



June 11, 1999

**EXERPT OF THE REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE U.S.
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS ANNUAL MEETING IN NEW ORLEANS, LA**

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Aboard Air Force One)

For Immediate Release

June 11, 1999

**EXERPT OF THE REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS ANNUAL MEETING
IN NEW ORLEANS, LA**

The Senate Majority even wants to kill our successful COPS program; the very community police who help cut crime in neighborhoods all across America. My balanced budget, on the other hand, extends our commitment to community police into the 21st century, to put even more officers on our streets, especially in the toughest neighborhoods, and give them the tools they need to make those streets safe.

Now is the time to build on our success, not to undermine it. And it's also time -- high time -- to do more to keep guns out of the wrong hands. But the House leadership seems intent on ignoring the lessons of Littleton -- the lessons of all of our recent past. They want to water down the common sense, modest gun bill passed by the Senate. According to news reports, the NRA is crowing that the House leadership gave them 90 percent of the new loopholes they wanted in the gun show law.

Now, clearly, there's a difference of approach here. We have a simple strategy that is already reducing crime all across America. We want more police on the street and fewer guns in the hands of criminals and children. They want more guns on the street and fewer cops. I think that's the wrong approach for America. The House leadership should heed the clear voice of the American people and stop listening to the deadly backstage whispers of the gun lobby.

30-30-30



THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 24, 1999

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. At this time of great progress and hope for our nation we have the chance of a lifetime to build an even stronger America in the 21st century, by facing our great long-term challenges -- like saving Social Security and Medicare, paying off our national debt and bringing economic opportunity to people and places left behind in our recovery, giving all our children a world-class education. And the challenge I want to speak to you about today: fighting crime and making America the world's safest big nation.

For too many years it looked as if the crime rate would rise forever; in too many places, families barricaded themselves behind barbed doors and windows; children were afraid to walk to school; and once thriving communities became proving grounds for lawless gangs.

I took office determined to change this. More than six and a half years ago, Vice President Gore and I put in place a tough, smart anti-crime strategy of more police, better prevention and tougher punishments; a strategy that took assault weapons off our streets and kept illegal guns out of the hands of criminals and away from our children; above all, an anti-crime strategy that funded local solutions to local problems, spearheaded by Attorney General Janet Reno, herself a former prosecutor.

This strategy, pioneered in our communities, has been taken nationwide by our 1994 Crime Bill. It has worked beyond all expectations. The murder rate is down to its lowest level in 30 years; overall crime, its lowest level in 26 years; violent crime has dropped by 27 percent in the last six years alone. And in many smaller ways, reducing crimes like vandalism, that undermine our quality of life, we're beginning to restore civility to our everyday lives. Community policing has been central to our success. This May, I was proud to announce that since I signed the Crime Bill in 1994 we've funded 100,000 community police officers to work with local citizens, identify problems, track criminals and help bring people and life back to our streets.

Today, I'm pleased to announce 65 new grants to help communities around the country hire more than 800 new police officers, including 200 community police officers right here in the District of Columbia. We'll also help the District hire 40 new community prosecutors to work closely with police and with residents on our streets, in our neighborhoods, to fight and prevent crime.

Every major law enforcement organization supports our community policing program. I propose to put 50,000 more officers in our neighborhoods, those that still have too much crime. But our ability to continue to do this -- indeed, our ability to meet many of our vital national needs will be put at risk by the tax and budget plan now being pressed by Republican leaders in Congress. This week, the Republicans in the House of Representatives passed a reckless plan that would cost \$800 billion in the next 10 years, and a staggering \$3 trillion over the next two decades. It is so large, and it balloons in size so dramatically in future years that it would make it impossible to invest

our surplus to save Social Security, to save and strengthen Medicare with a prescription drug benefit, to pay off our national debt.

Beyond that, the GOP tax cut is so large it would require dramatic cuts in vital areas, such as education, the environment, biomedical research, defense and crime fighting. The Republican budget already cuts our successful community policing proposal in half. Their reckless tax plan would threaten law enforcement across the board, forcing reductions in the number of federal agents and cutting deeply into support for state and local law enforcement. To make matters worse, of course, the House Republicans are refusing to take steps to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, like closing the gun show loophole. Indeed, they want to weaken the existing laws with a pawn shop loophole. To keep the crime rate falling we need more police on the street and fewer guns in the hands of criminals, not the reverse.

We have a rare and fleeting chance to use the fruits of our prosperity today to build America for tomorrow. We can invest now to save Social Security and modernize Medicare for the 21st century with more prevention for cancer, osteoporosis and other conditions and with that prescription drug benefit; to lift our children by improving their education; to pay off the national debt for the first time since 1835 and give a generation lower interest rates for businesses, for home mortgages, for car, credit card and college loan payments -- that means more jobs and higher incomes; to bring economic opportunity through investment to our poorest areas that are left behind; to have an affordable tax cut for child care, long-term care, retirement savings and other things Americans need; and to give our families the securities they deserve by keeping the crime rate coming down.

We can do all these things and have an affordable tax cut, or we can squander our hard-won progress on short-term thinking.

Just remember a few years ago -- many people never thought we could balance the budget, but we did, and now we actually have a chance to pay off the national debt. Many never thought we could bring down crime rates, but we did, dramatically. Now we have a chance to achieve something that not too long ago would have seemed pure fantasy. In the early years of the new century we can make America the safest big nation on Earth. We can do this, but only if we act now in the long-term interest of our nation.

So, again, I call on the Congress and all Americans to make this a season of progress. Let's keep thinking about tomorrow.

Thanks for listening.

END

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 9, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ON GUN LEGISLATION

Presidential Hall

11:11 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Mayor Webb, for your words and your work and your friendship. Thank you, Commissioner Timoney, for the example that you and so many others in law enforcement set. I want to thank all the Mayors here today. There's really quite an amazing array of our nation's chief executives of our cities, and Republicans and Democrats alike. Thank you all for coming.

I thank the county officials who are here, the police chiefs and others in law enforcement who are here, and those of you who are here supporting them from the National Council of Churches and other groups.

I want to thank Attorney General Reno and Secretary Summers and Secretary Cuomo, Deputy Attorney General Holder, Treasury Under Secretary for Enforcement Jim Johnson. They are some of the team and the heart of the team that we have had working at this crime issue now for six and a half years. And any success that our administration has enjoyed, I think belongs in large measure to them as well as to the remarkable partnership that we have enjoyed with all of you, and I thank them for that. (Applause.)

There have already been a couple of references made to the fact that many of you were with me here in the White House way back in January of 1994 when I asked you to walk a beat in the halls of Congress to put more police on the street, to ban assault weapons, to keep guns out of the hands of those who shouldn't have them, to fund local prevention programs, to help keep our kids out of trouble in the first place even as we have tougher punishment for serious, violent crimes.

At the time, I think most people assumed that the crime rate would go up forever, and that nothing could be done to bring it down substantially. But I didn't believe that because I had seen from neighborhoods in Los Angeles to the street I walked with Mayor Rendell in Philadelphia and to many other places that I have been with many of you from late 1991 through 1993, that the crime rate was already going down in places where people had done what makes sense to reconnect police officers to their communities and to take sensible, preventive measures.

Well, with a lot of effort, a lot of blood on the floor and the sacrifice -- I think we should never forget the sacrifice of some members' seats in the United States Congress -- we did pass the 1994 Crime Bill. (Applause.) A lot of people used that passage to go home in 1994 and then try to terrify the voters that we were going to take away all their hunting and sporting rights. Others said it was a great waste of money, that it would never lower the crime rate. Others said there would never be any police put on the street. I heard it all.

But thanks to the Mayors, the law enforcement chiefs, the county officials and others involved in trying to make our streets safer, this strategy has worked beyond all expectations. The lowest murder rate in 30 years, the lowest overall crime rate in 26 years, violent crime down by 27 percent in the last six years nationwide. And in many smaller

ways, crimes like vandalism that undermine our quality of life have also dropped dramatically.

I know that one reason this has happened is that we have enjoyed the longest peacetime expansion in our history, and we have 19.4 million new jobs. But every single serious analysis of this phenomenon has also shown that a major portion of the credit belongs to sensible law enforcement and preventions strategies and especially to the strategy of community policing and day-to-day involvement in the communities. (Applause.)

I see Mayor Menino from Boston here. Many of you know that Boston went virtually two years without any young person being killed in a violent act. You cannot explain those kinds of results which we have seen in the neighborhoods of every person represented in this audience simply by economic improvement. We now know what works, and more and more mayors and law enforcement officials and other local officials are doing what works. All we've tried to do is to give you the tools to do it.

We've now funded, ahead of schedule and under budget, the 100,000 community police officers promised in the 1994 Crime Bill. Working together, we have created, I believe, all across the country, across party lines and jurisdictional lines a new consensus on how to fight crime and violence on what works. But, as Mayor Webb said, we have been reminded in recent months from Los Angeles to Littleton, to Atlanta, to what happened in Illinois and Indiana, gun violence is still too much a part of America's life.

We've learned a lot about it and what it takes to reduce it in the last six years, and we know that we need to do some more things. But once again, just as I asked you six years ago, you have to walk a beat in Congress if you want the results. We have to send the message that out in America, this is not a partisan issue, this is simply a common-sense issue about what does and doesn't work. Mayors and police chiefs, Republicans and Democrats all work on the front lines. They know the cost of an action, they know the benefits of prudent action.

You also know that the federal government needs to be a partner in giving you the tools to do your jobs. Today, the Justice Department will take another step in that direction, by releasing \$146 million in grants to hundreds of law enforcement agencies across our country to hire nearly 1,600 more police officers, including over 750 who will walk a new beat -- the halls of our schools -- to protect our children. (Applause.)

I am also pleased that the Department of Housing and Urban Development will invest \$15 million to help public housing agencies, working with the police, to get guns off the street through gun buy-back programs. (Applause.) Thank you.

A lot of you have already invested in efforts like these where citizens can exchange their guns for food or clothing, or small sums of cash. They have been successfully pioneered at the local level. I just want the federal government to lend a hand to do more.

We know that too many neighborhoods still are awash in guns, and that it is just not through crime that guns lead to tragedy. You heard Mayor Webb mention the tragic case in Gary, Indiana. Listen to this: The rate of accidental shooting deaths for children under 15 in the United States is nine times higher than the rate for the other 25 industrialized nations combined.

If any of you have, or ever had, a child in those wonderful, glowing years, that makes a lasting impression. I'm going to say it one more

time. The rate of accidental shooting deaths for children under 15 in the United States is nine times higher than the rate of the other 25 industrialized nations combined. Every gun, turned in through a buy-back program, means, potentially, one less tragedy. And there's more we can do to help you as well.

As all of you know, in the balanced budget, I proposed funding through our COPS program that would allow us to put another 30,000 to 50,000 police on the street in the neighborhoods that still have very high crime rates, to concentrate more resources where they're most needed.

You are doing your part; now it's time for Congress do to its part. Unfortunately, there is the chance that it will go in the other direction. The budget approved by the Republican leaders would cut our successful COPS program, policing, in half, really by more than half.

First, they said it wouldn't work in '94 and it was a colossal waste of money. Now that it has worked and has made the streets safer, they still want to cut it. The tax plan that the leadership is supporting would threaten law enforcement across the board. It would force reduction in the numbers of federal agents that work with your local officials, it would cut deeply into our support for state and local law enforcement.

To make matters worse, Congress has yet to pass a common-sense juvenile crime bill to prevent youth violence and keep guns out of the wrong hands. It's been over a month now since the House and the Senate conferees met, nearly five months since the shootings at Columbine. America is still waiting for Congress to act. It shouldn't take another tragedy to make this a priority, though we've had plenty of them in the last five months.

Now, the lawmakers are back in town. It would be unconscionable if they were to leave again without sending me a balanced bipartisan juvenile crime bill that closes the gun show loophole -- I mean, really closes the gun show loophole -- (applause) -- requires child safety locks on guns -- (applause) -- and bans the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. (Applause.)

We need legislation that will strengthen our present laws, not weaken them. We need legislation that applies to all gun shows, not a bill that allows criminals to turn flea markets and parking lots into open-air gun bazaars. (Applause.) And we need legislation that strengthens, not weakens, the Brady background checks.

These Brady checks are working. They've stopped over 410,000 felons, fugitives and other prohibited persons from buying guns since 1993 when the Brady Bill became law. In just the last seven months, since our new instant criminal background check system went into effect, 100,000 illegal purchases have been stopped by the InstaCheck system. Today, the Justice and Treasury Departments are releasing reports analyzing the effectiveness of the instant check system.

The report makes two things very clear. First, the system does provide law enforcement with a powerful new crime-fighting tool while causing little inconvenience for law-abiding gun purchasers. Listen to this: Seventy-three percent of the checks are completed within minutes, 95 percent in two hours or less. That's the good news. But, second, the report also makes clear that it is critically important to give law enforcement sufficient time to thoroughly check records. In fact, less than five percent of background checks take longer than 24 hours. But those purchasers' whose checks who do take longer than 24 hours are almost 20 times more likely to be convicted felons or otherwise prohibited from owning firearms.

Now, what does that mean? It means Congress did a good thing in pushing the instant check system. That's a good thing, and all of us should acknowledge that. It's a good thing. Anything that minimizes inconvenience to law-abiding people is a good thing. But it also means that our law enforcement officials should not be artificially required to get all this done within a window of time that is so small and that would inconvenience only five percent of the people by going more than a day who, themselves, are 20 times more likely to be prohibited from making purchases in the first place. So everybody, I think, will take heart from the results of this study. They will see that the instant check system is a good thing. And that is good.

But I would also hope that everyone will take heart from the sobering fact that the five percent that take more than longer than a day are 20 times more likely to be prohibited purchasers, and not unduly tie the hands of our law enforcement officials who do this work. So let me be blunt. The NRA was right to support the instant check system; they're wrong when they try to tie the hands of the law enforcement officials to look at the last five percent, and I would hope the Congress would do that. (Applause.)

In the next few weeks, this juvenile crime bill is but one of an enormous number of opportunities Congress will have, thanks to our present prosperity to pull our country together and to move our country forward. We have an historic opportunity to lift the burden of debt off the next generation. We can literally not only continue to pay down the debt, but America, in 15 years, if we stay on the present path, could be debt-free for the first time since 1835. That would guarantee a whole generation of low interest rates and prosperity. (Applause.)

We have an opportunity to strengthen Social Security and take it out beyond the lifespan of the baby boom generation, to strengthen Medicare and reform it with prescription drug coverage. We have an opportunity to invest in our children's future with world-class schools and safer streets. The tax plan passed by the Republican leadership would not permit these priorities to be pursued. We could never pay off the debt, it doesn't add a day to the life of the Social Security or the Medicare trust funds, it doesn't provide for prescription drug coverage and would require cuts in education and law enforcement. The cuts in education and law enforcement could be up to 50 percent.

Now, in 1994, because we worked together, we passed the Crime Bill that enables us to come here and celebrate today, to enable every mayor to sit here and say, "I wish the President were telling this story about my hometown. There is this thing I wish was mentioned today." And back home, people are celebrating, and no one asks you when you're a victim of a crime whether you're a Republican or a Democrat.

And once a person gets elected, when the mayor walks down the street and we're talking about saving lives, no one cares what your party is, they just want people to be safe. We've come a long way since 1994 with a simple strategy: More police, fewer guns in the wrong hands. We don't want to adopt laws and budgets which would give us the reverse -- fewer police and more guns in the wrong hands. No one in America wants that to happen. And there is, today, a bipartisan majority in the Congress that does not want that to happen.

So, again, I implore the leadership of the Congress to work with us -- to give us safer streets and a brighter future. In 1994, we were having a discussion, a debate based on what we thought would work, based on a year or two of experience in a few places. In 1999, there is no reasonable debate. We now have six years of what works. We have proven avalanches of indisputable evidence about what it takes to have safe streets and safe futures for our children. It is an American issue

beyond the confines of the Capital City and it should become America's
cause as Congress returns to work. Thank you and God bless you.
(Applause.)

END

11:30 A.M. EDT



Department of Justice

Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)
Communications Division

**TO: LEANNE SHIMABUKURO
WHITE HOUSE**

FROM: DAN PFEIFFER

RE: BIWEEKLY CLIPS

DATE: OCTOBER 4, 1999

Attached is an updated clip packet on community policing and the COPS Office.

Should you have any questions or need more information, please contact me, at the COPS Office at (202) 616-1728.

DB-
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LS

David - 11-4-63 042-704287



Department of Justice

Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)
Communication Division

COPS BIWEEKLY NEWS SUMMARY

Monday, October 4, 1999

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COURIER-NEWS

BRIDGEWATER, NJ
WEDNESDAY 46,000
AUG 25 1999

Police hope COPS program is extended

By DEBORAH KALB

Gannett News Service 634707

WASHINGTON — When is a cop not a cop?

You could well ask that question about the Clinton administration's much-touted, controversial — and somewhat confusing — COPS program, designed to beef up community policing by putting 100,000 new officers on the street.

The six-year, \$8.8 billion program has been hailed by President Clinton as "the most important factor" in reducing the nation's crime rate, given the cold shoulder by some key Republican skeptics on Capitol Hill, and most recently, raked over the coals in a well-publicized Justice Department audit.

The audit, conducted by the department's inspector general, highlighted

some of the questions surrounding the program — which gives grants to local law enforcement agencies — and its heralded figure of 100,000 new cops.

To begin with, the audit criticized the program for falling behind in getting those cops on the street by 2000, the administration's self-imposed deadline since the program began in 1994.

Based on COPS office projections, only 59,765 of the new cops would be deployed by the end of the 2000 budget year, the audit said.

