchasers and from illegal black market traffickers.

2) The original source of crime guns seized by law enforcement officers usually can be established through the use of firearms tracing by the National Tracing Center of the Department of Treasury's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. With information about the origin of crime guns, law enforcement officials can begin to trace the chain of ownership of those guns and to detect patterns of illegal gun trafficking. This information, in turn, can be the basis for discovering the identities of those involved in this illegal gun trafficking.

3) The YCGII is a valuable pilot program. It will evaluate the extent to which the dedication of resources to an intense gun tracing approach will yield increased prosecutions for illegal gun trafficking and disrupt the illegal flow of guns to America's young people. The YCGII will utilize Project LEAD, a computer software system that examines crime gun trace information and provides law enforcement officers with crucial investigative leads about the sources of these guns.

4) Through existing partnership programs with local law enforcement officials, such as the Anti-Violent Crime Initiative, the YCGII is entitled to the cooperative attention of all law enforcement officers in a range of pilot cities, who can test its effectiveness and provide the basis for a determination of whether it should be expanded nationwide.

Atlanta, GA:

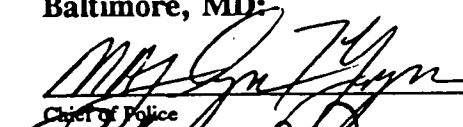
Chief of Police

Prosecuting Attorney

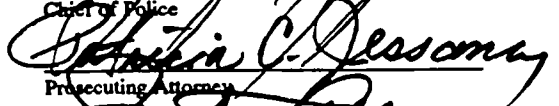
ATF Special Agent in Charge

United States Attorney

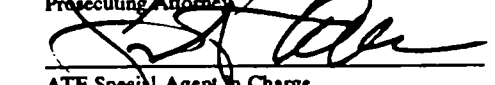
Baltimore, MD:



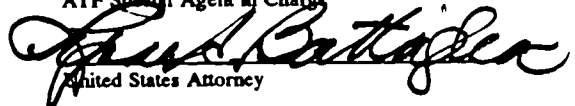
Chief of Police



Prosecuting Attorney

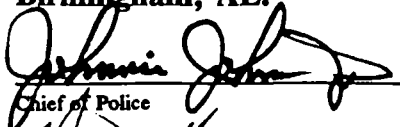


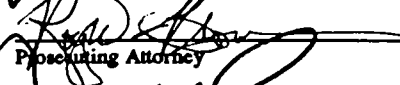
ATF Special Agent in Charge

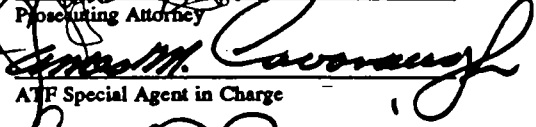


United States Attorney

Birmingham, AL:

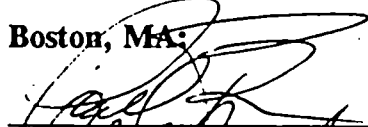

Chief of Police


Prosecuting Attorney


ATF Special Agent in Charge

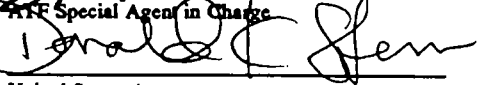

United States Attorney

Boston, MA:

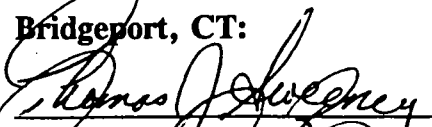

Chief of Police

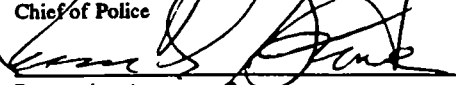

Prosecuting Attorney

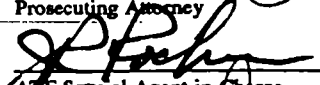

ATF Special Agent in Charge

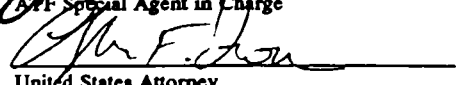

United States Attorney

Bridgeport, CT:

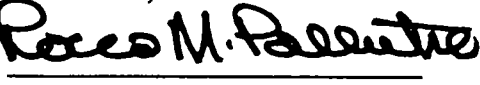

Chief of Police

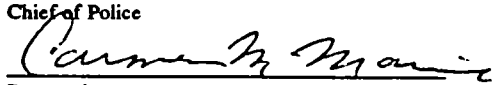

Prosecuting Attorney

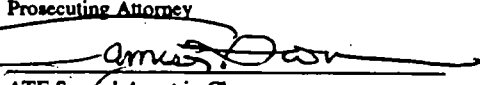

ATF Special Agent in Charge

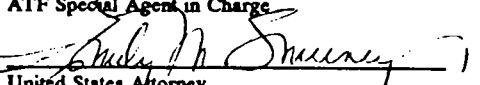

United States Attorney

Cleveland, OH:


Chief of Police

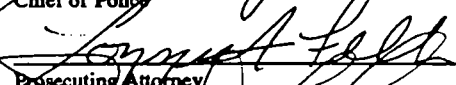

Prosecuting Attorney


ATF Special Agent in Charge

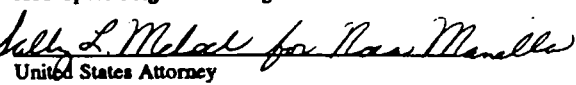

United States Attorney

Inglewood, CA:

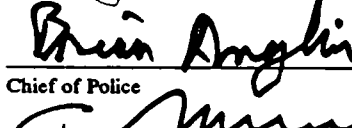

Chief of Police


Prosecuting Attorney


ATF Special Agent in Charge

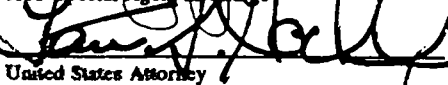

United States Attorney

Jersey, City, NJ:


Chief of Police


Prosecuting Attorney


ATF Special Agent in Charge

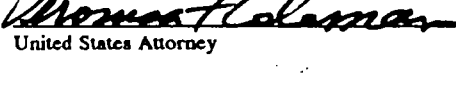

United States Attorney

Memphis, TN:

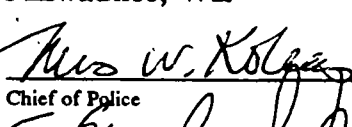

Chief of Police

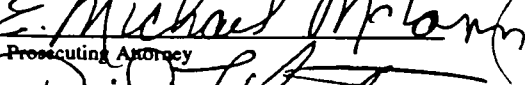

Prosecuting Attorney

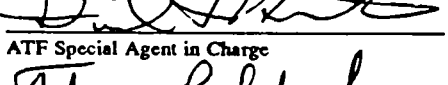

ATF Special Agent in Charge

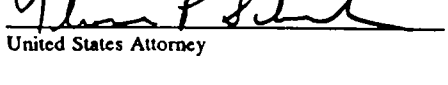

United States Attorney

Milwaukee, WI:


Chief of Police


Prosecuting Attorney


ATF Special Agent in Charge


United States Attorney

New York City, NY:

W. J. O'Neil
Chief of Police

Samuel L. Linder
Prosecuting Attorney

John J. Rizzo
ATF Special Agent in Charge

W. J. O'Neil
United States Attorney

St. Louis, MO:

Raymond B. Lauer
Chief of Police

Joseph W. Wargyl
Prosecuting Attorney

Daniel B. Hoggatt
ATF Special Agent in Charge

Edward T. Dowd
United States Attorney

San Antonio, TX:

John E. Page
Chief of Police

James W. Hartman
Prosecuting Attorney

R. W. Haynes
ATF Special Agent in Charge

James William Blaylock
United States Attorney

Washington, DC:

Charles E. DeLoach
Chief of Police

Charles F. C. O'Neil
Prosecuting Attorney

Charles F. C. O'Neil
ATF Special Agent in Charge

Eric H. Holden
United States Attorney

Richmond, VA:

Dep. Chief James B. Koch
Chief of Police

W. J. O'Neil
Prosecuting Attorney

W. J. O'Neil
ATF Special Agent in Charge

W. J. O'Neil
United States Attorney

Salinas, CA:

W. J. O'Neil
Chief of Police

Dean D. Flippo
Prosecuting Attorney

Paul H. Ingle
ATF Special Agent in Charge

Mike J. Yacuzzi
United States Attorney

Seattle, WA:

A/CHIEF A. Mason
Chief of Police

W. J. O'Neil
Prosecuting Attorney

W. J. O'Neil
ATF Special Agent in Charge

W. J. O'Neil
United States Attorney

Crime and Law Enforcement Report

Richmond, Virginia- 7/09/96

Relevant Crime Rates:

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994/95 Percent Change</u>
Murder -	160	120	- 25%
Rape-	169	171	+ 01%
Robbery-	1,586	1,491	- 06 %
Total Crime-	21,939	20,984	- 04 %

COPS

- * Virginia has been awarded \$43.2 million in COPS funding to hire or redeploy 719 police officers.
- * In addition, the COPS office will announce on 7/10/96, an additional \$586,440 for 10 officers
- * The City of Richmond has been awarded \$4.36 million in COPS funding to hire or redeploy 38 officers
- * Included in the total award is \$692,605 for the Youth Firearms Violence Initiative and \$136,910 for the Domestic Violence Initiative.

Curfews:

Richmond currently has a curfew program in effect.

Drug Courts

Planning Grant	Charlottesville Commonwealth Attorney (Charlottesville, VA) \$35,000
Implementation Grant	Commonwealth of Virginia (Roanoke, VA) \$200,000

VIPs:

Richmond:

Mayor:	Leonidas Young	(804) 780-7977
Chief of Police:	Jerry Oliver	(804) 780-6700

Safe & Drug Free Schools Program:

- * The state of Virginia received approximately \$7.9 million in FY95 for the Safe & Drug Free Schools Program.
- * Roughly 40 million students benefit from this program in 97% of America's school districts.

* Source: Dept of Education

Victims of Crime Act:

- * In FY96, the Justice Department will return \$3.7 million to Virginia for crime victim programs. These funds represent a percentage of criminal fines paid in Federal cases brought in the state of Virginia.

* Source: Dept of Justice

Violence Against Women Act:

- * In FY95 under the S.T.O.P (Services *Training *Officers * Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Act, the state of Virginia received \$426,346, as did every other state and territory. This represents the first step in helping restructure the criminal justice system's response to crime of violence against women.
- * In FY96, Virginia will receive \$2.8 million in VAWA grants.



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS AFL-CIO

THE ONLY UNION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

SAM A. CABRAL
International President

ARTHUR J. REDDY
*International Secretary-Treasurer
Legislative Liaison*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Rich Roberts
703-549-7473

Faced with recent campaign promises by Senator Dole claiming to support anti-crime measures, the International Union of Police Unions remains firm in its support of President Clinton's proven effective measures. Art Reddy, the I.U.P.A.'s Secretary - Treasurer and Legislative Liaison said, "The latest proposal by Dole to create an "instant check" system for prospective gun buyers falls far short of the mark and would do damage to programs created under the Administration's Brady Bill. While an instant check system is desirable, it cannot become a reality for most of the nation's police departments for years to come". Reddy is a retired Sergeant and thirty three year veteran of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department.

Chris Strobe, a Virginia police officer and representative of VCOPS, the Virginia Coalition of Police and Sheriffs representing law enforcement personnel throughout Virginia reinforced the I.U.P.A. position. "The Brady Bill must be preserved in order to bring an orderly process to gun purchases while screening out criminals. Considering the fact that more than 60,000 people and more than 43,000 criminals have been denied access to lethal weapons since the establishment of the Brady Bill, law enforcement agencies need the next several years to utilize the \$200 million made available by the Clinton Administration to improve the speed and effectiveness of the screening process.

According to Reddy at the I.U.P.A. and Strobe of VCOPS, the Clinton Administration has been the most responsive administration in support of rank and file law enforcement personnel and issues in recent history. "The diverse elements of the 1994 Crime Bill with its potential for 100,000 new officers, the ban on assault weapons whose only purpose is to kill human beings, its tough sentences for repeat criminals, and prevention programs to reduce the incentives for criminal activity all constitute the best hope of a more secure future for both the law enforcement community and public safety". The I.U.P.A. is calling on its more than 40,000 active duty law enforcement officers in the United States to continue their support for programs that truly support them.

END

HANDGUN CONTROL

ONE MILLION STRONG . . . working to
keep handguns out of the wrong hands.

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE:

7/9

TOTAL PAGES (including this cover sheet):

12

SENT TO (FAX number):

456-6218

PLEASE DELIVER TO:

Christa Robinson

ORGANIZATION:

Handgun Control, Inc. Federal Legislation Department

⇒ Bob Walker
Director of
Legislation

⇒ Betsy Wheeler
Legislative
Representative

⇒ Marie Carbone
Legislative
Coordinator

FAX NUMBER: 202/371-9615

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Hope this is helpful.

If you have any difficulty receiving this transmission, please call 202/898-0792.

The Law Enforcement Steering Committee

November 15, 1993

The Law Enforcement Steering Committee strongly supports the Brady Bill, S.414. The Law Enforcement Steering Committee consists of ten national organizations representing chiefs, sheriffs, rank-and-file officers and troopers. From federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, our organizations collectively represent more than 500,000 law enforcement officers nationwide. For the past six years, the Steering Committee has lobbied hard and long for the Brady Bill and now see an enacted Brady Bill in sight.

We are aware of an NRA substitute version of the "Brady Bill" which will be offered as an amendment to the crime bill currently being debated by the Senate. We want you to know that your nation's police are unconditionally and unequivocally opposed to incorporating this NRA substitute version of the Brady Bill into the crime bill.