By law, 20 percent of the grant money, about \$300 million a year, is set aside for this "redeployment" and is counted under a complex formula as part of the 100,000 officers. COPS office spokesman Dan Pfeiffer said

Over the course of the program 422 New Jersey police agencies have

received a total of \$248 million in grants to fund 4,013 officers, Pfeiffer said. Of the \$248 million, 16 percent or about \$40 million was for redeployment grants.

Many police organizations, nationally and in New Jersey, have hailed the program and would like to see it extended beyond its scheduled end in 2000.

"As far as getting cops out on the street, it's a great program," said Anthony Wieners, executive vice president of the New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association. "The more the merrier."

New Jersey police departments are waiting to see what happens when the COPS grant money dries up. The program's future is uncertain — the administration would like to renew it, but Republican critics oppose that idea.

"It could be devastating," Wieners said about the impact of ending the program.

Only two New Jersey departments — Garfield and Passaic — have run into problems with the COPS office that are serious enough to require them to return some money or hire additional officers to meet grant conditions, Pfeiffer said.

Some other departments in the state have experienced less serious administrative problems — such as not filing progress reports on time — that were more easily resolved, he said.

In addition, four New Jersey departments — New Brunswick, Middletown, Jersey City and Newark — were among 149 law enforcement agencies whose audits were included in the inspector general's study



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World Wide Web Edition

CNN Interactive

Date of Publication: 09/09/99

Account Number: 6297BD

Headline: Budget dispute could imperil 'community policing'

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- President Clinton and Congress agree on the goal of increased public safety but not on how to achieve it.

And therein lies a spending dispute that could see the end of COPS, a federal anti-crime program that's become a signature of the Clinton administration.

The outcome could change the way Officer Tony Vidiglione does his job.

Currently, he's the face of community policing in Charles County, Maryland. When he's not in a classroom giving guidance to third-graders, Vidiglione might be found patrolling the same streets he shares with his neighbors.

Although he works for the county sheriff's department, the money comes from COPS -- Community Oriented Policing Services -- which is under U.S. Justice Department jurisdiction.

A centerpiece of Clinton's 1992 campaign, the COPS program was part of a 1994 crime law. It authorized \$8.8 billion for grants to state and local police agencies to hire thousands of new officers or redeploy old ones into street work with the community.

Funding for the COPS program expires next year and Clinton wants to extend it through 2005.

But Congress wants to slash nearly all COPS funding from the upcoming budget, a move that would force local law enforcement agencies to drop community policing programs or find another way to pay for them.

Republicans: Let locals decide

Republicans, though, are touting their own program for \$1.2 billion in block grants to local law enforcement agencies. While seeming to accomplish the same goal as COPS, the Republicans say the plan would put money directly into the hands of local governments, with less federal involvement.

Under the GOP proposal, the local grants "allow your communities to decide how and when to spend the money", says House Appropriations Committee Chairman Bill Young, R-Florida.

Meantime, there's some question about how many officers have actually been hired through COPS.

The Justice Department says nearly 101,000 positions have been funded, but nearly 36,000 of those slots aren't police officers at all.

The legislation that created COPS allows police departments to buy computers or hire civilian workers with their grant money.

They're considered "officer equivalents," because they free desk-bound policemen and women for street duty.

As of now, 55,000 community police are patrolling their neighborhoods under the COPS program and Clinton promises to veto any budget bill that doesn't fund an extension to meet his goal of nearly doubling that number by 2005.

Reporter Jonathan Aiken contributed to this report.

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LEBANON DAILY RECORD

LEBANON, MO
SUNDAY 8,500
SEP 5 1999

Officers to be retained when grant expires

By Edward J. Sisson
The Daily Record

When a Justice Department grant used to hire five new police officers expires in September 2000, the money will be there to keep them on the job, said City Administrator Scott Shumate.

The city received the three-year \$285,763 grant through the COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) program in September 1997.

"It's nice to have the financial flexibility to do that," Shumate said. "We think that it's a good addition to our community. We think we're able to do things now that we couldn't do three or four years ago."

However, some communities like Fordland in neighboring Webster County ran into a money snag. When their \$104,091 COPS grant ran out earlier this year, the funds weren't there and the board of aldermen had no choice but to release the three officers they had hired. The police department now only has a chief to protect the town's 530 residents.

Fordland is not alone. There are about a dozen cities nationwide in the

same predicament. The Department of Justice has made 26,000 such grants for new police officers.

Shumate said it all boils down to having your own money when the grant money runs out.

"Bud (Mayor Allen) and all of our council are very aware of the need for police protection in our town," he said.

He said the council is very supportive of retaining the officers and are pleased with the department the city has in place.

"We think things are going well," Shumate said.

Meanwhile, Police Chief Sam Mustard said he is grateful to the city for planning ahead for the eventual expiration of the grant.

"We went into this thing with our eyes open and we knew at the end of this grant period we would have to absorb the payroll and so the city has made provisions for that," Mustard said.

The hiring of the officers helped the department catch up with the growth of the community.

"I feel now that we're up to speed," Mustard said. "We now have the adequate personnel for a town this size. I think we can handle just about anything that comes down the pike. We have all our officers trained. They've got a lot of schooling under their belts."

Other grant money awarded the police department has gone for the purchase of computer equipment which has cut down on the time officers spend in the office preparing incident reports and has given them more time to patrol the community.

TIMES-NEWS

BURLINGTON, NC
WEDNESDAY 27, 586
SEP 1 1999

Edwards praises C.O.P.S. program

FRONT PAGE

U.S. senator tells leaders
he supports legislation
to extend federal funding

By JIM WICKER
Times-News

639775D

Community Oriented Policing drew praise Tuesday from U.S. Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., who told a Burlington audience he supports continued federal funding that would extend the program for five years.

"It has been an extremely effective program," Edwards said, adding that crime rates have gone down in areas where C.O.P.S. programs have been put into effect.

"People in communities get to know officers, and in schools where school resource officers (funded through the program) have been placed, kids have

"It has been an extremely
effective program."

Sen. John Edwards
D-N.C.

gotten to know the police," Edwards said in a 45-minute session with community leaders at the city's John Robert Kernodle Senior Activities Center. "An officer in another part of the state told me kids who used to run from him now run to him."

Burlington Police Maj. Mike Gauldin, who was in the audience and asked Edwards about legislation for funding the program, said the local department has received more than \$733,000 since 1995 for the C.O.P.S. program.

Graham, Gibsonville and Elon College have also received C.O.P.S. funding.

Gauldin said 10 officers have been added in the Burlington department and four community stations have been established under the program. He said the department's current C.O.P.S. grant won't expire until May 2001, but new legislation is needed to help police and sheriff's departments that do not have the program get funding to start one.

Edwards is scheduled to meet with regional police representatives today at the Winston-Salem Police Department to discuss the C.O.P.S. program and his plan to push for the new funding legislation.

A spokesman at Edwards' office in Raleigh said Burlington police are expected to be the only representatives from Alamance County at the meeting.

During the session, the senator told the audience that he favors rules that

Please see PROGRAM / A5

Program Continued from A1

would prohibit the government from using money paid into the Social Security Trust Fund for other programs.

"Money paid into Social Security should be set aside and locked away for Social Security," Edwards said, adding that he sees the government's use of Social Security funds for other programs in the past as the cause for the program's financial problems.

The Medicare program, he said, is in worse condition than Social Security.

"It's sick," he said.

Even though the projection that Medicare will go broke between 2001 and 2005 has been revised to the year 2015, Edward

said, the government currently "is doing nothing about it."

"My position is that we (Congress) need to do something for both Social Security and Medicare," he said.

Responding to a constituent's question about his position on gun-control legislation, Edwards said he supports "the Second Amendment right for citizens to bear arms, but I don't think the right should extend to criminals. And I think we need to make good background checks of people buying guns."

He added that he doesn't think guns should be denied to people who want weapons for hunting and sports, but he does not favor the sale of assault weapons.

CLARION-LEDGER

JACKSON, MS
SATURDAY 109,395
SEP 11 1999

\$17M grant to boost police force

City to hire 230 more officers

FRONT PAGE

■ Study results in new Jackson crime-fighting strategy

By Theresa Kiely
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer

The Jackson Police Department has received a multi-million dollar boost in its efforts to reduce crime in the capital city.

The U.S. Department of Justice awarded Jackson a

\$17.25 million grant Thursday to hire 230 more police officers.

The money comes four months after the city began implementing a crime reduction strategy devised by the New-York based Linder/Maple Group.

"We are extremely excited about the approval announced by Sen. Cochran today," Mayor Harvey Johnson Jr. said in a statement.

"It will escalate our ranks to the number recommended in the Linder/Maple study," Police Chief Bracy Coleman said. "With more officers, we'll have a better opportunity in fighting and lowering the rate of crime."

The Jackson Police Department now numbers around 365 officers. At full strength, the department's budget provides the money for 450 officers, Coleman said.

The Linder/Maple study advised Jackson to hire an additional 230 officers over the budgeted number of 450.

The study determined that with 680 officers, the ratio of police to population would make Jackson comparable to other similarly sized cities in the South.

"With the release of the Linder/Maple study this spring," Johnson said, "we immediately began the

process of seeking resources to help us implement the recommendations in the plan."

Johnson said he contacted U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., for help in getting funds through the Justice Department's Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services, or COPS.

"This is a city that needed cops immediately," said Brad Prewitt, a general counsel in Cochran's office.

The three-year grant, which city officials plan to announce today at City Hall, will fund a maximum of \$75,000 per officer. All officers hired as a result of the grant will be retained by the city funds after the federal funds end, Prewitt said.

Precinct 1 Lt. Ron Sampson called the funds "a shot in the arm."

"It would be terrible," Sampson said. "You'll be

Police: New Orleans serves as model for new Jackson police plans

From 1A

to train people. It's a big relief ... It will give you a chance to put people on the street. You're talking about 230 more officers.

Jimmie Robinson, president of the Virden Addition Community Association, traveled last month to New Orleans with a busload of citizens, police and city officials to study the effects of the Linder/Maple study in New Orleans.

"I think it means a lot," Robinson said of the grant. "It means everything in the world to the community. We can implement the rest of the

plans we learned in New Orleans."

The crescent city, which had the highest murder rate in the nation when the plan was implemented in 1994, now leads the nation in the rate of decrease in overall violent crime.

According to the study, if Jackson were to achieve the same results as new Orleans, the city's violent crime rate would be cut in half by 2001.

Another aspect of the Linder/Maple strategy is the streamline the recruitment process, which would help attract more officers to the city's understaffed force.

Johnson has said he is working

with Coleman and an advisory committee to streamline the process. After recruiting programs are in place, the city will concentrate on returning to its budgeted strength of 450.

"In terms of what this means for the city, one, it means we must now gear up for an aggressive recruitment effort and two, it means the Department of Justice sees the tremendous potential for the drastic reduction of crime in the implementation of the Linder/Maple plan of action for the Jackson Police Department," Johnson said.

"This will take us over the hill," Robinson said. "It will drop crime tremendously because of the fact that we are short of manpower. If we can get our manpower up will have enough officers to fight crime. That's the key."

The funds will also work to improve morale in the department. Sampson said.

"You get the resources," he said. "It will give people a chance to move up in the ranks. Sometimes it's hard to cover shifts. You have to have overtime, and it hits you in the pocket again."

Clinton: 'Buyback' will get arms off streets

Police to offer goods for guns

By Mimi Hall
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — President Clinton, complaining Thursday that "too many neighborhoods are still awash in guns," unveiled a \$15 million federal gun "buyback" plan to help cities get firearms off the streets.

"Every gun turned in through a buyback program means potentially one less tragedy," Clinton said.

He added that not all shootings are crime-related. He cited statistics that show the accidental gun-death rate for children under 15 in the USA is nine times higher than that of the world's 25 other industrialized nations combined.

Under the program, which will be run by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, local police departments will receive up to \$500,000 to buy and destroy guns handed over by residents in and around public housing projects. HUD will encourage police to offer no more than \$50 per gun in the form of gift certificates for goods or services rather than cash.

The program, which the White House says should bring in as many as 300,000 guns and does not require congressional approval, is modeled after programs in several cities around the country. Authorities estimate that more than 220 million firearms are in circulation in the USA.

Last month in Washington, police collected 2,306 guns by paying \$100 each. The federal program, like Washington's, stipulates that there will be no amnesty given to anyone for crimes committed with the guns they sell to the program.

Clinton, who was joined Thursday by dozens of police chiefs and may-



By Ron Edmonds, AP

Gun-control talks: President Clinton, surrounded by police officers from around the country, listens to speakers talk about gun violence at an event Thursday in Washington. Clinton announced a federal program to buy and destroy weapons.

ors representing cities from Seattle to Hempstead, N.Y., also announced:

► The release of more than \$147 million in federal grants to pay for 1,600 more community police officers, including 750 officers to patrol schools, under the COPS program to put 100,000 more police officers on the street.

► A Justice Department report showing that in its first seven months, the instant criminal background check system for gun buyers has blocked an estimated 100,000 gun sales to criminals, fugitives and those with a history of mental illness.

Clinton also called on Congress to pass gun-control legislation that would mandate background checks on those who buy guns at gun shows, require child-proof locks on handguns and ban the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips.

After a shooting rampage that left

15 dead in April at a high school in Littleton, Colo., the Senate passed a bill that would have required the background checks at gun shows. The National Rifle Association and many Republican lawmakers opposed the bill. It was rejected by the House in June.

Nearly five months after the shootings in Colorado, "America is still waiting for Congress to act," Clinton said. "It shouldn't take another tragedy to make this a priority."

Those who oppose new gun-control laws say the Clinton administration should focus on prosecuting criminals, not passing restrictions. Sam Stratman, spokesman for House Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry Hyde, R-Ill., said it will be "very difficult" for lawmakers to reach a compromise and pass a bill this year.

Contributing: Wendy Koch

Shootings won't halt community policing

Kris B. Mamula
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Officer Friendly will remain in neighborhoods despite police officers being targeted in recent shootings, according to officials who say the attacks will not upset crime-fighting efforts that hinge on community involvement.

One Pittsburgh officer was struck in the foot when an unknown gunman fired about 10 bullets into a police station in the Squirrel Hill section of Pittsburgh on Aug. 27. Another officer also suffered a back injury as the two dove for cover during the 3:30 a.m. incident.

In nearby Braddock, a warrant for attempted homicide has been issued for Robbie Williams, of North Braddock, in connection with shots fired at a police car. Williams is believed to have shot at Braddock police Lt. James Knott on Aug. 6 as the officer stopped to investigate a crowd outside a bar.

No one was hurt in the Braddock shooting, but the rear window of Knott's police cruiser was shattered.

"When you put on a badge, you have to know that some people aren't going to like you," said Braddock police Chief William T. Rogers, a Chicago native and 27-year police veteran.

The shooting came as this distressed steel town of some 5,000 just east of Pittsburgh was beginning a community-oriented policing program. These successors to the beat officer of 1960s put more officers on the street and involved in neighborhood issues on the theory that a reg-

ular police presence helps to reduce crime.

Community policing is credited for steep reductions of crime in New York and other cities. Departments with such programs are also eligible for federal funding.

Rogers said the shooting will have no effect on its community policing efforts.

"It's business as usual," he said.

No agency specifically tracks assaults against officers. But Indiana University of Pennsylvania

criminologist Dennis Giever said attacks on police are receiving far more attention than in the past.

"What really is on the rise is our awareness," Giever said, "but we really don't have good information about how often these things happened in the past."

Still, such attacks are still rare in the region, according to state police Capt. W. John Pudliner, whose responsibility includes Westmoreland and adjacent counties.

"I haven't heard about something

like that in years and years," said Pudliner, a 28-year veteran.

The shooting at Pittsburgh's police station shooting will also not affect the community oriented policing program there, said Marshall "Smokey" Hynes, president of the Fort Pitt Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police.

"It's not only an assault on a police officer," Hynes said. "It's an assault on the community. We still have to try to go out and reach the community."

EXAMINER

BLUE SPRINGS, MO
WEDNESDAY 6,500
SEP 8 1999

Board worried about COPS

FRONT PAGE

By Debbie Ingram Long
The Examiner

Oak Grove Mayor Mike Bird angrily responded to accusations from other city officials Tuesday night that he contacted the U.S. Department of Justice concerning the city's COPS grants.

Alderman Shirley Johnson said someone is trying to "sabotage" the city's federally funded grants which could mean a reduction in police funds of \$300,000.

Public Safety Director Tom Gentry said he has received a copy of a letter from the Justice Department to Bird on "supplantation."

City aldermen in July voted to create their own police department, ending a 30-year contract for protection with the Jackson County Sheriff's Department. The decision was reached after some argument and disagreement among the public and board members.

The issue was defeated by Oak Grove voters two years ago and it became a major campaign platform in the April's city election.

"It (the letter) said you said we were having a reduction in personnel and that is not true," Gentry said looking directly at Bird. "In my opinion someone here has gone to the back of the taxpayers and stole a quarter of a million dollars."

Bird asked to see the letter, which Gentry produced. Bird reviewed it and replied, "Yeah, I remember when I got this. I gave it to David (Frasher, city administrator)."

Gentry and others said it appeared to be a letter of response.

"I won't defend something I didn't do," said Bird, who chastised Gentry for lecturing him and the board. "I didn't talk to them (the Justice Department). I haven't talked to them. I talked to David. All communications goes through David."

Alderman John Ray interjected: "All we're doing is asking."

"I haven't talked to a soul in Washington, D.C., but what I don't appreciate is the way this was done," Bird said.

Board members also discussed their previous conversations on the subject, with Alderman Kerry Lutjen saying he had some concerns about possibly losing the grant funds. He said:

Please see **BOARD**, Page 2A.

Board: Worried about future of COPS grant

Continued from Page 1A

he talked to Alderman Tim Taylor, the mayor, Frasher and Gentry. He then approached board attorney Clay Barton.