Please stand with law enforcement by voting to table any NRA substitute version of the Brady Bill which is offered as an amendment to the crime bill. Then when the real Brady Bill, S.414, comes to the Senate floor as a separate bill, stand with law enforcement once again and vote to pass the Brady Bill, S.414, without any weakening amendments.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Dewey R. Stokes
Dewey R. Stokes, President
Fraternal Order of Police

Robert T. Scully
Robert T. Scully, Executive Director
Nat'l Association of Police Organizations

James A. Rhineberger
James A. Rhineberger, Chairman
Nat'l Troopers Coalition

Kenneth T. Lyons
Kenneth T. Lyons, President
Int'l Brotherhood of Police Officers

Bud Meeks
Bud Meeks, Executive Director
National Sheriffs Association

Victor O. Boyski
Victor O. Boyski, President
Federal Law Enforcement Officers Assn.

Joseph M. Wright
Joseph Wright, Executive Director
Nat'l Organization of Black Law
Enforcement Executives

William Bratton
William Bratton, President
Police Executive Research Forum

Patrick Fitzsimons
Patrick Fitzsimons, President
Major Cities Chiefs

Hubert Williams
Hubert Williams, President
Police Foundation

Steering Committee
Members

Federal Law Enforcement
Officers Association
Fraternal Order of Police

International
Brotherhood of
Police Officers
Major Cities Chiefs

National Association of
Police Organizations
National Organization of
Black Law Enforcement
Executives

National Sheriffs Association
National Troopers Coalition
Police Executive Research
Forum

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

"A Professional Association for Federal Law Enforcement Officers"

November 2, 1993

Representing Members of the:

Dept. of Agriculture — OIG — Special Agents
 US Forest Service — Special Agents
 Dept. of Commerce — Office of Export Admin. — S A
 Office of Inspector General — Special Agents
 National Marine & Fisheries Serv. Law Enf. — S A
 Dept. of Defense
 US Army — CID — Special Agents
 Defense Investigative Service — Special Agents
 Defense Criminal Investigative Service — S A
 Naval Investigative Service — Special Agents
 US Air Force — OSI — Special Agents
 Dept. of Education — Investigation — S A
 Dept. of Energy — OIG — Special Agents
 Dept. of Health & Human Services — S A
 Dept. of Housing & Urban Dev. — Law. — S A
 Dept. of Interior — OIG — Special Agents
 US Fish & Wildlife Service — Law Enforcement — S A
 Bureau of Indian Affairs — S A & Police
 US Park Police — Park Police Officers
 Bureau of Land Management — Special Agents & Rangers
 Dept. of Justice — US Attorneys — C I & Attorneys
 Drug Enforcement Administration — S A
 Federal Bureau of Investigation — S A
 INS — Special Agents & Border Patrol
 US Marshall Service — Marshals & Deputy Marshals
 Parole & Prob. Service — Parole & Prob. Officers
 Dept. of Labor — OIG — Special Agents
 Office of Labor-Management — S A
 Dept. of State — Diplomatic Sec. Serv. — Special Agents
 Investigation — Special Agents
 Dept. of Trans. — Investigation — Special Agents
 US Coast Guard — Inspec. Officers & S A
 Federal Aviation Admin (FAA) — Investigators
 Dept. of Treasury
 B A T F — Special Agents
 US Customs Service — Office of Enforcement — Special Agents
 Customs Investigators
 Internal Affairs — Special Agents
 Internal Revenue Service
 Criminal Investigation Division — S A
 Inspection Service — Inspectors
 US Secret Service — S A & Police
 Environmental Protection Agency
 Office of Criminal Investigations — Special Agents
 Office of Inspector General — Special Agents
 General Services Administration
 Office of Investigations — Special Agents
 National Archives — Criminal Investigators
 Nuclear Regulatory Commission — Special Agents
 US Capitol Police — Police Officers
 US Postal Service — Inspectors & Postal Police
 US Printing Office — Special Agents
 Veterans Administration — Investigations — S A

General Counsel
 Kathleen P. Mahon

Telephone Numbers:

Administrative Director
 (516) 698-0179
 Executive Director
 (201) 667-8387
 FAX (201) 667-4161
 Legal Counsel
 (516) 228-FLEO
 (516) 227-2200
 FAX (516) 227-2621
 Legislative Committee
 (516) 694-8372
 Newsletter & Public Affairs
 (908) 321-1011
 FAX (908) 321-1014
 Recruitment
 (919) 637-9430

Honorable W. G. Hefner
 U. S. House of Representatives
 2470 Rayburn House Building
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hefner:

The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) has a membership of over 8,000 members and is the largest professional association in the nation exclusively representing federal law enforcement officers and criminal investigators.

FLEOA has been on record in support of the Brady Bill for six years. Passing the Brady Bill and having the President sign it into law is long overdue. The Brady Bill will assist law enforcement officers in their duties and save lives. In states without a waiting period and background check, convicted felons are walking out of gun stores with the tools of their trade, no questions asked. This is unconscionable to the law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line daily to protect the public from the criminal element. The time to pass the Brady Bill is now and WITHOUT WEAKENING AMENDMENTS. The gun lobby has already proposed amendments to the Brady Bill. The following two amendments are the most egregious and must absolutely be defeated.

An gun lobby proposed amendment that should NOT be part of the Brady Bill is law enforcement liability. Law enforcement officers should NOT be liable for damages for mistakenly giving someone a handgun. This amendment is contrary to customary ideas of sovereign immunity for government employees. Background checks are conducted in approximately half of the states and arbitrary denial is not a problem.

Liability would force an officer to approve all questionable sales rather than take a chance of being sued, thus allowing prohibited persons to buy guns. The gun

89 OAKRIDGE AVENUE, NUTLEY, N.J. 07110-2835

Page 2

November 2, 1993

lobby wants to hold law enforcement officers liable for a wrongful denial but no one is liable if a gun is mistakenly approved and the buyer injures or kills another.

Another gun lobby proposed amendment to the Brady Bill is to sunset the waiting period provision after five years and immediately establish a national instant check even if the states' criminal records are not sufficiently up to date to run an effective check. The waiting period should not be superseded by an instant check until the states' criminal records are satisfactorily automated. A premature instant check is a worthless check.

Sincerely,



Vic Oboyski
President
FLEOA



NATIONAL TROOPERS COALITION

112 STATE STREET, SUITE 1212, ALBANY, N.Y. 12207 518-462-7448

JAMES A. RHINEBARGER, CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE
1415 SOUTH SHELBY
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46203-1946
FAX 317-431-8221
317-436-0929

November 4, 1993

Honorable W. G. Hefner
U. S. House of Representatives
2470 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hefner:

As you know, the Brady Bill is expected to come up for a floor vote very soon. The National Troopers Coalition has been lobbying for the Brady Bill for a long time. The National Troopers Coalition represents 44,000 State Police and Highway Patrol officers in 45 states.

With the large number of violent crimes that occur through the use of handguns, law enforcement and the nation need the Brady Bill. We realize that this bill alone will not stop all the crimes involving a handgun; but I believe it will have a deterrent effect on some people that may seek to purchase a handgun for unlawful acts. When you pass the bill make sure it does not have any weakening amendments that will adversely affect us.

Law enforcement liability SHOULD NOT be a part of the Brady Bill. By common law, public employees are not ordinarily liable for damages in the performance of a discretionary function, such as background checks. Our members, as public servants, should not be singled out for liability if an officer mistakenly denies a handgun transfer.

Again, the Brady Bill will allow us to update our nation's criminal records, provide a cooling off period to prevent crimes of passion and help stop felons from obtaining guns so easily. The National Troopers Coalition asks you to pass the Brady Bill and oppose all weakening amendments, especially liability.

Sincerely,

James A. Rhinebarger
Chairman

JAR/sw



GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

520 SOUTH HIGH STREET, SUITE 205 • COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-5885 • (614) 221-0180 • FAX (614) 221-0815

November 4, 1993

DEWEY R. STOKES
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Representative W. G. Hefner
U.S. House of Representatives
2470 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Attention: Irene Schecter

Dear Representative Hefner:

The Fraternal Order of Police, a national law enforcement organization representing over 248,000 rank and file police officers, urges your support for the immediate passage of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, H.R. 1025.

The FOP has long supported the Brady bill and it is now time for action on this common sense legislation. As law enforcement officers, we need the Brady Bill, a national five-working day waiting period and background check before the purchase of a handgun, to help us in our daily battle against crime. We cannot win the war on crime without reducing the ready availability of guns in this nation's streets.

The FOP strongly urges you to vote in favor of the Brady Bill. In addition, we also urge you to vote against any weakening amendments to the Brady Bill.

We are most concerned with an amendment that would make law enforcement liable for money damages if an honest mistake is made during a background check. Law enforcement officers are all too often held as scapegoats when all they are doing is enforcing laws and doing their jobs. Law enforcement is as anxious as anyone else to make this system work properly and is not about to purposely conspire to circumvent the law. This amendment would only set the stage for harassment lawsuits against the police which would in effect tie up an already overburdened judicial system and cost the taxpayers endless dollars in legal fees.