"I had questions from an alderman," said Barton, referring to Lutjen. "He asked me if I read the grants. I said I had not been asked to read the grants. I have not talked to anybody in

Washington. I have not written anybody in Washington."

As discussions continued, Lutjen also appeared angry. "I shouldn't defend asking for knowledge," he said.

Bird said Gentry should have brought his concerns to Frasher, whose job it is to bring concerns to the mayor.

Gentry said the Justice

Department assured him they were not losing funds.

Johnson said if the mayor had not contacted the Justice Department, then "somebody is setting you up big time, Mike."

Ray closed the conversation.

"Let Tom do his job and leave him alone," said Ray. "I think as a council we need to let Tom do his job."

Edwards seeks npu for officers on the street

(25773D)
By DENISE JAMES
Record Staff Writer

CONOVER — The Conover Police Department has benefited from the 1994 Crime Bill, and the chief wants the bill extended.

That's what Chief Gary Lafone told U.S. Sen. John Edwards on Thursday when the senator met with the Conover Police Department and other North Carolina law enforcement agencies in Charlotte to discuss plans to cosponsor the extension of the Community Oriented Policing Services program through 2005.

The Conover Police Department is among several in-state forces that have hired some of the 2,591 officers funded under the 1994 federal crime-fighting program that the senator wants to continue.

Edwards and several other senators have sponsored a bill to extend the grant bill from 2000 until 2005. The proposal is still pending in Congress.

Agencies from Statesville, Concord, Salisbury, Gaston County and others, which have received one or both of the COPS FAST and Universal Hiring grants, were invited to assess the success of the program.

Edwards said he believes crime rates have declined since the bill was enacted. Nationally, the senator said, the rate is at its lowest in 26 years, and violent crime in North Carolina is down 7 percent.

"Our streets and neighborhoods are safer because more cops are on the beat — this is a program that works and should be continued," Edwards said.

The COPS program, a creation of the Department of Justice, was a part of the 1994 Crime Bill that authorized the hiring of 100,000 police officers nation-

wide. North Carolina communities have received more than \$133 million in grants to help pay salaries or purchase equipment to put more officers on the streets.

Lafone said the Conover Police Department, which has received \$319,558 from the federal government, has hired five officers through the program since the initial grant.

The grant provides 75 percent of the officers' salary and fringe benefits over a three-year period. The city provides 25 percent.

Law enforcement groups such as the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Police Organizations, the National Troopers Coalition, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives and the National District Attorneys Association endorse extension of the program.

Based on a five-year city growth plan, the department was able to anticipate the ability to add one or two officers earlier with federal government funding, Lafone said.

Additional personnel were not needed during the last involuntary annexation because of the officers already being in place.

The department does not add personnel just to be adding people, Lafone said.

"We have, in fact, turned down offers — make sure there is a definite need," he said.

"It was kind of unusual for a senator to meet in a sit down meeting," Lafone observed.

Another element that impressed Lafone was that Edwards wanted input from offi-

cers who actually work the streets and not just comments the administration.

• Reach Denise James at 322-4510, Ext. 244.

HICKORY DAILY RECORD

HICKORY, NC
SUNDAY 21,280
SEP 5 1999

HARTFORD COURANT

HARTFORD, CT
TUESDAY 227,792
AUG 24 1999

IN WAKE OF SCHOOL KILLINGS, QUEST FOR SECURITY

From Video Monitors To Staffing, A Higher Focus On Safety This Year

029731)
By **ROBIN STANSBURY**
Courant Staff Writer

As thousands of Connecticut students prepare to head back to classes next week, school districts throughout the state are completing their own plans to keep them safe.

"Over the summer, districts have really moved quickly to try to be able to show to parents and the community that they are doing something to

improve safety in their schools," said Kenneth Trump, a safety consultant for the past 15 years with Cleveland-based National School Safety and Security Services. "And they are doing it by showing something physical and tangible. Districts are paying tens of thousands of dollars for security assessments and equipment."

In Connecticut, for example:

■ Berlin is implementing new security measures estimated at

\$40,000, including new locks, door replacement and an electronic pass-card system.

■ Middletown is completing a \$15,000-plus installation of a video monitoring system in each of its 11 schools, the central office and adult education center.

■ West Hartford has spent \$350,000 in recent years installing public address systems with classroom telephones in all 15 local schools. As part

of the district's safety updates, principals have also been given cellular phones and each school is equipped with a two-way radio linked directly to the police department.

■ Glastonbury has applied for a \$250,000 federal grant to help pay for two new police officers at the high school; Old Saybrook was one of a handful of Connecticut communities that received a \$125,000 federal grant last spring to keep a full-time police officer in town schools.

Please see **STATE SCHOOLS, Page A7**

State Schools Beef Up Safety Measures

Local Districts React To Recent Horrors

Continued from Page 1

■ At Solomon Schechter Day School in West Hartford, several steps are planned to strengthen security, including installing video monitors and buying two-way radios.

"We don't want to establish a siege mentality," said David Larson, superintendent of Middletown Public Schools. "We haven't put up metal detectors. But what has happened over the past few years has heightened our awareness and our concerns."

For security companies — which traditionally target private corporations, prisons, courthouses and airports — the increased vigilance is resulting in a steady stream of new customers, bolstering the \$38 billion U.S. security industry.

The school security industry, almost nonexistent five years ago, encompasses products like metal detectors and video cameras, consultants and security guards.

When Shelton began its recent multimillion-dollar middle school construction project, for example, an extensive security system was an immediate part of the plan.

"It's a focal point for the project, rather than an afterthought," said Michael Chadukiewicz, owner of Project Management Team NE Inc., a Cromwell-based security and technology consulting company, which won the Shelton contract and is installing a \$75,000 security system at the school that includes video surveillance. "In the past year, there's an increased awareness. People are talking about security more and doing more about it."

Since 1997, when a 16-year-old boy entered his high school in Pearl, Miss., and opened fire — killing two students and injuring seven others — school districts here and throughout the nation have been reviewing and revamping security.

Company owners say sales spiked after last spring's bloodbath at Columbine High School in Colorado, where two seniors killed 12 students and a teacher before taking their own lives.

Students returned to Columbine this month, with armed guards at the school's entrance, dogs sniffing the grounds for explosives and police officers patrolling the neighborhood. Inside the school, the number of security cameras has increased, and all students and staff must now wear identification badges.

The school did not install metal detectors, and students' bags were not searched.

Other districts, however, are installing metal detectors, and at Garrett Metal Detectors in Texas, sales to schools have grown from almost nothing four years ago into the largest share of the company's business, surpassing orders from airports, prisons and courts, a customer service representative said.

Paul Ferla, president of Tel Rad Inc. in West Hartford, said that in the days after Columbine, he fielded dozens of calls from schools looking for new ways to use the company's public address systems.

"When we are in installing a system, teachers stop us in the hallways asking what they can do if there is a problem, how they can use the system to signal for help," Ferla said.

He's still looking for buyers for the "personal alert system," a small device teachers can wear as a pendant or on a belt loop that, when activated by pulling a pin, sends a distress signal to school administrators through the public address system. It costs about \$10,000.

Some security experts, however, said business is too good.

"Today, there's probably 2,000 school security consultants, 1,900 which started in the past two months," Trump said, warning administrators to watch out for what he calls "overnight experts and charlatans."

"One of the biggest concerns we have is the problem of overnight experts and charlatans out there selling their products and services to schools, and they have very little experience in schools or school security," he said. "The potential for

City's community officer proves his worth daily

■ His role once in jeopardy, Seminole's community policing officer has impressed residents and city officials with his performance and dedication.

By ERIC STIRGUS
Times Staff Writer

SEMINOLE — The back of the Site Food Mart is a long way from the world Darren Romero once roamed as a detective for the Pinellas Sheriff's Office.

Two years ago, Romero had one of the more sought after jobs in the office, tracking down embezzlers, scam artists and fraud suspects as part of the Economic Crimes Unit.

Now, Romero patrols a dark and dirty place, covered by Brazilian pepper trees and littered with glass from broken beer bottles.

On a recent afternoon, Romero, 38, now a corporal in the department, walked to the back of the Site Food Mart on Park Boulevard to show a visitor the area, which has become the domain of homeless men.

While not as exciting as his work in the economic crimes unit, or a previous four-year stint in the vice unit, Romero's current assignment is just as relevant. As Seminole's community policing officer, Romero is the liaison between the city and the Sheriff's Office.

He is responsible for keeping crime down while responding to council members and city officials at a moment's notice. He works on quality-of-life issues, such as people playing pranks on businesses, while keeping an eye out for what he calls "smash and grab" burglars who break the glass of a store window and quickly take what they can before an employee can catch

It is a time-consuming task that requires the Palm Harbor resident to be flexible enough to travel to Seminole on weekends to attend community events while finding time to interact with the two deputies who work the day shift and the two who work nights in Seminole.

"We're kind of like our own little department," said Romero, dressed in his white sheriff's-issue polo shirt, black khakis and black boots. "There's some camaraderie. It's a nice environment to work out of."

Romero must be tough enough to deal with juvenile delinquents and show a similar dose of tenderness when sitting down with the teenager who is teetering between spending his senior year at Seminole High or the Juvenile Assessment Center.

It is a job that city officials and colleagues say Romero has done exceedingly well in his two years in Seminole.

"We might be a little spoiled," said Mayor Dottie Reeder. "Our expectations are high because of his performance."

Romero has been praised for the responsible way he has kept city leaders informed, making monthly reports to the council and having constant informal discussions with City Manager Frank Edmunds.

And since community policing began in October 1995, crime has dipped sharply in Seminole. The number of incident reports filed last year is down about 32 percent from 1995. During that same time, violent crime reports are down 10.5 percent and property crime reports dropped nearly 8 percent.

Sheriff's officials do not take all of the credit for the declines, attributing the difference in part to a robust economy with plenty of jobs for those who might have considered committing crimes to make money.

Still, city officials and community leaders believe some of the credit must go to community policing, and Edmunds has mused about adding another community policing officer to the city. The city manager's idea is all the more significant considering that shortly after Romero became the new community policing officer, Edmunds discussed eliminating the program in Seminole. The city had a three-year federal grant that expired in September 1998, and Edmunds was dissatisfied with the program.

"It just seemed we were not getting the level of service we should have," he said.

Romero was asked to take the job by Sheriff's Lt. Carol Rasor, commander of the community services division. Though he knew little about community policing, Romero was looking for a new challenge and accepted the offer.

Although most law enforcement officers have little difficulty convincing people they are necessary, Romero had the unenviable task of convincing council members the city needed him.

"I had to prove to them it was a worthwhile program," he said.

Romero, who works out of the Fire Department's administration building, came to City Hall every day. He gave officials a comprehensive schedule. Romero became a constant presence around town whether it be in his cruiser, on his bicycle or just walking around and talking to people.

"He's at everything," Reeder said.

Romero began a bicycle safety campaign that focused on making children wear their helmets when they ride. Brochures were printed. Posters were made. Offenders were issued citations. Romero said shortly after the initiative began, a couple of children were injured in bicycle accidents. The injuries could have been much worse had they not been wearing their helmets, Romero said.

During a recent patrol, Romero spotted a child at a gas station near Seminole Mall with his helmet strapped to his head.

"When I first started working here, you never saw that," he said, with a hint of pride.

Shortly after word spread about the future of Romero's position, residents deluged council members with calls and letters in support of community policing. Reeder said residents called her at home. They lobbied her at the supermarket. Over a couple of months, Reeder said about a couple hundred residents spoke in support of the position.

"That definitely meant (community policing) was making an

impression and, I think, a positive impact in the community," Reeder said.

The testimonials from residents poured in even after the city decided to maintain the position, Reeder remembers. One woman told her how Romero took the time to talk to her wayward son. The city pays \$44,244.84 for Romero's position.

"I'm glad they didn't (end the program)," said Bill Miller, president-elect of the Kiwanis Club of Seminole and a member of the Seminole Area Chamber of Commerce. "I think it's a great program."

The Sheriff's Office began its community policing program in 1993. It now has 23 deputies who work in Dunedin, High Point, East and West Lealman, Madeira Beach, Oldsmar, Greater Ridgecrest, Safety Harbor, part of Starkey Road and three public housing complexes.

Rasor, who is in charge of the program, said seasoned deputies who have worked in several departments and have seen virtually every kind of situation a law enforcement officer may encounter make for the best community po-

licing officers.

"It requires more follow-through, but in order to do that, you have to have the time available," Rasor explained. "Not only to look at the problem, but problem-solving."

In the case of the Site Food Mart, Romero sent the store a letter asking management to clear the Brazilian pepper trees.

"If they didn't have a place to hide and drink, they wouldn't do it," Romero said of the area's homeless.

The store manager told Romero that management had contacted a couple of companies about hiring someone to clean out the area.

Clearing what he calls "homeless habitats." Making sure children are wearing their bicycle helmets. Organizing bike rodeos. Coordinating parole checks. It's all important work.

And it's Romero's work.

"It is a different kind of thing," Romero said. "I enjoyed the work I did as a detective, but this job has a whole lot more personal satisfaction."

Police envision a high-tech future

Edwards hopes to renew COPS funding

By Valerie Bauerlein
JOURNAL REPORTER

Rural law-enforcement departments need computers.

Urban agencies need Spanish-language training to serve a growing Hispanic population.

And all officers could use more technology and the training to use it.

Police chiefs and county sheriffs from the Triad said yesterday that they need those things and more to fight crime in the coming century.

Sen. John Edwards met with regional leaders in law enforcement yesterday morning for a roundtable discussion at the Winston-Salem police station.

Edwards, D-N.C., was in town to talk about his bid to renew COPS — a popular 1994

program of President Clinton's, originally promoted as a way to rapidly get new officers on the street.

Over the past five years, the Community Oriented Policing Services program has paid \$5.5 billion in grants nationwide, the equivalent of 100,000 officers' salaries.

North Carolina agencies have received about \$133 million for programs such as those at Wake Forest University, where three new officers were hired, and at the Forsyth County Sheriff's Department, where an officer was hired to work with businesses on crime prevention.

The COPS program is scheduled to expire in 2000. Edwards is co-sponsoring a bill with Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., to reauthorize it.

See POLICE, Page B6

Police grants

The amount that local law-enforcement agencies have received from COPS grants from the start of the program in 1994 through Aug. 17, 1999, and the number of additional officers the money put on the street.

Agency	Amount	Officers
Appalachian State University	\$75,000	1
Blowing Rock Police Dept.	\$114,063	2
Boonville Police Dept.	\$133,150	2
Forsyth County Sheriff's Office	\$73,039	1
High Point Housing Authority	\$825,000	11
High Point Police Dept.	\$630,644	9
King Police Dept.	\$237,323	2
Mount Airy Police Dept.	\$66,450	1
N. Wilkesboro Police Dept.	\$336,836	6
Stokes County Sheriff's Dept.	\$61,061	1
Surry County Sheriff's Dept.	\$482,317	10.8
Wake Forest University	\$174,881	3
Winston-Salem Police Dept.	\$1,082,182	23

Source: U.S. Justice Department



JOURNAL GRAPHIC BY JIM STANLEY

POLICE

Continued From Page B1

Edwards came to town to hear success stories, but also to talk about what works about the program and what needs improvement.

Chief Linda Davis said that the Winston-Salem Police Department wants to use more technology to fight crime.

The grants once focused on putting bodies on the street to make departments more visible and more responsive to the community. Now the trend is to better equip those officers, primarily through laptop computers and better access to records and crime-trend analyses.

"We need to be flexible and change with the issues," Davis said. "Originally we needed to get community policing up and running. We did that, and now we see the difference technology has made in our work lives."

Winston-Salem officers said that the city should be better-linked with such surrounding metropolitan areas as Greensboro and High Point. The cities' chiefs are talking about linking computers to share information on crime trends and wanted criminals.

"We have crooks in common," Davis said.

Sheriff Connie Watson of Surry County told Edwards that the grant money has been a godsend. When he was elected in 1994, Surry County had three computers, no walkie-talkies and no bullet-proof vests.

The county has received about \$500,000 in grants and now has

20 computers, as well as portable radios, vests and other equipment.

"This has caused us to come out of the Dark Ages in a rural area," he said.

Watson and other leaders said their departments have come to rely on the federal grants because local officials can be reluctant to spend money on new law-enforcement projects.

With these grants, local governments can pledge matching funds rather than pay for a whole new project.

Edwards was eager to hear about safety in schools, particularly school-resource officer programs.

"We all know that our parents are scared to death and worried about safety in school," Edwards said.

Assistant Sheriff C.C. McGee of Forsyth County said that, of the state's 502 school-resource officers, 331 are paid for with grant money.

He told Edwards that the money has been well-spent. In Forsyth County in 1992, officers seized 32 guns in public schools. Last year, they seized three.

"It's three too many, but it's down," he said. "And I think it's because our kids talk to us."

Edwards' bill has not yet been introduced. Republican and Democrats alike said that they are worried about losing some programs if it does not pass.

"It's a legitimate fear," Edwards said. "If we don't get this thing continued it's going to stop in the year 2000."

■ *Journal reporter Kirsten B. Mitchell contributed to this report.*

DAILY ASTORIAN

ASTORIA, OR
MONDAY 9,497
AUG 30 1999

Conference to focus on violence, police issues

PORTLAND — The Western Community Policing Center will sponsor a six-state regional conference on community policing and domestic violence Sept. 15-18 at the Downtown DoubleTree Hotel.

"What makes this conference unique is its approach in addressing domestic violence based on partnership principals used in community-oriented policing," said Darrel Schenck, the center's director.

"This conference does more than talk about the issues. Participants in these sessions will walk away with information on programs they can take home and put into action right away."