I would be happy to discuss any questions that you may have and thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Dewey R. Stokes
Dewey R. Stokes
President



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

750 First Street, N.E., Suite 935 • Washington, D.C. 20002-4241

(202) 842-4420 • (800) 322-NAPO • (202) 842-4396 FAX

November 3, 1993

President
THOMAS J. SCOTTO
President, Detective
Endowment Association
of New York City
New York, NY

Executive Vice President
TONY LOIZZO
Senior Vice President
Dade County PBA
Miami, FL

Recording Secretary
O. J. HOLT
President, Central
Chapter, PORAC
San Jose, CA

Treasurer
ROBERT SHEEHAN
President, Hillsborough
County PBA
Tampa, FL

Sergeant-at-Arms
MARTIN MCKEAN
Executive Secretary,
Ohio PBA
Berea, OH

Executive Secretary
B. D. "BUD" STONE
Past President PORAC
Berkeley, CA

Executive
ROBERT T. SCULLY

Legislative Counsel
JULES BERNSTEIN
UNDA LIPSETT

Representative W. G. Hefner
U.S. House of Representatives
2470 Rayburn House Building
Washington, DC 20515

Attention: Irene Schecter

Dear Representative Hefner:

The National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), representing over 140,000 rank and file police officers nationwide, urges immediate passage of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, H.R. 1025.

NAPO has lobbied to enact the Brady bill for six years now. The time for excuses is over. The police of this nation need the Brady Bill, a national five-working day waiting period and background check before the purchase of a handgun, to help us in our daily work -- work that has grown increasingly more dangerous because the vast proliferation of guns.

NAPO strongly urges you to support the police of this country by voting in favor of the Brady Bill. We also urge you to vote against any weakening amendments to the Brady Bill. We cannot accept anything less than the measures currently outlined in H.R. 1025.

In particular, one amendment that causes us the most concern would make us, the police, liable for money damages if an honest mistake is made while conducting a background check. This would subject our members to perpetual uncertainty over whether a background check was sufficiently "diligent." Damages under this amendment would only extend to cases in which a prospective buyer was denied a gun -- not those in which an official failed to stop an unlawful transfer. This would also serve to encourage police to always err on the side of approving a handgun transfer.

We appreciate your careful consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Robert T. Scully
Executive Director



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

1450 DUKE STREET • ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314 • 703-836-7827

CHARLES "BUD" MEEKS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 4, 1993

Honorable W. G. Hefner
U.S. House of Representatives
2470 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Attention: Irene Schecter

Dear Representative Hefner:

The National Sheriffs' Association, representing our nation's sheriffs with more than 22,000 members, has been on record in support of the Brady bill for several years.

As the full House prepares to vote on H.R. 1025, I urge you to stand with America's sheriffs and support the Brady bill. Too many law enforcement officials and too many Americans are dying from handgun violence. The Brady bill is a reasonable and common sense approach to reduce and prevent handgun violence in America.

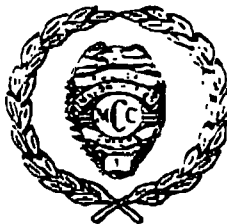
Please support your sheriffs and all law enforcement and vote for the Brady bill. Also, please oppose an amendment that will hold sheriffs and police chiefs liable if we should mistakenly deny a person a handgun.

Your consideration of our support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bud Meeks".

Charles "Bud" Meeks
Executive Director
National Sheriffs' Association



MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS November 3, 1993

Phoenix, Arizona
 Los Angeles, California
 Los Angeles County, California
 San Diego, California
 San Francisco, California
 San Jose, California
 Denver, Colorado
 Jacksonville, Florida
 Ocala, Miami, Florida
 Atlanta, Georgia
 Honolulu, Hawaii

Honorable W. G. Hefner
 U. S. House of Representatives
 2470 Rayburn House Building
 Washington, DC 20515
 Attention: Irene Schecter

Dear Representative Hefner:

Violent crime has risen nearly 19% since 1988, says the FBI, even though the overall crime rate dropped slightly in 1992. Many citizens are afraid to walk in their own neighborhoods and children are afraid to go to school. This is not the America we know and love.

The Major Cities Chiefs is an organization representing the chief administrators from the 47 largest cities in this country. The Major Cities Chiefs have supported the Brady Bill since its introduction in 1987. It is beyond reason that the Brady Bill is not law, yet.

It is known that opponents of the Brady Bill are proposing amendments to the Brady Bill to weaken or even kill the bill. The Major Cities Chiefs are asking you to pass the Brady Bill as a strong bill, not as a watered down, ineffective bill.

One of the NRA-backed amendments proposed in committee is liability for officers or agencies conducting the background checks. It is our understanding that if an officer refuses a handgun transfer because of the information the officer possessed and later it is determined the transfer was legal, that the agency, city or even the individual officer may be sued for damages. We believe police officers who are assigned to perform the background checks will conduct the check in a professional manner as ordered. **The idea of police liability for the Brady Bill is unnecessary, mean spirited, and not in the best interest of law enforcement.**

We encourage you to pass the Brady Bill without liability.

Sincerely,

Patrick Fitzsimons
 Patrick Fitzsimons
 Chairman

Chicago, Illinois
 Indianapolis, Indiana
 New Orleans, Louisiana
 Baltimore, Maryland
 Baltimore Co., Maryland
 Boston, Massachusetts
 Detroit, Michigan
 Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Kansas City, Missouri
 St. Louis, Missouri
 Las Vegas, Nevada
 New Jersey
 Buffalo, New York
 Nassau Co., New York
 New York City, New York
 Suffolk Co., New York
 Cincinnati, Ohio
 Cleveland, Ohio
 Columbus, Ohio
 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 Memphis, Tennessee
 Nashville Metro, Tennessee
 Austin, Texas
 Dallas, Texas
 Fort Worth, Texas
 Houston, Texas
 San Antonio, Texas
 Salt Lake City, Utah
 Washington, D.C.
 Seattle, Washington
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Montreal, Canada
 Toronto, Canada
 Vancouver, Canada
 Winnipeg, Canada



NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF BLACK LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVES

4 November 1993

JOSEPH M. WRIGHT, J.D.
Executive Director
IRA HARRIS
Associate Director

The Honorable W. G. Hefner
U. S. House of Representatives
2470 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hefner:

The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) is a national organization made up of over three thousand executive level law enforcement officials. As a voice of the African-American community, we strongly urge passage of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, H.R. 1025, known as the Brady bill. The Brady bill requires a national five working-day waiting period and background check on all prospective handgun buyers.

Gun violence in America is reaching epidemic proportions and our minority communities are the hardest hit. Some facts: the leading cause of death among black males between the ages of 15 and 34 is firearm homicide; 1 in every 28 black males born today is likely to be murdered; nearly half (48%) of all black teenage males who died in 1988 were killed with guns; firearm homicide among black males aged 15 to 19 has increased 125% since 1984.

For these reasons, NOBLE strongly urges you to vote in favor of the Brady bill, and just as importantly, to oppose all weakening amendments to the bill. Two amendments of special concern to us are police liability and a sunset of the waiting period. The police liability amendment will make law enforcement officials liable for damages in instances where a prospective buyer was mistakenly denied a gun. This amendment will encourage law enforcement to err on the side of approving firearms sales, thus resulting in more felons obtaining handguns. The sunset provision will abolish the waiting period after sixty months without regard to the readiness of a national instant check system. In effect, this amendment will repeal the Brady bill.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Wright, J.D.
Joseph M. Wright, J.D.
Executive Director

National President
JOHN S. PRITCHARD, III
First Deputy Commissioner
New York P.D., NY

Immediate Past President
PERRY L. ANDERSON, JR.
Commissioner
Cambridge, MA P.D.

National Vice President
ROBERT T. BELL, JR.
Assistant Director
Office of Inspection
U.S. Secret Service, Washington, DC

Treasurer
JOSEPH R. LEAKE
At-Large Chief
New York P.D., NY

Recording Secretary
DEBORAH L. MONTGOMERY
Assistant Commissioner
Minnesota Dept. of Public Safety

Financial Secretary
RODNEY C. TUREAU, JR.
Group Supervisor
U.S. Customs Service, Detroit, MI

Sergeant-at-Arms
GENE A. CROSBY
Supervisory Special Agent
U.S. Drug Enforcement, Arlington, VA

Parliamentarian
DAVID E. GIBSON
Assistant Deputy Director (Ret.)
Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, PA

Region 1 Vice President
LOUIS E. GREENLEAF
Chief of Investigators
Essex County Prosecutor's Office, NJ

Region 2 Vice President
JAMES B. GOLDEN, JR.
Executive Officer
Philadelphia P.D., PA

Region 3 Vice President
JACQUELYN BARRETT
Sheriff
Fulton County Sheriff's Office, Atlanta, GA

Region 4 Vice President
ELIA C. COCK
Chief (Retired)
Chicago, IL P.D.

Region 5 Vice President
JOHN P. SUTTON
Special Agent-in-Charge
U.S. Drug Enforcement, St. Louis, MO

Region 6 Vice President
OLIVER M. THOMPSON
Chief of Police
Inglewood, CA P.D.

Federal Assistant to the President
RALPH L. GRAYSON
Agent-in-Charge
U.S. Secret Service, Washington, DC

Special Assistant to the President
WILLIAM R. BRACCY
Chief Patrol (Ret.)
New York P.D., NY

Revised 10/93

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POLICE EXECUTIVE
RESEARCH FORUM

CHUCK WEXLER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 4, 1993

Representative W. G. Hefner
U.S. House of Representatives
2470 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hefner:

The Police Executive Research Forum, representing progressive police professionals from the nation's largest jurisdictions, has long been supportive of the Brady Bill, H.R. 1025. As law enforcement chief executives, PERF members are all too familiar with the widespread violence and carnage resulting from the illegal use of handguns.