"Partnerships Against Domestic Violence" will focus on building community teams to serve under-represented populations such as rural communities, immigrants, minorities, people in poverty, and children who witness violence, he said.

Participants and speakers will include police officers, domestic violence experts, district attorneys, social service staff and others involved with domestic violence from the states of Oregon, Alaska, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah.

The center, located in Salem, is a six-state partnership of law enforcement and community leaders. Its purpose is to develop and deliver training, technical models, and provide resources to community teams and police agencies. It seeks to enhance the ability of law enforcement and community teams to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

The center is supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. For information, contact Cindy Becker at (503) 364-3040 or by e-mail to trc@sprintmail.com

A conversation with new chief Darrel Stephens

Why do you think you and Charlotte-Mecklenburg are a good match?

There is a very strong commitment to community policing and problem solving, a style of policing which I have worked on for a number of years and believe is a much better way to police the community than traditional approaches. I think I've had some experiences that put me in a position to contribute to the good things that are already going on.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg police have been involved in several controversial shootings of black residents by white officers. An officer shooting sparked riots in St. Petersburg in 1996. What did you learn from that situation that could apply to Charlotte?

In the disturbances in St. Petersburg, people focused almost exclusively on the flash point,

which was the shooting that involved a police officer. ... It provided the basis for people to gather, and out of that we had some violence. But the roots of the disturbances here in St. Petersburg go very, very deep.

It marked a sense of frustration with job opportunities, with economic development, with educational issues around where children go to school, which is a continuing tension in a lot of communities across America. ...

I had felt that in St. Petersburg, because of the progress we were making, we wouldn't have that kind of violence. I was wrong about that. And in being wrong about that, I didn't provide and insist that we have the kind of broad-based equipment that we needed, that we were well-developed on modern techniques in responding to distur-

bances of that nature. Those were things that were insurance policies that I should have paid more attention to.

Having said that, though, the department and the officers in St. Petersburg responded very, very well. We did have two officers that were shot. Fortunately they were not serious injuries, (not) career-ending or life-threatening. We had a few others that were injured with rocks and bottles.

But no citizens in this community lost their lives at the hands of the police in some of the most tense times that they or we had ever had to face. The outcome has been some injury and some loss of property, but no loss of life.

What could be done to prevent something like that from ever hap-

pening in Charlotte?

I think the things that help prevent that kind of violence are things that are going on in Charlotte right now and have been for a number of years. The strongest thing is having open lines of communication, having relationships that you can build over time.

Do you think that Charlotte is a little further along addressing its racial issues than St. Petersburg was?

Charlotte went through some of the tense situations associated with shootings and (the city was) able to manage those situations in a way that it didn't result in violence.

People were able to express their issues and concerns in a public, open way. So I think in

Please see Q&A / page 4C

Q&A from IC

that regard, Charlotte is perhaps a little bit ahead of not just St. Petersburg but ahead of a lot of communities around the country.

One of the things St. Petersburg has done is that we have really focused hard on those issues that created the frustration through what we call Challenge 2001.

It's a focus on inner-city neighborhoods that addresses economic development issues, public safety issues, and what we call community renewal — rebuilding neighborhoods and housing and increasing the proportion of residents who are homeowners rather than renters. And it includes a real serious focus on education from a city perspective. In doing that, we have put the issue of our diversity on the front burner. ...

Why did you leave the police department to become city administrator two years ago?

A couple of reasons. The mayor (David Fischer) asked if I could take this position.

There was a lot of tension in the community associated with the city's focus on downtown development, according to many, to the exclusion of doing things that were important to poor people, to neighborhoods.

I believed and continue to believe that the strength of a city is found in the fabric of a neighborhood. You can't spend all your energy and time on the business side to the exclusion of the neighborhoods. It was out of balance.

The disturbances were a setback for all of us in the community. After the disturbances we again faced a difficult election where everything was scrutinized. (Fischer) won that election and we continued to move forward.

The city administrator who was here left. He took another position in the county economic development area, and the mayor asked if I would come to city hall and work with him on the implementation of the Challenge 2001 program (mentioned earlier). And I saw that as an opportunity to help the city move forward from the disturbances.

Do you think your experience as a city administrator will make you a better police chief here?

Without a doubt.

I've had a lot of responsibility for overseeing and preparing the budgets and making decisions about resource allocation between the various departments in the city. In that process you begin to learn an awful lot about the importance of other aspects of government.

Before this job, I paid little attention to things like, for example, how the design of downtown related to the people in the street

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How do you think your experience as the executive director of the Washington D.C. think tank Police Executive Research Forum will benefit Charlotte?

I think (former chief Dennis Nowicki)'s involvement in PERF and his national stature was helpful to Charlotte, and I think I can bring those same kinds of things to bear.

I think that those contacts and those experiences provide opportunities to the city in terms of grants, in terms of programs that may not come otherwise.

What is your management style? Do you delegate or are you more hands-on?

My management style is to give people plenty of opportunity and plenty of room to do the jobs they're supposed to do. The task of a manager or police chief is to create an environment where everybody can do their very best work. ...

In some cases I'm very hands-on, very involved in details. In other cases, people don't need much direction. So I'm sort of a mixture of both, depending on what the needs are.

What will be your top priority in Charlotte-Mecklenburg?

I think initially my greatest task is to meet the people in the department, to meet the people in the community. I don't see any significant major shifts in the direction....

My goal is to help the community and make Charlotte the safest city in America.

.....
Reach Leigh Dyer at (704) 358-5058
or ldyer@charlotte.com.

and how the people felt about it....

As I went through the downtown of Charlotte a couple weeks ago, there were things I noticed and appreciated about the way that downtown is developing that had I not been in this position, I wouldn't have had a clue about. . .

. At the street level you don't get the impression that you're walking into a canyon of office buildings the way you do in a lot of downtowns in cities across America. It's a pedestrian-friendly, pleasant downtown.

You've mentioned the reasons you want to come to Charlotte. What are the reasons you want to leave St. Petersburg?

I'm not wanting to leave St. Petersburg as much as I'm wanting to have an opportunity to continue in the world of policing, which is where I've spent most of my life, where I've worked hardest and where I think I've made a contribution in every place that I've been.

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World Wide Web Edition

Daily Republic (CA) - Print Circ 21,000

Date of Publication: 09/07/99

Account Number: 6297BD

Headline: Incentives to stay -- Suisun City comes up with ways to hold on to officers

By Rowena Lugtu-Shaddox

SUISUN CITY -- Several Suisun City police officers have left the department in recent months because it didn't pay enough, but city officials hope to stop the migration with a recent 7 percent pay raise and educational incentives.

"Now we're competitive with other agencies," Suisun City Police Chief Ron Forsythe said.

The city also created new ranks of senior officer, master officer and master sergeant which police can achieve through a combination of higher education, additional training and experience. They will carry another 5 percent pay hike.

"The city is investing in those who have invested in the city," Forsythe said.

The Suisun City Police Department had been in "crisis mode," but has since recovered with a full staff now of 28 sworn officers, including Forsythe.

Some of those who have left said they enjoyed working in Suisun City and liked the camaraderie of a smaller department. But it was difficult to turn down higher pay elsewhere.

The shortage caused police administrators to reorganize resources, Forsythe said.

School resource officers assigned to area schools spend less time on campus and more on patrol, the chief said. A detective was also reassigned to patrol and code enforcement is done about five days out of the month.

"The priority is patrol. When they call 911, we have to respond," Forsythe said. But at no time has the city's safety been compromised, including an officer's, Forsythe added.

Forsythe said the pay increase and other pluses have already made a difference. Two veteran officers who planned to work for other agencies, recently decided to stay.

A prospective job didn't meet his expectations, so Sgt. Tony Welch decided to stay. The salary increase and education incentives certainly didn't hurt.

And having just completed a bachelor of arts degree, the new ranks are not only attainable but attractive.

"I'm exploring upcoming opportunities," Welch said.

Pay isn't the only reason people stay, said veteran cop Bill Smothers, who has worked for Suisun City since 1981.

He's stayed in Suisun City because of the many opportunities offered to him through the years, he said. Smothers has worked every assignment within the department with the exception of being a motorcycle officer.

"To get the same opportunity elsewhere, I would've had to start from the bottom," he said. "I'm glad I stayed (Administration) has instilled a sense of ownership."

Aside from working a variety of assignments, Officer Dave Fullen likes the progression of the city.

"The pay has gone up, but this is more of a family environment; you're known here," Fullen said.

When he leaves to get to work and sees the gridlock nearby, he's happy that the police station is just a bike ride

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World Wide Web Edition

away.

But it will help keep others on the force, officers said.

With the 7 percent raise in Suisun City, base officer's monthly pay is \$2,979; top step officer's pay, \$4,191; base sergeant's pay, \$3,710; top step officer's pay, \$5,220.

In Vacaville, where most of the former Suisun City officers have gone, a base officer's monthly pay is \$3,535; top step officer's pay, \$4,295; base sergeant's pay, \$5,540; and top step sergeant's pay, \$5,817.

Other Suisun City cops now wear a Fairfield police uniform. A base officer's monthly salary ranges from \$3,006, to top step at \$3,655.

Sergeants with an associates degree make \$4,572, and at top step with that degree brings in \$5,558. Sergeant with four-year degrees earn \$4,797, while sergeants with a bachelor's degree at top step make \$5,831.

Acting Suisun City police Sgt. Suzanne Lobao is someone who did the opposite -- she left Fairfield police for Suisun City after working as a cadet, community service officer and dispatcher, collectively for 10 years.

"I like the direction the city has taken with its redevelopment," Lobao said. "We're a progressive department and ahead of the game, as far as community policing. There are other (departments) who are just starting."

During her 11½-years with Suisun City, she's learned to handle various cases, including homicides, which she might not have gathered working for a larger department, she said

Meanwhile, other smaller agencies, such as the Dixon Police Department, recently raised their pay by 5 percent. They hope the increase will help keep officers there

With the recent raise, a base officer's pay is \$2,981; top officer's pay, \$3,805; base sergeant's pay is \$3,450; and top sergeant's pay is \$4,404.

In January, Dixon officers will receive another 4 percent increase

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

CHARLOTTE, NC
THURSDAY 236,579
AUG 26 1999

Choice draws remarks of approval, criticism

FRONT PAGE

By LEIGH DYER,
LAUREN MARKOE
and MAKI BECKER
Staff Writers

Darrel Stephens, who once led the St. Petersburg, Fla., Police Department and was an early advocate of community policing, is the new Charlotte-Mecklenburg police chief.

"I'm elated," Stephens said shortly after City Manager Pam Syfert made the announcement Wednesday. "Charlotte has got a

wonderful police department. ... And it's a great community."

Though many city and police leaders greeted the announcement with praise, two Charlotte City Council members remained critical of Syfert's choice. Two community activists expressed some reservations, based on racial tensions in St. Petersburg, but pledged to work with him.

Stephens last led a police department of 750 employees, less than half the Charlotte-Mecklenburg

department's current size, in a jurisdiction less than half the Charlotte-Mecklenburg population.

He stepped down as St. Petersburg's chief in 1997 after five years in the job to become the city's top administrator, running St. Petersburg's day-to-day operations.

Syfert said Stephens will begin Sept. 27 and earn a yearly salary of \$127,000. That's a jump from the \$112,000 salary that former Char-

.....
Please see **CHOICE** / page 6A

CHOICE from 1A

lotte-Mecklenburg Chief Dennis Nowicki earned. Stephens made \$110,000 in his former job. Syfert earns about \$137,500.

"She (Syfert) made a good selection," said Mayor Pro Tem Lynn Wheeler. "Darrel Stephens is a stellar candidate. . . . He will provide the necessary leadership and management skills for a growing, diverse community. . . . I'm pleased with the selection and I'm pleased with the process."

But council members Don Reid and Mike Jackson, who criticized the selection process for not giving them enough of a say, were less enthusiastic Wednesday.

"I was quite surprised," said Reid, who chairs the council's public safety committee. "At our meeting on Monday night, many questions were raised and there was no consensus. The indication from the city manager was that she might take some time and be more deliberate. . . . It's an indication that the city manager didn't have that much concern about how (the City Council) felt."

Jackson, who wrote a memo last week critical of Stephens, said he's still not happy with the process.

"But now that we're beyond the process, I want to improve community safety and I will work with the chief to do that," Jackson said. "I'll expect him to perform, and I'll hold the manager accountable for the results."

Stephens said he hopes to sit down with Jackson and Reid soon to address their concerns. "I hope in time I can develop a working relationship with them and contribute to the community," he said.

Syfert's defenders, who include Nowicki, note the city charter assigns her sole responsibility of choosing a police chief.

Mayor Pat McCrory said keeping the decision in Syfert's hands benefits the Police Department because it helps insulate police decisions from politics.

And he believes riots in St. Petersburg in 1996 during Stephens' tenure are a strength, not a weakness. "We have hired a police chief who has been tested, and that's an extremely important qualification," he said.

City Council member Sara Spencer said she is "very happy" with Stephens, who she believes will make a good chief because of his background not only as a lawyer but also as a city administrator. "Policing is not just working with the officers," she said.

Syfert defended her process and praised Stephens at a news conference. If she had to hire a chief again, she said, she would call a special meeting with City Council sooner after her interviews with top candidates so there would be less time for speculation. About two weeks passed between the interviews and her discussion with the council Monday.

"Darrel is well-known nationally and has contributed a lot to the knowledge and understanding of community policing," she said.

Stephens did not attend Wednesday's news conference. He is expected to be at a luncheon Friday at the Government Center to meet with local leaders.

Syfert chose Stephens from an initial field of 36 candidates, which consultants and staffers helped winnow to three finalists.

Among the finalists was Charlotte-Mecklenburg Deputy Chief Larry Snider, who supervises the department's felony investigations and other units. Michael Berkow, chief of the 35-officer South Pasadena, Calif., Police Department, was also a contender.

Snider said he is disappointed but supports Syfert's decision.

"I think he (Stephens) is coming

to an excellent police department, one of the best in the country, which will make the transition very easy," Snider said.

Within the department, several employees reacted favorably.

"I'm quite pleased. I've heard quite a lot about Darrel Stephens and I'm looking forward to working with him," said Mark Newbold, a police attorney.

"I'm glad they made a decision. . . . I'm optimistic," said police Capt. Mike Faulkenberry.

Two community leaders reacted more warily, noting the past decade of racial friction in St. Petersburg. "Time will tell as it relates to how beneficial he will be to the Charlotte area," said Dwayne Collins, president of the Charlotte NAACP chapter.

Collins says he remains concerned because the St. Petersburg riots came after a white police officer fatally shot a black motorist. A grand jury cleared the officer of criminal charges.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg officers fatally shot three black motorists in incidents from 1993 to 1997, and each shooting brought outcry from community leaders. All the officers were white.

Collins said the NAACP is looking for a "more significant relationship" between the Police Department and minority neighborhoods. He said the NAACP also wants changes in the way the Citizens Review Board can choose what complaints about police officers to examine.

"Charlotte is not St. Pete. What worked in Florida is not necessarily going to work here," said Ahmad Daniels, community coordinator with the NAACP.

He suggested Stephens get to know Charlotte by walking around neighborhoods and going to places of worship in plain clothes to "listen with real big ears" to what people are saying.

Stephens said he'll be glad to listen. "I hope to have the opportunity to sit down and work with . . . members of the community who are concerned," he said.

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GAINESVILLE SUN

GAINESVILLE, FL
SUNDAY 59,577
AUG 22 1999

Double shift

Sometimes, GPD's dual roles result in friction

By FLORIDA A. BRIDGEWATER
Sun staff writer

In one corner it's the "Hook 'em and Book 'em Squad." In the other, the "Wave and Grin Squad."

Their sparring is causing a rift at the Gainesville Police Department between patrol officers and the "specialized unit" of Community Oriented Policing officers.

COP team members are seen as public relations magnets who get to work in the same neighborhood for extended periods, shake hands with people, become pals with residents and work in partnership with that community to solve the underlying causes of crime. That's "pro-active time," officials said.

Meanwhile, their equals in patrol — who don't have the same luxury of time — often have to hump from call to call arresting people, writing tickets, covering accidents — and they are generally seen as the bad guys when out on the job.

Considered the "front line" of the department, patrol officers, historically, have griped about their positions in the department in relation to specialty units like detectives.

But their recent concern is how they fit in the community oriented policing concept.

Perception and reality

"We are not all on the same sheet of music," said Officer Mike Mielke, a former COP officer, who spoke about the division at a recent Police Community Committee meeting. Mielke, along with Capt. Tony Jones and Lt. Lonnie Scott, began the first COP team of officers at the department in 1987.

"If I am a patrol officer, I am not interested in building relationships — my interest is to handle my calls. A COP team officer has the benefit of building ties — actually gaining ownership of that neighborhood," he said.

Many current and former patrol officers said they feel unappreciated and that COP officers are not doing their fair share of the daily call load.

Det. Jorge Campos, who a year prior to being a detective was a patrol officer, also gave his perceptions when he was on patrol.

"Part of the resentment that patrol officers have is they are busting their butts and the perceived

DOUBLE continued on Page 4B

Continued from 1B

protected COPs unit isn't out there helping them," he said.

A night-shift lieutenant and member of the Police/Community Committee, Lt. Gary Hoffman admitted he has had to call in officers to work overtime because of a patrol officer's heavy call load — even when a COP officer is on duty.

"What you have is a very staff-intensive issue," Hoffman said, "when you have patrol officers out there handling daily calls, then you have COP team officers who are going out there doing event-type activities," like attending crime watch meetings, talking to kids on a street corners or talking to parents about their child's behavior in school.

But perception is marred by reality. COP officers do more than wave and grin.

There are about 150 positions in patrol and 15 COP team officers, according to Gainesville Police Department numbers.