In 1991, alone there were over 24,000 handgun-related deaths. Clearly, gun violence in this country has reached epidemic proportions. PERF members know we need new measures to keep our citizens and police officers safe. The Brady Bill is the first step in securing that safety and a better quality of life for all our communities.

The law enforcement executives who comprise PERF strongly urge you to vote for the Brady Bill, and oppose all weakening amendments to the bill. Specifically, PERF members strongly oppose any attempts to make law enforcement and other public officials liable for erroneously preventing the sale of a handgun. This amendment would encourage officials to allow questionable handgun purchases, which would seriously undermine the design of the Brady Bill. Moreover, in the states that currently have a waiting period on handgun purchases, there is no evidence to suggest that police do, or would, abuse their discretionary powers by capriciously denying the sale of a handgun. A vote for the liability amendment is a vote against police, and a vote against the Brady Bill.

If I can be of any assistance on this or any other matter, do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chuck Wexler
Executive Director



November 3, 1993

Representative W. G. Hefner
U.S. House of Representatives
2470 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hefner:

William H. Webster
Chairman of the Board

Hubert Williams
President

Since the Brady Bill was first introduced in 1987, 150,000 lives have been lost to gun violence in this country. That's 65 men, women and children every day.

As tragic as these figures are, they are not the whole story. Scratch the surface of these statistics and we find beneath a culture in which one in twenty high school students in a given month carries a gun to school. Whether these weapons are carried to intimidate or defend, the result is that our nation's youth are spending their teenage years in an environment that breeds violence. Gunshot wounds are the leading cause of death for both black and white teenage boys in America.

But they are not the only ones who suffer. There are other victims -- victims of random drive-by shootings, of vicious assaults, of stray bullets from turf battles. There are also the family and friends of the victims who must pick up the pieces after the shooting stops.

We, at the Police Foundation, know that getting guns off the streets and out of our schoolyards is not the only answer to this cultural nightmare, but it must be one of the first. The foundation is a nonprofit research and technical assistance group that has studied police and criminal behavior for nearly 25 years. We know that guns are a shortcut to power, wealth and manhood for many. We know that as a society we must make that shortcut harder and harder to take. We know if we take no action, we do so at our own peril.

The Brady Bill, a common sense, straightforward piece of legislation, has been held political hostage much too long. It does not in any way undercut the rights of those legitimately entitled to own a gun. The Police Foundation unequivocally supports H.R. 1025 and opposes any amendments to this bill. It should remain intact and make its way to President Clinton's desk in the speediest manner possible.

Sincerely,

Hubert Williams
President

agencies. our organizations collectively represent more than 100,000 law enforcement officers nationwide. For the past six years, the Steering Committee has lobbied hard and long for the Brady Bill and now see an enacted Brady Bill in sight.

We are aware of an NRA substitute version of the "Brady Bill" which will be offered as an amendment to the crime bill currently being debated by the Senate. We want you to know that your nation's police are unconditionally and unequivocally opposed to incorporating this NRA substitute version of the Brady Bill into the crime bill.

Please stand with law enforcement by voting to table any NRA substitute version of the Brady Bill which is offered as an amendment to the crime bill. Then when the real Brady Bill, S.414, comes to the Senate floor as a separate bill, stand with law enforcement once again and vote to pass the Brady Bill, S.414, without any weakening amendments.

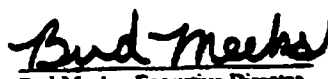
Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.


Dewey R. Stokes, President
Fraternal Order of Police

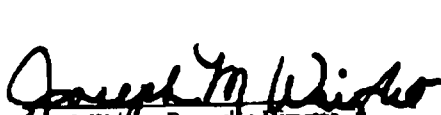

Robert T. Scully, Executive Director
Nat'l Association of Police Organizations


James A. Rhinebarger, Chairman
Nat'l Troopers Coalition


Kenneth T. Lyons, President
Int'l Brotherhood of Police Officers

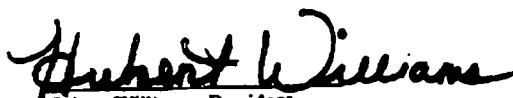

Bud Meeks, Executive Director
National Sheriffs Association


Victor OBoyski, President
Federal Law Enforcement Officers Assn.


Joseph Wright, Executive Director
Nat'l Organization of Black Law
Enforcement Executives


William Bratton, President
Police Executive Research Forum


Patrick Fitzsimons, President
Major Cities Chiefs


Hubert Williams, President
Police Foundation

Steering Committee
Member

Federal Law Enforcement
Officers Association
Fraternal Order of Police

International
Brotherhood of
Police Officers
Major Cities Chiefs

National Association of
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National Organization of
Black Law Enforcement
Executives

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Forum