In July, patrol officers made 759 arrests (186 felony, 411 misdemeanor and 162 warrant arrests); while the COP team officers made 250 arrests (48 felony, 130 misdemeanor and 72 warrant arrests).

The numbers may seem odd — COP team officers averaged about 16 arrests each in July, patrol officers about 5 — but COP officers have more time in their day to make arrests, GPD officials said.

On any given night, a patrol officer may have to go to 20 calls

for service and not make one arrest.

And while a COP officer is busy in proactive time in his neighborhood, many times a patrol officer has double duty, covering that COP's neighborhood during that time.

Interim Police Chief Daryl Johnston concedes there is tension between patrol officers and COP officers, but he can't see a time when the police department will not have both.

"We have had what has been described as the good cops and the bad cops," Johnston said.

Different missions

COP team officers and patrol follow different missions and philosophies. Even naming the officers differently creates tension, admits Johnston.

Patrol officers are "emergency response personnel," while a COP officer's primary duty is crime prevention or being a "neighborhood specialist."

"It's the generalists versus the specialists," Johnston said.

But, Johnston said, it's more "efficient" to give people a special task to do and meld their jobs into the overall scheme of things in the department.

"The military does it, law enforcement does it. That's the heart of the problem we've had — and we will continue to have. I don't see it changing any time for any major agency in the future."

Experts who have studied community oriented policing and law enforcement say patrol officers pitted against COP teams is not unique, yet finding a way to incorporate the two without hurt feelings is.

Frederick Shenkman, a University of Florida criminology professor who worked for GPD for eight years in the 1980s and was an advisor to the chief, has studied various issues facing community oriented policing.

"The two underrated parts of policing, is patrol division and police communications. Patrol is not very sexy. It doesn't have that panache," said Shenkman, who also worked on minority relations, training, promotion and evaluation issues during his tenure at the department.

So, when police administrators want to look like they are innovative, Shenkman said, "they create a sort of an alphabet soup of acronyms, it's like the alphabet soup of law enforcement."

And while patrol is the largest unit, it's usually the division police administrators pick from.

"When they want to do some of the sexy, innovative creative stuff, when we need people, guess where they take them from, they take them from patrol but they don't add people — and patrol invariably feels like it doesn't have the person power to do the basic kind of policing that the public wants," he said. "It's fairly typical for patrol to feel

sort of like a stepchild."

Experts say there is a "grave danger" in excluding patrol officers while implementing the community oriented policing philosophy.

Bonnie Bucqueroux, author of two books on community oriented policing and former associate director for the National Center for Community Policing at Michigan State University, said, "It tends to build up enormous resentment against them internally."

If we want this to become an effective movement, we need to make sure everybody in the department is forced to rethink how am I doing my job and how does that sit with the community policing mission."

The issue has been discussed at a few Police/Community Committee board meetings.

Several officers from the Fraternal Order of Police — which represents 232 officers, corporals and sergeants, spoke frankly about the rift and made recommendations

Making choices

Some wanted the administration to make a choice — either adopt traditional policing or community oriented policing.

Others believe there could and should be a "happy balance" but it's going to take "more officers and a whole lot of money" — which Gainesville residents may not be ready to pay for.

Already, about \$21 million of the

city's budget goes to the police department.

While nine out of 10 police agencies across the country use some form of COP, some police chiefs are abandoning the idea, saying it's too labor intensive, too expensive to maintain and it creates internal strife.

Even so, City Manager Wayne Bowers said the next police chief — who is expected to be in office by late November — will know how to balance community oriented policing and the needs of patrol.

"There's got to be an effort to meld the two together to make sure they work together as best they can," Bowers said. "Based on the priorities by the city commission and my own priorities I think it's important to have someone who has a clear understanding of community oriented policing."



Bowers

Bowers said that vision was somehow lost with former chief Don Shinnamon.

"I don't think Chief Shinnamon's concept of community oriented policing was the same as the community at large. And not the same one the city commission had."

Bowers said that will be given some attention when he makes his selection.

"We have got to be able to get the benefits of the neighborhood policing and also handle the patrol."

There are 58 applicants so far and about 12 more expected for the chief's position, Bowers said. He will pare down the list by the end of August. Interviewing will begin in September.

Among the other tasks facing the department, the new chief has the difficult one of minimizing the conflict's impact.

"We have to ask ourselves — what is the alternative?," said Interim Chief Johnston. He said during his tenure as chief he is not willing to go back to a time when residents felt estranged from the police.

Calling "problem-solving policing" the next evolution in policing, Johnston reassigned 25 officers to work in the department's neighborhood services division under Capt. Tony Jones, bringing Jones' total to about 40 officers.

"If we were to go back to the 1970 law enforcement style of putting patrol officers in cars, it would make it easier for them to get a day off here and there — but the price we would pay is tremendous alienation within certain neighborhoods," Johnston said. "We are going to go back to the 1970s riots, when the community (felt) it was one part and the police department was another part and there not being a relationship there — that to me is a horrible price. And if I have to balance that with patrol officers being unhappy about their role in the scheme of things — then I think that's one of the prices we have to look at paying."

Cherry Hill faces audit on policing grants

The Community Oriented Policing Services program is the focus of a federal inquiry.

By **CLINT RILEY**
Courier-Post Staff

CHERRY HILL

Auditors are reviewing how the township's police department managed or spent

more than \$1 million in federal community policing grants, officials say.

The U.S. Justice Department is conducting the grant review while scrutinizing the national \$8.8 billion Commu-

nity Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program.

A Justice Department spokesman would not say whether the audit is routine or arose from concerns about how Cherry Hill officials used COPS funds.

Results of the grant review are expected to be released before year's end, said Paul

Martin, a spokesman for the Office of the Inspector General. "We may have findings,

but we may not," he said.

Cherry Hill Police Chief William Moffett did not return repeated telephone calls seeking comment.

Cherry Hill is the second South Jersey community this year to face a federal audit of COPS grant money.

Auditors are continuing to examine how Camden han-

dled more than \$5 million received since the COPS program began in 1994, Martin said.

Federal records show Cherry Hill has received a little more than \$1 million in COPS funds since early 1995 to help hire additional full-

Audit

■ National COPS program under scrutiny

Page 4B

See **CHERRY HILL**, Page 4B

Cherry Hill/Justice Department reviews township's policing grants

Continued from Page 1B

time officers and part-time special police to handle traffic and parking enforcement.

COPS funds also have financed the purchase of mobile computer terminals for police cars.

Cherry Hill's school district, which has its own police force, received another \$359,000 in COPS funding during the same period.

There is no indication that those funds are being examined, however.

The Cherry Hill Police Department was one of the first beneficiaries of the COPS program. President Clinton's initiative to put 100,000 additional police officers on America's streets by fiscal year 2000.

An audit also is under way at the police department in Elizabeth, Union County.

Only two New Jersey depart-

ments -- Garfield and Passaic -- have run into COPS funding problems serious enough to require them to either return money or hire more officers to meet grant conditions, said COPS office spokesman Dan Pfeiffer.

Garfield returned \$57,000 after using more money than it was supposed to.

Passaic used \$190,000 in federal money when it should have used

state money and now is hiring more officers to meet grant conditions, said Pfeiffer.

Other departments have experienced less serious administrative problems, such as not filing progress reports on time, that were more easily resolved, he said.

Deborah Kalb of Gannett News Service contributed to this report.

TIMES

SHREVEPORT, LA
FRIDAY 79,903
AUG 27 1999

COPS money delay jeopardizes jobs

■ Media inquiry
expedites process.

By Jeff Richard *624783*
Times Natchitoches Bureau

ROBELINE — A four-month wait for money from the U.S. Justice Department could have left this small village with two fewer police officers on the streets.

Robeline is one of 31 Northwest Louisiana law enforcement agencies that participate in the federal Community Oriented Policing Services grant program. The program is part of the 1994 Crime Bill, in which President Bill Clinton authorized 100,000 extra police officers on streets nationwide by 2000.

When the salary-paying grants are awarded, local agencies are told by Justice to hire the extra officers immediately because the grant money is on the way. That wasn't the case for Robeline.

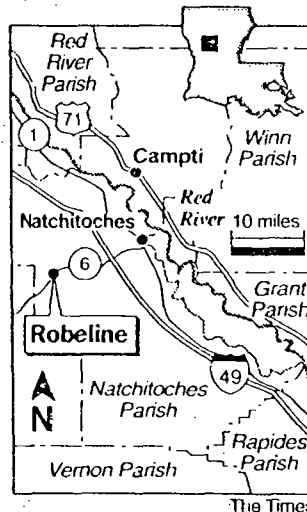
Robeline has been waiting four months for grants. Village officials this week said it would lay off two officers next month if the grants didn't surface.

But after a media inquiry to Justice about the grants, the money is being expedited to the village. This isn't the first time it took media involvement to get money moving from Justice

COPS money

Thirty-one Northwest Louisiana law enforcement agencies have qualified for federal Community Oriented Policing Services grants since the program started through the 1994 Crime Bill. The following shows the total received by law enforcement agencies in each parish.

Bienville: \$88,292
Bossier: \$387,552
Caddo: \$5.5 million
Claiborne: \$62,161
DeSoto: \$383,862
Lincoln: \$905,358
Natchitoches: \$217,159
Red River: \$134,753
Sabine: \$334,225
Webster: \$375,470
Total: \$8.4 million



to local communities.

In 1996, the village of Florien laid off three police officers after waiting 10 months for its COPS grants. The Times called Justice officials then about the crisis. The grants were deposited electronically in a Sabine Parish bank in two days.

The Times called Justice again this week. A Justice spokesman said Robeline's grants would be processed as soon as possible.

"We are going to do everything to make this work for them," Justice spokesman Dan Pfeiffer said. "We don't want to see police pulled off the streets."

Pfeiffer attributed Robeline's funding delays to extra processing because the village is a first-time COPS grant recipient. In 1996, Justice spokesman Charles Miller attributed Florien's funding delays to an "honest foul-up" made

while combining multiple COPS grants for the village, plus a federal government shutdown that year.

Florien and Robeline, both with fewer than 1,000 residents, operate on small budgets. Robeline's general fund budget is only about \$147,000 annually. The village couldn't afford using other operations' money while waiting for the promised federal money, Police Chief Truly Broadway said.

Efforts to reach Robeline's two officers who were hired on promised COPS money were unsuccessful this week. But Broadway said "they are going to be excited. They want to keep their jobs."

The news about Robeline's grants being stepped up in priority was good to Sherry Oxley, a clerk at a Robeline convenience store. The extra officers provide security for Oxley when she closes the store at night.

"When that police car is outside, I feel a lot safer."

Other COPS grant agencies contacted in the region this week said they had not experienced funding problems. Florien Mayor Rodney Jordan, however, said he still has a mixed opinion about the program due to his town's funding fiasco.

NEWS & ADVANCE

LYNCHBURG, VA
TUESDAY 38,000
AUG 24 1999

CAMPBELL COUNTY

Resource officers wanted

School deputies more than mere security guards

29735

By Amy Frazier

The News & Advance

RUSTBURG — Campbell County school officials want an officer in every high school and middle school by the end of the academic year.

And while safety is clearly on their minds, school officials say the officers can mentor, teach, talk to and encourage students.

Last year, the county Sheriff's Department assigned three Student Resource Officers (SROs) to serve

Please see **OFFICERS**, Page C-3

OFFICERS

Continued from Page C-1

in county schools.

At least two more student resource officers will be mentors, teachers and watchdogs for students in Campbell County this year under a state and federal drug-free school grant. If the county receives a full federal grant, another two officers will be added by the end of the year.

Bringing officers into the schools is not a reaction to crime in Campbell County, it's a reaction to the school violence nationwide, Sheriff Robert Maxey said.

"We haven't had problems. We didn't see an increase (in school crime). But to say the violence in other schools hasn't been an influence — that has been a factor," Maxey said. "All you have to do is hear about one school shooting and you realize it's a worthwhile endeavor to have Student Resource Officers in the schools."

But school safety isn't the only focus of the officers, SRO coordinator Sgt. Cindy Brown said. "They are not there as a security guard. They are there to interact and be a positive influence," she said.

SROs talk to angry ex-boyfriends and stop bullies in the cafeteria, SRO Deputy Thom Farmer said.

"The biggest thing is fights," Farmer said. "Sometimes students reach a boiling point and explode."

Last year, there was not one fight in Brookville High School, he said. His presence helps prevent problems, he said.

For example, there were about

eight thefts from cars parked in the school parking lot in the year before he came. But last year, Farmer said, there was only one theft.

Resource officers refer students who open up to them about abuse in their homes. Off the clock, they cheer on players at home games and talk to parents.

They lend teachers a hand; the law is their specialty and they give lessons in civics and senior government classes. In drivers' education classes, they warn students of the repercussions of driving under the influence.

The officers are required to form a Student Safety Council, as well. The group of students informs them of school safety concerns. This school year, Brookville High School students can anonymously report safety problems by dropping a note into a locked wooden box.

The problems they point out can be anything from a dark hallway to a student selling drugs, Farmer said.

Farmer and the other resource officers attended seminars on school violence this summer in which they discussed the violence at schools like Columbine.

"When I heard about Columbine, it hurt me," Farmer said. "I sat down and cried. I told (a student) I would have put my life on the line for y'all."

While bombs and killing are in the headlines, school violence is actually down across the nation, he said, — and part of that may be due to the officers.

The SRO program began after a federal and state initiative, Assistant

Superintendent of Instruction John Erb said. And the money has largely come from the state.

But if the program receives a three year federal grant and adds three officers, the schools will have the obligation of continuing the program.

"Our intent would be to find funds after the three year funding is up," Erb said. The money would be well spent, he said.

The schools now share officers. There is one officer to every 2,900 students, Erb said. One officer is based in Rustburg High School. One is based in Brookville High School and one officer rotates between Rustburg and Brookville Middle Schools. All three officers rotated to visit other county schools.

Last year a bomb threat came to one of the schools while the SRO was gone, Sgt. Brown said. "They asked, 'Why weren't you here,'" she said.

Additional officers will cut down the rotation and add to security, she

said.

With the addition of two officers, the SROs will cover Altavista Combined School, William Campbell Combined School and the Alternative School in Rustburg.

Placement of resource officers is based on school enrollment, Maxey said.

Attitudes toward the program have gone from apprehension to appreciation during the past year, Brookville High School Principal James Whorley said.

"I was a little skeptical," said Whorley. "The idea of having an armed officer in the building didn't seem necessary."

Guns lend to deterrence and all of the SROs were sheriff's deputies previous to working at the schools, Administrative Assistant for Campbell County Schools Marty

Harvey explained.

Whorley says after a year of having an officer in the building and seeing his effect on students, he is 100 percent supportive of the program.

"We've heard nothing but positive things from the parents," Whorley said.

HARTFORD COURANT

HARTFORD, CT
SUNDAY 316,058
AUG 22 1999

Training Aims To Develop A Nicer Force

629762

State Police Hope To Change Reputation With Canadian Idea

By TRACY GORDON FOX
Courant Staff Writer

When 40 state police recruits begin their training Monday, they will wake up at 5:30 a.m. to a paramilitary routine of grueling exercise led by in-your-face veteran troopers.

The eight weeks of running, pushups and obstacle courses under the glare of muscular instructors are as much a tradition with the nation's oldest state police force as the blue and gold uniforms and Stetson hats.

But after the first two months of fitness training, the recruits will head for the classroom, where they will break with traditional instruction and be the first to use a new community policing curriculum.

Modeled after a program used by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for the past decade, the new curriculum represents the most significant change in training in 30 years. With it, state police administrators hope to turn out state troopers who are physically tough, but also a more gentle breed of cop.

"We have to teach them to be the best troopers, but meanwhile teach them to be compassionate with the citizens," said Public Safety Commissioner Henry C. Lee.

Lee and state police commander Col. John F. Bardelli who initiated the community policing concept are hoping ultimately the new training will change the public's image

Police

Continued from Page B1

of a department long perceived as an aloof highway patrol.

"They no longer trust us. We have to regain respect," Lee said. "They are not our enemy."

Community policing is integrated into almost every training subject, from traffic enforcement to burglary investigations.

The Canadian training model breaks away from the traditional police lingo of "perpetrator" and "complainant," instead referring to criminals and victims alike as "clients" and members of the community as "partners."

"What we want our troopers to look at is who are the other people to help me solve issues? We want them to think a little more globally," said Sgt. Clifford Thermer, recruit coordinator for the state police.

Capt. Danny Stebbins, commanding officer of the bureau of business and strategic planning, calls it "thinking outside the box."

In a paramilitary organization that sort of thinking would have once been rewarded with a nose-to-nose bawling out by an instructor.

"Most academy cultures you currently see in the U.S. were built after WWII. They had to do things the same way and do it that way all the time," he said.

But times have changed and the police have to change with them, Stebbins said.

"Cops in general are learning to get away from a paramilitary demeanor," Stebbins said.

While community policing is not new for local departments, it is for most state police forces. Maryland, New York, Louisiana and Washington state have started using similar models or are considering them.

Sgt. Mike Gaudet, a spokesman for the Canadian police, said he believes the program is the best approach to policing. But he said even after a decade the 20,000-member department is still working out the kinks.

"We've seen a mixture of successes, some where the community has embraced it and partnerships have developed and others where the relationship is slower to come along," Gaudet said.

Some Connecticut troopers question whether community policing will work in an already understaffed department responsible for covering a large portion of the state.

Union President Robert Veach questions whether road troopers who are running from call to call will have the time to utilize the ideas they have learned in the academy.

"For it to work in the fashion they want it to, they will need 1,500 troopers," Veach said. "I believe in the program, but I don't believe this department has enough manpower."

He said he is also concerned that an elite group of troopers will get highly coveted community policing jobs in schools and within communities, where others will be left to patrol highways.

"If that's the way it happens in our department, within five years it will be gone," Veach said. "The only way it's going to work is if every trooper in the department buys into it and believes in it. Otherwise

there will be a division."

State police administrators say 226 troopers who will be hired under a federal community policing grant will help ease the caseload for road troopers. And Lee says he expects even highway troopers to practice community policing by getting to know store owners and truck drivers on their beats.

"Over the years, there has been a constant complaint that troopers are not evaluated on their total worth, but are evaluated on numbers. This gives them a chance to be measured by their total value to the agency and to citizens," Bardelli said.

The training comes at a time when the state police division has lost many experienced veterans through early retirements. Fifteen years ago, new recruits would be field trained by a 20-year veteran; now troopers with four years experience teach new troopers.

But what the department has lost in experience, it has gained in energy, state police officials said.

Lee concedes the relative youth of the 1,043-member department puts additional pressures on shift supervisors, who must keep a closer watch on the ranks. But he said a veteran department isn't problem free either.

"If you keep doing the same mis-

take for 30 years, it's still wrong," Lee said.

And just because there are many inexperienced state troopers doesn't mean the new officers are young.

Years ago, most state police recruits were in their early 20s, and many had just finished serving in the armed services. They expected the rigidity of a military environment.

The median age of the class that begins Monday is 31; many are highly educated and half have prior law enforcement experience.

"We're getting people now with a lot of education who are independent thinkers and they don't want to be in the box," Stebbins said.

Bardelli said he is looking to graduate police officers, not U.S. Marines. "Even the military doesn't run a boot camp for seven months," said Bardelli, who insisted the academy classes be relaxed.

In many ways, paramilitary life is alive and well at the training academy in Mansfield. And the fundamentals of police work are still the backbone of the program.

But in the air-conditioned, carpeted classrooms with light blue walls, they will also learn that thinking outside the box means doing more than writing a ticket or making an arrest.

"We've taught people that for

Trooper training

■ The 109th Connecticut State Police Training Troop will be the first to be trained under a new community policing model taken from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The 40 recruits in this class, ranging in ages 23 to 53 have more prior law enforcement experience than any class before.

Here is the breakdown of ages and other demographic information for this class:

Age	No. of Troopers	Age	No. of Troopers
23	4	33	2
24	5	35	1
25	2	36	1
27	4	37	1
28	4	39	1
30	4	42	1
31	2	44	2
32	4	49	1
		53	1

Number of male recruits: 34

Number of female recruits: 6

Recruits with prior law enforcement experience: 20
Total years of law enforcement experience in the class: 81
Recruits with prior military experience: 14
Recruits with four-year college degrees: 25
Recruits with two years of college: 3
Recruits with master's degree: 1
Recruits from other professions: 2 attorneys; 2 nurses.

SOURCE: Connecticut state police bureau of selections and training

The Hartford Courant

years. Now we are teaching them to look at the bigger picture," Stebbins said.

Using the example of an intersection where there are numerous accidents, Stebbins said the trooper could choose to investigate the acci-

dent and leave.

"Or you could go back to the office, pick up the phone and tell the state Department of Transportation and local authorities, and have people solve the problem, not just the case," he said.

JOURNAL NEWS (RK
EDITION)

WHITE PLAINS, NY
MONDAY 40, 187
SEP 6 1999

Haverstraw cop hopes to steer students straight

North Rockland is the 1st school in the county to hire a full-time crime prevention officer

LAURA INCALCATERRA
The Journal News

THIELS — Though students haven't returned to the classroom yet, Rockland's first full-time school resource officer is already on the job.

Haverstraw Town Police Officer John Keeley has been at North Rockland High School meeting freshman during their orientation and members of sports teams during summer practice sessions.

The 1978 North Rockland graduate has been assigned to work full time in a local version of a national program that began in the 1950s. There are some 5,000 school resource officer, also called SRO, programs nationwide.

School resource officers try to bridge the gap between police and youth to reduce juvenile crime by helping students understand rules, authority and the justice system. They also help students learn ways to avoid becoming victims of crime.

Ramapo police launched a similar program in January, with officers visiting schools in the Ramapo and East Ramapo school districts twice a week. Orangetown police are also looking to start an SRO program in the South Orangetown school district.

Keeley will spend a significant portion of his time working with students who have received a second chance after getting into trouble serious enough to land them in court.

Since October, West Haverstraw Village Justice Thomas Zugibe has mandated class at-

tendance and adherence to school rules as conditions of students' probation or the eventual discharge of criminal complaints.

Of the 12 students who have participated in the program since it started, 10 have improved their school behavior and performed more responsibly in and out of the classroom.

The program will expand this academic year to include Haverstraw town and village and Stony Point justice courts. Keeley will help North Rockland High School Principal Joan Murphy monitor the progress and compliance of the students.

He also will be available to students who just want to talk, and as a classroom guest speaker on various legal topics.

Keeley received special

Please see OFFICER, 2B

Haverstraw officer hopes to steer students straight

OFFICER, from 1B

training and is certified by the National Association of School Resource Officers.

He stressed he is not at the high school to replace its counselors or security team. Instead, he hopes to help students find ways to succeed.

Keeley graduated from Iona College in 1982 with a bachelor's in communication arts and earned a state teaching certificate in secondary English from St. Thomas Aquinas

College in 1984. He worked as a substitute teacher in the Nyack and North Rockland school districts and also coached lacrosse and football at North Rockland.

Keeley has been a town police officer since 1995 and previously worked as a court officer. Part of his SRO salary will be paid through the federal Community Oriented Policing Services Universal Hiring program, which was created to put more cops on the nation's streets.

HERALD

NEW BRITAIN, CT
MONDAY 33,253
AUG 30 1999

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

By JOE McGEE and RICK GUINNESS
Staff Writers

NEW BRITAIN — This summer, some of the last cases of gang members who terrorized the city in the mid-1990s began to move through New Britain Superior Court.

They do so as only blocks away residents speak of wars on blight and new greenhouses, plans for a new park and safer streets.

Less than a decade from what Mayor Lucian Pawlak can now call "a painful memory" of bloody streets and frightened residents, New Britain is rebuilding its tarnished image.

People in the neighborhoods where most of the gang violence occurred — five murders in four years and countless drive-by shootings — said they feel safer because of the temporarily enhanced police presence. Extra police on the beat are federally funded through a \$242,000 "New Approaches" HUD grant and a \$225,000

Department of Justice Prevention and Intervention Program "Weed and Seed" grant, which not only weeds out crime with policing, but seeds it with community development programs and activities.

However, business owners and landlords said people elsewhere need to believe it's safe too, so they will choose to live and shop in these neighborhoods — and in New Britain overall — once again.

Tearing down the blighted buildings that once served as gang sanctuaries has not

erased the memory of the drive-by shootings, drug deals, and bloody corpses.

"It was bad," said Mike Costanzo, who grew up on West Street and is fighting to restore the neighborhood by assisting in the writing of the New Approaches grant application. "I lived next door to a gang stronghold (116 West St.). It was constant gang meetings and drug sales."

"They were all very violent," said New Britain Police Capt. Dennis Beatty, the leader of the gang unit that broke the gangs — the Latin Kings, Jungle

Brothers, NETA, and Los Solidos. "They would just aim and shoot. They didn't care. When they shot at somebody, bullets went everywhere and innocent bystanders were always at risk."

Beatty coaches midget football at the Police Athletic League. Three of the gangs' murder victims were players he once coached. "The one that bothered me the most was Ariel Martinez," Beatty said, in reference to the Feb. 1995 shooting of a 21-year-old former

A

GANGS continues on A8

Gang buster recalls the fight

By RICK GUINNESS
Staff Writer

NEW BRITAIN — After street gangs became criminal drug-dealing organizations, specializing in drive-by shootings and other criminal acts, cities like New Britain declared war on them. And who better to fight a war against gangs than former gang members?

Retired police detective Gary Chute Sr., 52, the president of the Amber Club and Police and Fireman's Retirement Club, had been a key player in the police department's gang unit, which started in 1991.

The unit went on to make history by locking up the Los Solidos, Jungle Brothers, NETA and Latin Kings, drug-dealing syndicates. Chute retired just before Operation Jump Start against the Los Solidos, and the round-up of the Jungle Brothers; but he was part of the team that began solving

FIGHT continues on A8

TAKING BACK THE CITY

Editor's note: This is the latest in an occasional series exploring efforts to revitalize New Britain.

From Page A1

running back. "The best running back I ever had," Beatty said.

"He was a Jungle Brother," he said. "He used to be a Solid. There was a power struggle. And he was shot with a high-powered rifle, an assault weapon. The case is still in court."

The May 1997 shooting of Earl Baker Jr. on Willow Street — over an argument about a car — cut another life short that might have changed for the better, according to his friend, Jose Figueroa.

"He didn't want to go back to jail," Figueroa said. He wanted to be an electrician. But shootings were common on Willow Street. Figueroa said he and Baker were sprayed by shotgun fire twice.

"Sometimes we'd be two feet away from each other waving guns in each others faces to see who would shoot first," Figueroa said.

Thirty one homicide investigations have taken place in New Britain since 1993. During the height of the gang era, between 1994 and 1997, five people were killed on West, North, Oak, Putnam and Willow streets. In addition, there were 31 assaults on Willow Street alone.

New Britain is working to overcome that image by building parks, gardens, and community centers — especially in those areas — so people can enjoy life in these neighborhoods once again. Community groups are competing for the millions of dollars in federal, state and local resources needed for this effort. And nearly every grant application makes reference to the gangs.

Their rise to power and subsequent reign of terror coincided with the recession in Connecticut and the nation. There were simply no funds in the beginning to fight them, let alone, rebuild areas, said Deputy Chief State's Attorney Chris Morano.

In the early 90s, Morano had success in Hartford prosecuting gangs, such as 20 Love, on racketeering charges.

"Capt. Beatty asked if we could do it in New Britain," Chris Morano said. "Beatty asked me what I could bring to the table. I told him we had no grant money, just a prosecutorial plan, utilizing the Corrupt Organization Racketeering Activities Act (which requires at least three convictions of the same gang member)."

The first major gang sweep was staged during the early morning hours May 3, 1996.

Police targeted the Jungle Brothers, a drug dealing syndicate exclusive to New Britain. In all, 27 warrants — seven for racketeering — were served on 23 reputed gang members from New Britain and Plainville.

Machine guns, 1½ pounds of crack cocaine and \$40,000 in cash were seized.

"After we were successful with the Jungle Brothers, the remaining Jungle Brothers joined the Los Solidos," Morano said, "which was ironic, because at an earlier time they were feuding gangs."

After the Jungle Brothers sweep, police and prosecutors began gathering evidence for the next phase, Operation Jump Start, the largest gang sweep in Connecticut history, which corralled the strongest gang, the Los Solidos early on the morning June 6, 1997.

A battalion of 200 officers rounded up 54 individuals. Ten Los Solidos members were charged with racketeering. Eight were charged with previous murders — including a double homicide dating back to May 14, 1994. Bonds were set at \$100,000 to \$5 million.

Operation Jump Start was the result of a 10-month investigation and had better than a 90 percent conviction rate, according to Morano. But the tension in the community was almost palpable in the months leading up to the operation.

"There were community groups saying, 'Why can't you do something?'" Morano said. "We couldn't tell them that we were doing something — something big."

"Police Chief Sencio had to take a beating," he continued. "He was on the front lines. The mayor had to take abuse. I hope the community understands now."

Beatty praised Mayor Lucian Pawlak and Sencio Saturday for taking the "zero-tolerance" stance that allowed his unit to start cleaning up the city.

Despite the success of the gang-busting, Morano preaches eternal vigilance:

"I've been doing gang prosecution since the 1980s," he said. "And I can tell you this activity

runs in cycles. There will often be a lull. New Britain is in a lull and has been for a period of time. But cycles are cycles. It may start to re-emerge."

New Britain High School Principal Daniel D. Bugnacki agrees.

"To say that there are no gangs in 1999, it's just not true," said Bugnacki, who still fights the image of a gang-related murder outside the high school in 1995.

Nevertheless, he said, "New Britain has a well-versed police department in dealing with gang activity; probably one of the best in the state," Morano said. "All officers have mandatory gang training. New Britain is better prepared than ever to catch it before it ever reaches the same level."

Morano and Beatty agree the city's best defense against a pos-

sible resurgence of gang activity — and its best hope of rebuilding — are the social programs that city officials are pushing.

to clean up the remnants of the gangs. He said every scrap of copper piping was hacked out and sold at a scrap yard. The toi-

■ The first major gang sweep was staged during the early morning hours May 3, 1996. Police targeted the Jungle Brothers, a drug dealing syndicate exclusive to New Britain. In all, 27 warrants — seven for racketeering — were served on 23 reputed gang members from New Britain and Plainville. Machine guns, 1½ pounds of crack cocaine and \$40,000 in cash were seized.

Some are not convinced that social programs and community policing do any good. Richard Wojtusiak, the landlord who owns the three-family 116 West St. next to Costanzo, said he is being hounded by the city because his building is damaged.

"They call me a slum lord," he said angrily Saturday, as he tried

lets, windows, doors, and walls are broken. Graffiti was in every room and all over the walls outside. His greenhouse had been burned down three years ago.

"Look what they did to my beautiful house," he said, standing in piles of plastic bags, some of which still had drugs in them. "I paid \$1,500 to fix the fire

alarm system. They broke it two days later."

He paid \$235,000 for the building. Replacement windows will cost him \$29,000, the pipes another \$40,000, which he doesn't have. In frustration, he began kicking sneakers that were literally glued tight to the hardwood floors with paint that someone had kicked over to spite him. The sneakers remained stuck.

Wojtusiak, a Polish immigrant, moved to America to find a better life. But he said the gangs threatened his life when he asked them to stop destroying the building — his livelihood.

Some of his previous tenants included Luis Lebron, the man recently convicted of killing 24-year-old Earl Baker Jr., and sentenced to 30 years Aug. 13.

Lebron, he said, was "one of the nicer ones."

"They tried to jump on me," he said. "They said they would kill me."

Those days used to be rou-

time, when the gang culture of violence and revenge ruled the neighborhoods.

Now, they are history.

Wojtusiak said he has seen a change.

"I opened the door for the plumber and forgot to shut it," he said. "The police, within five minutes, spotted it, and shut the door for me to make sure nobody could come in. The police do a good job."

The state has just approved funding for another \$500,000 for demolition of blighted buildings — and \$500,000 has been approved for renovating the old greenhouses on Oak Street — the Urban Oaks organic farm project, just down the street from him. Four blighted buildings have been leveled in three weeks, with several more to go. Wojtusiak doesn't want his to be targeted for demolition.

"There are violations at my building," Wojtusiak said. "But I want to fix it."

Fight: Former gang member leads the fight

From Page A1

the gang-related homicides that shook up the city.

It took a knowledge of gang structure, and gang culture to be able to crack the tough cases.

"Gangs are based on brotherhood," Chute said. "I understood their way of thinking. By understanding that, you would always be able to figure out who they would go to and what they would do."

New Britain's gang unit started out with Chute, Capt. Dennis Beatty, Detectives Danny Philips and Al Morales, and Officer Bob Butkiewicz. They solved bank robberies, arsons, murders and turned several gang members into informants.

"We became students of what they were doing to see what makes them tick, their code of conduct," Beatty said. "What do they sell? What kind of drug operations do they have? Some sell heroin. Some sell cocaine. Some both. It is very complex."

"They had an organizational structural, hierarchy, rules and procedures, including their own justice system — 'or should I say disciplinary system?'" said Deputy Chief State's Attorney Chris Morano, the head of the state gang task force.

The dividing point between a good gang and a bad gang according to him is whether the group commits crimes for the furtherance of the organization, thereby crossing the line of racketeering.

"Forty years ago it was all different," Beatty said. "Maybe a percentage of the gangs were trouble makers. But they weren't doing it for profit."

Chute's grasp of gang culture is a direct result of having joined Tappa Keg, a high school-based group of 30 or 40 tough, beer-drinking street kids, whose rivals were the Lords, the Earls, and the Reebbs.

He said he joined Tappa Keg because "TK's sister gang at that time had the prettiest girls," he said.

Whatever his reasons for joining, the experience was a benefit to the department:

"Gary Chute was a tremendous street cop," Beatty said. "You have to balance your gang unit off of street cops and paper work cops. He was really good. Chute was fearless. He was a tough kid."

"Gary Chute was one of the original gang unit members, when I first got involved," Morano said. "They had a little tiny room. But they had more intelligence on what was going on, and more sources than police departments that had four times the resources. That is before we even got into using the racketeering units. That was

when they were using the one-arrest-at-a-time approach!"

Chute said the feeling of family and brotherhood is common to all gangs, good or bad, no matter how they are defined, whether they call themselves clubs, associations, or alliances, including the police officers who ride in motorcycle gangs like the Wild Pigs and the Blue Knights.

Chute joined the Air Force in 1965. He served in Vietnam as a crew chief on a C-130 Aircraft. He returned to the U.S. three years, later and joined up with an even tougher gang: The New Britain Police Department.

But now, after all these years, "the TK is making a comeback," Chute said. "We are having a reunion because we are getting old. We've lost members to disease and war. Their new slogan is 'Leave your canes and bring your chains.'"

The brotherhood of beer drinkers in blue has the same values that Chute has always adhered to:

"We believe in unity, supporting each other in the good times as well as the bad," he said. "We hold benefits for officers who need assistance."

Tappa Keg is very similar to today's Polish Knights, or PK — Polish kids with day jobs, who police said don't have any organized crime associations with them, but whose members are involved in a broad range of

12 police cars to block
Street, ...
Don't ...

— "the PK likes to hang out and drink a few beers in the park," Mayor Lucian Pawlak said. "They are no different than I was when I was a kid."

Pawlak's gang was Alpha Delta Sigma High School Fraternity.

"We used to drink beer with Tappa Keg," Pawlak said. "We tapped a few kegs."

The Tappa Keg is challenging their old rivals to come down to the VFW Club Sept. 11 for a 60s Club reunion, sponsored by the Amber Club and arm wrestle.

The last reunion, in February, "a lot of guys didn't show up because they thought they might get arrested for breach of peace going back to 1961," Chute said.

He wants to assure people that won't happen. Chute has two sons, Gary and Chris, and both are cops. He also has two brothers who are cops, Jimmy and Billy. And his own father, Detective-Sgt. William Chute, was a cop for 36 years. Between all the Chutes in uniform, the family has given 125 years to the city.

The reunion picnic starts at the VFW Picnic Grounds on Veterans Drive Sept. 11 at 11 a.m. rain or shine. For a donation — children under 12 are free — call ...

12 police cars to block
Street, ...
Don't ...

HERALD SUNDAY

PORTSMOUTH, NH
SUNDAY 18,400
SEP 5 1999

High school officer is eager to set example

BY NICOLE GAUTHIER
STAFF WRITER

YORK — Some folks say placing a police officer in York High School is like putting a fox in a hen house.

But Patrol Officer Brian Curtin hopes to prove skeptics wrong.

Beginning Sept. 7, this 12-year veteran of police work will begin a full-time assignment at the high school. His role will be largely defined as the school year progresses, but the philosophy behind his presence is to create better understanding and communication between youth and police.

"Today's policing is community based," he said. "It is not just about applying a Band-Aid fix. We are looking for long-term solutions, and proactive as opposed to reactive responses."

Curtin continued: "I really want to be a positive role model for students. I think a police officer still stands for someone that is ethical and moral, even though that may not be the case throughout the nation. In York we still stand for something."

Students will see Curtin in a police uniform about two days a week. The rest of the time he will be in casual clothes, wearing a golf shirt with a silk-screen badge so that he is still identifiable as a police officer.

Ultimately he will have an office for private meetings, but most of the time Curtin hopes to be interacting with students in the hallways, in the cafeteria, in gym classes, and even at after-school sports activities.

"You know how Bob (Principal Stevens) greets students every morning right where all the cor-

ridors intersect in the lobby?" Curtin said. "I want to have a place like that. I want kids to know that at least once a day they can count on me being in a certain place if they need me."

School resource officers exist in schools all over the country and in nearby communities such as South Berwick, Eliot and Portsmouth, but every program is custom made to fit the needs of the individual community.

In York, Curtin's role will be developed by a committee that

worked as a D.A.R.E. officer and was a guest speaker last year in high-school civics classes and the Freshman Causeway orientation classes.

Though it used to be called the accident-awareness course, Curtin teaches a special program called "The Ultimate Consequence," which he hopes to continue this year.

"I try to express to young adults that there are consequences for every action you take," he said. "We talk about how a night out of

But placing a police officer in schools solely for law enforcement has adversely affected the relationship between youths and police, Curtin said. He cited one such school-resource model implemented in Tulare, Calif., in 1968.

"While it reduced juvenile crime, that model is widely considered to be a failure," he said. "Kids seem to want to know, if I overhear a conversation about a party that's going to be held over the weekend, will it be staked out?"

"If I hear about something, and I think it's necessary, I'll talk to the kids about it before it happens and try to be proactive, but I'm not going to go hide in the bushes where the party is. People who know me know I'm not that type of officer."

However, so as not to mislead anyone, Curtin emphasized that if he becomes aware of an illegal activity, he has a duty as a police officer to act on it.

The officer's daily presence at the school will, as a side benefit, offer the opportunity for more consistency in handling juvenile cases, he said. It will also afford better communication between parents, schools and the police department for dealing with troubled teens.

And it should not be overlooked that Curtin will be armed. While some people may be uncomfortable with this, carrying a weapon is still part of his job.

"I've tried to put myself in the thinking mode of someone who hasn't been a cop for 12 years (as he has), but when I see a police officer, the gun is just part of that," he said. "I can see how some people could find it intimidating, but I'm sure eventually people will just see me, Officer Curtin. The time I've spent in schools, it hasn't been a focal point."

Curtin said the weapon will never leave his person.

"I try to express to young adults that there are consequences for every action you take."

BRIAN CURTIN
YORK POLICE OFFICER

includes a teacher and a student to be appointed this year, as well as YHS Principal Stevens, resident Jim Bartlett and a senior officer of the York Police Department.

Some of the goals already discussed, Curtin said, are to provide a positive image for law enforcement, serve as a confidential adviser, promote understanding of laws, maintain a safe environment and help youths realize the consequences of their actions, good and bad.

Curtin has spent many hours in York schools already. He has

drinking and drugging can lead to car crashes or overdoses. The idea is to discuss these things and then let them make their own educated decisions."

Curtin has also taught classes on juvenile law, criminal law and traffic rules. He is hoping to expand his repertoire to include courses on conflict and anger management, teen dating violence, social responsibility, character building and mock trials using actual cases he's worked on.

Without knowing exactly what a police officer would be doing in their high school, students interviewed last June expressed concern that the police officer placed there would mainly try to find opportunities to "bust" kids.

CLARION-LEDGER

JACKSON, MS
TUESDAY 109,395
SEP 7 1999

Police: Information best weapon

JPD's COMSTAT approach emphasizes patterns, accountability

By Theresa Kiely
Clarion-Ledger Staff Writer

In 1942, Ethel Williams worked as a maid at the King Edward Hotel in Jackson for \$6.93 a week.

She cleaned 10 rooms a day to earn the money to put

a down payment on a house on Prosperity Street.

Times changed for what Williams, 65, describes as "once a good, clean neighborhood with church-going people who voted and cared."

Now, she said, "It's hard to sleep. It's so bad here we can't see any peace."

In June, the Jackson Police Department started to use a new strategy called

COMSTAT to move out the car thieves, drug dealers, prostitutes, and thugs prowling streets like Prosperity. The method was recommended by a police study released in May.

The COMSTAT method reduces crime by working smarter with resources at hand. It also holds all officers accountable for solving and preventing crime.

Color-coded maps pinned to the wall of precinct roll call rooms are being used as visual aids.

In a glance, officers can spot crime patterns and deploy resources to the problem areas, said Deputy Chief Cleon Butler.

"It's more than putting dots on a map," Butler said. "It is a matter of arming the

B See COMSTAT. 4A

COMSTAT: Community support, cooperation called vital to effort

FROM 1A

officer with information about what has happened on his beat."

At a later date, the Police Department will use U.S. Department of Justice grant money to equip patrol cars with laptop computers, Butler said.

For the past four months, precinct commanders and administrative staff have mapped crime street by street.

At each of the city's four precincts, crime prevention specialists enter daily incidents of criminal activity into computer

databases.

Every day, at roll call, an officer hears what has happened on previous shifts on his beat. Officers are kept well-informed, said Precinct 3 Patrolman Stephen Wells.

"It gives you an opportunity to see what types of crimes are happening on your beat," Wells said. "You look at the map in the morning and see what happened the previous day."

The maps help officers concentrate resources on areas where a rash of assaults, auto and house burglaries, shootings, and other

crimes pop up. Police then increase patrols in those areas.

"It's going to take a little time with COMSTAT to see a reduction in crime," Wells said. "But citizens need to be aware of the mapping, and know we are trying to combat crime in their neighborhoods."

The COMSTAT method was created by Jack Maple, a former deputy commissioner with the New York City Police Department.

When implemented in New York City and New Orleans, rapid reduction in crime followed.

The results impressed the city of Jackson enough to hire the Linder/Maple Group itself. The method is a work in progress, said Precinct 2 Cmdr. John Tisdale.

"It's too soon to see statistical results," Tisdale said. "But we're seeing a lot of cases cleared. The whole key is getting back to information. Information is power."

But crime reduction requires the cooperation and support of the entire community, said Precinct 3 Cmdr. Claude L. Smith.

A week ago today Smith attended a community meeting at Cade Chapel Missionary Baptist Church on West Ridgeway Street.

He heard Ethel Williams, who lives in his precinct, speak out about Prosperity's problems.

Williams had read about the meeting in the newspaper and carried the clipping to her neighbors.

"After a while, when you've been humiliated so much, you have to do something," said Williams, whose long-saved-for home now has bur-

glar bars in the windows.

Smith responded to Williams' concerns by placing police units all over Prosperity Street on Friday.

"They're trying," Williams said. "But they can't quit. By the time the drug dealers think they're forgotten, the police should come back and touch them again."

By all measures, the day was a success, Smith said.

His officers recovered a car stolen the night before. They found it in the driveway of a house on Prosperity.

Police notified the car owner.

He came by and drove it away, Smith said.

"He was elated," Smith said. "It sends a visual message to criminals."

On Friday afternoon, Butler and Smith sat with Williams in chairs her husband had chained to the family's front porch long ago.

"If we had to move them now," Williams said, "I wouldn't know where the keys were."

She asked the officers about the loiterers, the random gunfire, the strange cars driving through the neighborhood at all hours, some stopping briefly at certain houses, before quickly driving away.

"If someone lives here for eight and nine years and doesn't go to work, what does that mean?" Williams asked. "How can they drive a brand new black Cadillac without a job?"

"Maybe they're drawing a disability check," Butler said.

"Well, tell me how to get one," Williams said. "When I'm home, I see what I see."

FORT PIERCE TRIBUNE

FORT PIERCE, FL
SUNDAY 25,862
AUG 22 1999

PSL event one of many held by Sheriff's Community Policing Unit

Mike Sherrill
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

PORT ST. LUCIE — Area children and St. Lucie County Sheriff's deputies were tearing up the parking lot at the Shoppes at St. Lucie West on Saturday — for safety.

The Sheriff's Office's Community Policing Unit hosted one of many bicycle rodeos for children in the county to teach safety awareness.

"Safety is so important, especially here in St. Lucie County where there is a lack of sidewalks," said Lt. Bob Soesee. "We host these rodeos all over the county, especially when school starts up and around Christmas time when a lot of kids get new bikes."

The young bikers had to ride through an obstacle course of cones and work on coming to a complete stop. Sheriff's deputies also gave the bicycles a safety check, even adding reflectors when needed.

Brandon Eible, 9, of Port St. Lucie said the course was easy for him. Even though sometimes he forgets to come to a complete stop at signs, he said he knows that safety is important.

"(The rodeo) reinforces what the kids already know or have learned in other safety courses," said Julie Woodall of Port St. Lucie, whose two older sons also participated in the bike rodeo several years ago. "I think it's a good idea to bring the sheriff's deputies and the kids together. It takes away some of the mystique surrounding them."

Leydi Kahl, 11, of Port St. Lucie knows that some of her friends don't like law enforcement officers after they've gotten in trouble. But things like the bike rodeo make them cool, she said.

Rodeo

From B1 C

"Kids need to look up to officers and respect them, but (children) need to know they can have fun with them too," said Stephanie Sadowski of Port St. Lucie.

And at the bike rodeo the deputies looked like they were having just as much fun as the children.

"I think we probably have some fun," deputy Ed Fields added.

The number-one problem that Sadowski sees in neighborhoods is children not knowing the hand signals and children riding bikes that are too large for them, throwing off their balance.

But more serious problems do occur.

"There are thousands of kids here in St. Lucie County, and every year some of them get hit by a car," Soesee said. "Especially in St. Lucie County, where there is a lack of sidewalks, kids are going to be out in the street. Safety is very important for them."

Even parents don't always know all the biking rules of the road. Thomas Sakoski was surprised to learn that his son needed front and rear reflectors.

"I thought he only needed them on the wheels, but we're going to fix that right away," he said.

Any business or organization that would like to sponsor a rodeo on a Saturday, Sunday or any evening may call Soesee at 462-3354.

ENTERPRISE

BROCKTON, MA
TUESDAY 50,000
AUG 31 1999

Operation Chill hits the streets

6297BD
■ Armed with beverage coupons, Brockton police officers are rewarding city youths who do good deeds.

By Maureen Boyle
ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

BROCKTON — Officer Alfred Gazerro hopes the next youngster he stops will get what he deserves — a reward.

Gazerro and other members of the Brockton Police Department are on the lookout for youngsters in the city doing things right as part of its community policing effort.

Armed with certificates for a free Slurpee from 7-Eleven, police are distributing the coupons to children they spot doing everything from riding with a helmet to helping out a neighbor.

"We want to approach kids when they are doing the right thing," Gazerro said. "We want to reinforce the positive."

Police Chief Paul Studenski said the program is just the latest in the department's effort to forge closer ties between officers, the community and local businesses.

"The closer we all work together, the better for the community," he said.

He said the department is constantly trying to find new ways to reach out to residents and to allow people to see the officers in different lights.

"We want to work closer," he said.

The free drink coupons now being distributed is part of a nationwide program by the convenience store chain. Last year, the company reported that it gave out nearly 600,000 coupons.

In Brockton, officers were given 25,000 coupons worth more than \$16,000 — part of at least 370,000 coupons being distributed by 40 police departments across the country, the company said.

The program, dubbed Operation Chill by the company, provides 12-ounce gift certificates for the drink to police departments.

"7-Eleven has a long history of finding innovative ways to deter crime and to support the police in the communities they serve," said Dawn White, loss prevention specialist for local 7-Eleven stores.

Other businesses, such as Friendly's, have provided similar certificates to police departments in the state.

JOURNAL - REGISTER

MEDINA, NY
MONDAY 5,000
AUG 23 1999

Fun Daze for kids, local police

629760

By MARK SCHEER
J-R Staff Writer

About 65 local children were given a chance to see the lighter side of Medina's finest during a Kids Days event held Sunday at Vet's Park.

Five officers from the Village of Medina Police Department spent a sunny Sunday afternoon playing sports and games with local children. Events included volleyball and Frisbee, a cook-out and a performance by "The Capitols," a local rock band comprised of four Medina students.

Fun Daze was started to give young people a different perspective of their neighborhood law enforcement officers. Following the event, young people find it easier to approach officers for help, Village of Medina Police Chief Jose Avila said.

"This was designed in the hope that kids will see police officers in a different way, not just as those who enforce the laws, but as real people," he said.

The two-hour event was sponsored by the Community Policing Task Force and the Medina Village Police Department.

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

AKRON, OH

FRIDAY 158,422

AUG 27 1999

Officers have a line to kids

BY DENNIS MCEANENEY

Beacon Journal staff writer

Maurice was more than eager to talk.

"I caught 20 fish so far," he said. "One was a big bluegill."

He used his hands to show the size of a monstrous fish, the way fishermen do and no one believes them.

"And two baby bass," he said.

Maurice was one of 40 children on an Akron Police Department outing yesterday to Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 7 Park on Ley Drive, off Waterloo Road.

Maurice's last name can't be used because he's in the custody of the Summit County Children Services Board.

He lives at CSB's "receiving unit," the Thomas Hall residence center behind CSB's headquarters on Arlington Street.

Maurice and 23 others in Thomas Hall are awaiting placement in foster homes.

Fifteen kids from CSB and 25 from East Akron Community House went on the amply equipped Akron police fishing outing.

They had fishing gear

supplied by Joanne Frank of Target stores and submarine sandwiches and soft drinks provided by Jill Maksym of Subway Corp.

Bait and pizza - in separate locations - were supplied by police officers.

And in between the fishing and the food, the kids got to meet officers, who warned them about the danger of gangs, drugs and crime.

The officers - some in uniform but most in shorts and T-shirts - presented themselves not as officers but simply as people.

About KNAFF

KNAFF (Kids Need A Firm Foundation) was named for Patrolman George R. Knaff, who died when the cruiser he was in was struck by a truck that ran a stop sign.

"This is our first one, but we hope to make it an annual event," outing organizer Patrolman Lionel Millender said.

The outing was a joint venture of two police groups: the department's KNAFF program and the department's community policing or COPS unit.

United Effort

GLASSMANOR, From 17

Police say the crimes most likely to be affected by community policing programs are aggravated assault, robbery and car-jacking—and they have some data that show their efforts in Glassmanor may be making a dent.

In Glassmanor, during the first two months of 1999, there were three armed robberies; in the same period in 1998, there were six armed robberies. The story is similar for strong-arm robberies, which involve the threat of violence. During the first two months of 1999, there were no strong-arm robberies in Glassmanor; in the same period in 1998, there were two. Carjackings also are down; there was one in the first two months of 1998, and none this year. Aggravated assaults also showed a reduction—there were six in the first two months of 1998 and three in the first two months of 1999.

Police say this shows that violent crimes decreased 46.2 percent in the first two months of 1999, when compared with 1998; in all of District 4, in the same period, violent crimes dropped 26.6 percent.

Police credit apartment managers with helping to revitalize the area by pumping thousands of dollars into renovating and beautifying complexes. Edgewood Management, which manages 13 apartment complexes in Prince George's County, has established a day camp, a computer lab, sports activities and mentoring programs for children at their buildings in Glassmanor, Riverview Terrace and Colonial Village.

The company has applied for a \$250,000 grant from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development to implement additional programs. The company hopes to establish a day-care center, said Kathy Dougherty, director of community services for Edgewood.

Southern Management, owner of Oxon Hill Village and Southview Apartments, purchased a bus to take children and adults in its complexes on recreational outings, established a tutori-

al program and plans to provide computers to some new residents with children, employees there said.

"We had noticed that in some of the complexes, there were all these children sitting around during the summers and after school with absolutely nothing to do," Dougherty said. "What we are doing is providing them with something positive to do. The younger children in the camp get to be involved with activities like arts and crafts, swim and go on outings and the older children, who serve as camp counselors, get a chance to test their leadership skills. For some, this is the first time they've been put in a position of responsibility."

On a recent morning, three 9-year-old girls constructed necklaces and bracelets from colorful beads as a 13-year-old boy waxed philosophical about his job as a camp counselor.

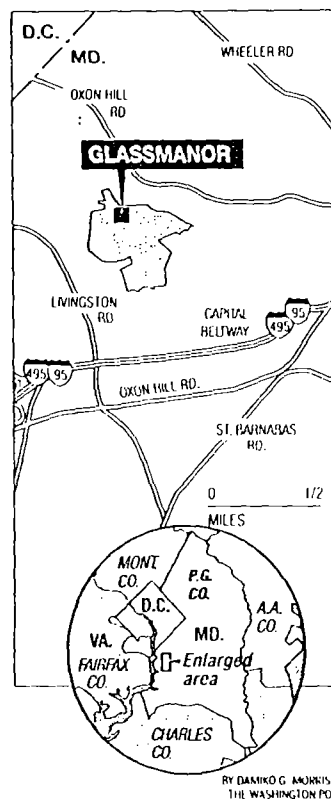
"It keeps me out of trouble," said the Oxon Hill Middle School eighth-grader. "I watch out for the kids and keep them out of trouble and make sure they have fun. That gives me something to do."

In another program, three teenage siblings tried their hands at games in the computer lab.

"I learned how to type using a program here," said the 16-year-old girl, shaking shiny black curls from her forehead as she focused on a game of Tetris. She said she is an honor student at Oxon Hill High School who has already decided on a career in nursing and enjoys reading Greek mythology.

"I want to help people," she said. "Nursing would be a good way to do that."

Jo Ann Bell, coordinator for the Hotspots Initiative in Prince George's County, said



Glassmanor qualified for the program because it had a high concentration of crime, a large number of latchkey children, many residents on parole and probation and was home to a community policing program.

She said her program worked with police to link residents to resources in health, recreation, counseling and financial aid. For example, she said, Glassmanor once had a significant problem with pit bulls, which were used for security and intimidation by drug dealers. Residents complained to the community police officers. They notified Bell. She linked animal control authorities with residents and eventually animal control teamed with the community officers to pick up the illegal dogs.

The Hotspots program funds overtime pay for community police officers

and, in turn, officers work with the organization to provide information about residents and their needs, she said.

"The initiative goes to the community and says you have standards that you know you would like in this community. You tell us what you think needs to happen before you can have that quality of life," she said. "The initiative pays for overtime for community police to have an outreach office there. The job of the community police officers is to be intimately involved in that community—to get to know all the folks, the business people, the kids and whoever is in that community on a daily basis," she said. "They become a resource for us. . . . What is hoped is that the community builds a team and a camaraderie of working together."

In District Heights, a Change Worth a Quiet Celebration

Town Reduces Crime With Help of Patrols, HUD Partnership

By SUSAN SAULNY
Washington Post Staff Writer

It's tempting to compare District Heights, which sits just northwest of Andrews Air Force Base, to fictional Mayberry, U.S.A.

With its rows of manicured lawns and ranch-style split-level houses, this inner-Beltway community has a quiet, small-town feel to it. Neighbors know one another by name. And to top it all off, the police chief has a framed picture of Mayberry Sheriff's Deputy Barney Fife on his office wall.

But don't do it, District Heights Mayor Jack C. Sims and Police Chief Fred Keeney said. Although Mayberry was quaint, it was also stagnant, unchanging through the years. And the comparison could imply that District Heights is that way, too.

In fact, the 13-person District Heights Police Department and a municipal center full of city officials have been celebrating quite a great change lately: Crime is down by huge percentages in a number of categories, and as a result, District Heights—all 1.1 square miles—is a safer, better place to live, they say.

There are a number of factors explaining why so far this year there's been a decrease in many reported crimes. Some reasons are simple, such as making police officers more visible, and others are "all new and really innovative for a city like District Heights," Sims said.

Sure, District Heights is a small town, and crime was never completely overwhelming: Most of the numbers were quite small, actually, even at the city's nadir about three years ago. But Keeney said he still believed the crime statistics were too high for a city with a population of about 7,000.

He and city leaders decided to change things. And the changes they made, they believe, had a direct effect on the crime rate.

Keeney can rattle off a laundry list of reasons, including: more vigorous patrolling and enforcement, commu-

nications, a more active Neighborhood Watch, an influx of \$240,000 worth of state and federal grant money, a focus on "quality of life" issues, a partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and new bike patrols, among other things.

Accordingly, arrests have gone up 75 percent, and citations for such things as parking and moving violations, have increased 111 percent.

Robbery went from three to zero. Auto theft dropped from 65 in 1997 to 11 in 1998 and to eight so far this year. There were increases in some categories, such as assault, which went from six incidents to seven, and breaking and entering, which went from 18 incidents in 1998 to eight in the first quarter of 1999. Other categories remained constant, such as murder, which remained at zero. But overall, crime fell 33 percent.

Police still are targeting vandalism, which was one category that saw a spike, rising 85 percent from 14 incidents to 26 because of a crime spree in January when tires were slashed throughout town, Keeney said.

Overall, "the numbers are very encouraging," said Keeney, who has headed the department since October 1997. "I think there are some things we're doing right."

Sims remembers well the days when gang activity and the sound of gunfire in the night were not uncommon, especially in an area of deteriorating apartments.

These days, as Cpl. John Nesky drives around his beat, which includes the formerly troubled neighborhood on Atwood Street near the District Heights Parkway, he can't help but marvel at the changes.

"There used to be drugs, prostitution, serious foot chasing and everything else you can think of," Nesky said as he glanced out his patrol car window at a development of pleasant-looking housing. "But look at it now. It's because we devote constant attention. That works in our favor because of our size."

In other words, Nesky doesn't have a lot of ground to cover in a city that's so small, so he and other officers can concentrate their attention on one spot, if need be, until they see improvement.

"Troublemakers aren't going to keep coming back if they know we're going to be here," he said. "They're going to go to greener pastures where they won't be constantly stopped."

Along his beat, Nesky also stopped at two abandoned houses. He checked all the windows and doors to make sure no one had broken in and set up camp. He checked for vandalism. It's part of the HUD partnership, in which the agency alerts the police about houses it has taken over and asks police to check them daily.

"Crack houses aren't formed over night," Nesky said, explaining why the partnership is a good idea.

It's also a new idea that only a few cities have taken advantage of, Keeney said: Boston, Chicago . . . and District Heights.

Nesky walks some parts of District Heights, including the business district on Marlboro Pike, to reassure business owners and to keep an eye out for "quality of life" infringements, such as public drinking, loitering and jay walking.

And the residents are responsive: "They're always passing and they're always polite and they know me by name," said Barbara Tate, owner of Bab's Records on Marlboro Pike. I've lived in District Heights for 30 years, and this is the safest I've ever felt. I love it, and that's the honest-to-God truth."

A recent Friday night patrol also had officers responding to a false burglar alarm on Roslyn Avenue, searching for a missing child in the Woodland Springs apartment complex and stopping a speeding car on Kipling Parkway.

And some people were drawn to Nesky's cruiser just to ask questions, as if he were the rolling public information officer.

"What do I do about an overdue parking fine?" "How do I find out what the crime rate is in a particular area?" "Can I have a pen?"

Nesky obliged. "I enjoy knowing everybody and interacting with people," he said. "I treat people nicely, with respect until it's time not to."

And those times are rare, Nesky said, and there weren't any on this particular Friday night. It wasn't unusually busy or slow—just a typical night on patrol.

But Nesky is quick to remember that it probably wouldn't have been that way just a few years ago.

Forming Partnerships for Prevention

Community Policing Helping to Curtail Crime, Social Woes

By AVIS THOMAS-LESTER
Washington Post Staff Writer

Call it Slurpee detente:

A few youngsters wanted something cold to drink and Prince George's County police officers George Nader and Derick Waring wanted to touch base with children in the neighborhood.

"Excuse me," Nader said to the three children as they walked down Walker Mill Road on a recent morning, clutching bags of snacks they'd purchased from a convenience store.

"Have y'all gotten your Slurpee coupons yet?"

"I want one!" the three children chorused.

Waring handed the children coupons, and Nader struck up a conversation.

"Y'all live around here?"

"Yeah," said one, suspiciously eyeing the black and chrome police-issue mountain bikes the two officers were perched on. "Why y'all ain't got no car?"

"So we can be out here talking to y'all," Waring said. "It's not as easy to talk in the car."

"You got any handcuffs?" Waring pulled them out.

"You ever shoot anybody with that gun? Lemme see your gun."

"Nah, man. We can't do that," Nader said.

"Why you so interested in guns?"

"Where y'all go to school? What grade y'all in?"

Before the officers took off 15 minutes later, they'd gathered a mini-file of information on the children: schools, addresses, summer plans, opinions about drugs and trouble.

"Y'all don't get in trouble, right?" Waring asked.

"Not me," said one of the boys, clutching his Slurpee coupon.

"You ain't a troublemaker, but you know who the troublemakers are, so you should stay away from them, right?" Nader said.

"Why the police always arresting somebody?" the boy's sister asked.

"Because sometimes police have to arrest people to help nice people like you, Nader told them.

"When y'all coming back?" the boy asked, his smile outshining the diamond stud in his left ear.

"We'll be back up here soon," Nader said. "You gonna come say hi when you see us?"

"Yeah," the boy said. "And bring some more coupons."

Slurpee coupons. Drug education coloring books. Football tickets. Basketball tournaments. They are just as much a part of the uniform now as the badge and gun in some police departments—tools of the trade for a brand of law enforcement whose goal is to forge partnerships with members of the community—even very young residents. It's called community policing.

Traditionally, police work has focused on arresting suspects as the main method of deterring crime, police experts said. But after the proliferation of violence that resulted from guns flooding major cities during the crack cocaine epidemic of the late 1980s, police agencies from Seattle to St. Petersburg to Prince George's County rethought their strategy.

Police realized they needed the public's help. To enlist residents in the effort, officers began drawing people in with a variety of programs, which came to be known as community policing or community-oriented policing.

The basic idea behind community policing is simple: Get out of the squad cars and return to a more fundamental strategy in which officers on the street work with residents to curtail illegal activity and social problems. It's preventive policing—a change from the focus solely on emergency response.

"There has traditionally been a 911 model of police response: The thinking was that the best way to solve crimes was to rush to the scene and catch the bad guy. But this is a myth," Prince George's County Police Chief John S. Farrell said. "When you look at how we solve crime, there's one way and only one way. By getting the community to share information with us. If you cannot get the community to give you information, you will not be able to effectively police."

Farrell said the drop in crime in Prince George's can be partly linked to efforts to bring police to the people. Statistics from the Prince George's County police department show that the major crimes, including homicides, rape, robbery, auto theft and aggravated assault dipped slightly from 1994-1998, mirroring a national trend.

Police in Prince George's are counting on community policing to do more by helping them establish relationships with residents that give them the power to wrest control of their neighborhoods from troublemakers. Officers also acknowledge that they are using community policing as a means to change the public's years-old perception that officers in the department are sometimes brutal and heavy-handed on the street.

"I grew up in Prince George's County, and when I was a teenager, my older brothers told me that if I got stopped by a police officer, to roll the window down a little and hand my license out," said Maj. Gerald Wilson, commander of the county's District 4 station in Oxon Hill. "There are still some people who think that it is dangerous dealing with police here because of the way it used to be."

Farrell is credited with implementing community policing on a wide scale after he became chief of the Prince George's department in 1995. The department set up areas of focus in each of the six police districts and assigned police officers to weave their way into the local fabric—getting to know the area and its residents, analyzing the specific crime problems and opening a dialogue with community leaders about how to solve the problems.

Farrell calls it "demystifying" police work.

"When people see what you are doing and why, they have much more tolerance," he said. "What we've done is open the police department to the community, and we are encouraging a relationship of sharing."

The 53-year-old man looked down at the newspaper on the front seat of his new car and "prayed to all kinds of deities" that he'd survive the encounter he was about to have with police.

Minutes before, he'd exchanged \$9 for a single-use packet of heroin with a drug dealer near the intersection of Wheeler Road and Southern Avenue, at the Prince George's County-D.C. border.

He was on his way home to get high and catch up on the news when he saw the blue and red lights flash in his rear-view mirror. The next thing he knew he was looking at a semiautomatic and a police officer was ordering him to "Get out of the car!"

As he stood there before the officer, the man wondered what his fate would be—whether he'd be beaten or shot.

"Hey, I had never been stopped for illegal activity other than a traffic ticket before, but I'd heard those stories," the man said. "I was scared of what might happen."

But instead of a beating, the man was politely questioned and gently handcuffed. At the Prince George's County Detention Center in Upper Marlboro, where he was charged with misdemeanor possession of a controlled substance, officers answered questions about his impounded vehicle and apologized for the delay in releasing him.

During the entire seven-hour episode, nobody in blue was rude, the man said.

So the man, a father, husband, retired government employee and now convicted drug offender—who was sentenced to 10 hours of community service work and three years probation for the offense—wrote a letter to the commander of the Prince George's County District 4 station commending the officers for their behavior on that fateful day.

"I am not by nature a letter writer, so please bear with me," the man wrote. "But I feel compelled to share my experience with you. You know it is pretty near impossible to be a minority member in general and an African American in particular and not be conversant with the less than stellar perception that the P.G. county police enjoy in our community."

"The point I am trying to communicate is each and every officer I came into contact with that day was professional, courteous and even went to great length to place me at my ease. . . . One hears so many negative things about your organization that I just wanted to share my experience with you."

The man's 1995 Nissan Altima, seized when he was arrested, has not been returned and he is not sure he'll ever get it back.

Still, he wants the police to get credit for his treatment and opted to write the unusual letter.

"Hey, I did something wrong, and I have to take responsibility for that," the man said. "But the way they treated me was a pleas-

ant surprise. They get enough criticism when they do something wrong, I just wanted to let somebody know that they treated me with respect and dignity and I appreciated it."

Ten percent of the Prince George's County police department's 1,400 officers now are assigned to community policing, Farrell said.

Dan Pfeiffer, a spokesman for the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services [COPS], cited Prince George's County as a department that has "thoroughly embraced" community policing. He said the county received \$2.2 million from the Department of Justice in fiscal 1997, and \$9.4 million in fiscal 1998. The money came from a federal program to foster community policing that was approved by Congress in 1994, and included a provision to help pay for an additional 100,000 police officers nationwide.

Officers said the program has been as beneficial for officers as it has been for residents. Complaints from residents about police are down, and officer morale is up.

"Ask any officer why they joined the police department and they will tell you, 'To help people,'" Wilson said. "Then they get caught up in all the problems on the street. Community policing allows officers to work by helping people, which is what police officers want to do. It does not mean we are soft on crime. We're not. We still arrest people. But what we are doing now is working on two fronts, arrests and prevention, by doing things in the community that will stop some people from turning to crime."

Officers said they enjoy the direct interaction and cooperation with residents borne from bike patrols and other community policing programs.

"You really get a chance to talk to people on the bikes," said Nader, a former Metro transit police officer who trains bicycle officers in Prince George's. "In the car, you are hidden behind glass and people don't feel comfortable approaching you. The same people who ignore you in the car come up and talk to you on the bike."

The bicycles also are an effective crime-fighting tool, officers said. "These bikes can go places patrol cars can't go," Waring said. "We can get into the alleys and into the woods and catch guys who are running away from us."

Authorities said community policing also has brought businesses into the crime-fighting effort. In the police department's District 3, which includes Capitol Heights and District Heights, community officers have worked with apartment management companies at troubled complexes to evict troublemakers and clean up properties. In District 4, which includes Oxon Hill, Temple Hills and Suitland, police worked with two managers of apartment complexes to start a summer camp for young residents.

"A lot of our focus is getting the apartment owners to take the initiative because we have so many problems at some of the apartment complexes," said Cpl. James Harper, who supervises community officers in District 3.

The program of Slurpee giveaways, called Operation Chill, is funded by Southland Corp., which donated hundreds of coupons for children to receive the cold drinks at its 7-Eleven stores.

Farrell has established a chief's advisory council of supporters and critics of the department from across the county, and community policing officers meet regularly with business owners and apartment managers.

Perhaps the first progress report for the local community policing effort occurred in May, when more than 400 residents and police officers from District 4 attended a gala at the Andrews Air Force Base Officers Club to celebrate their cooperative success.

"It was a celebration of how well we had worked together," said Chiquinta Moses, president of the Briar Village Homeowners Association. "Their focus is changing, and they are more interested in working with the community to solve problems and being visible in the community as a partner."

Police said community policing has resulted in a reduction in crime in some neighborhoods. In the Glassmanor section of Oxon Hill, traditionally one of the county's most crime-plagued areas, shootings, which once occurred with frequency, are down.

"It is really based on the work the [community police] guys have been doing," said Capt. Archie O'Neil, 45, a supervisor in District 4, which includes Glassmanor. "They are taking a real interest in trying to make the community a safer place to live."

Officers in District 4 worked with the managers of the Riverview Terrace and Colonial Village apartment complexes to set up a summer camp for youths. Officers this year have picked up truants and returned them to school, purchased toys, played softball, taken dozens of children to MCI Center and Prince George's Community College for basketball games, driven children to Smithsonian museums and mentored youths weekly in everything from photography to music to the Bible.

The New York trip, in which about 40 children from Prince George's toured NBC studios and the Apollo Theater, walked along the bright lights of Broadway and got their first glimpse of the Empire State Building, was for many the first venture outside Prince George's County, Wilson said. Most went without their parents on the day trip, which cost about \$80 a child. Some police officers dipped into their own pockets to pay for the trip for the children.

Sgt. Beeman Veasley unfolded his massive ex-football player frame from the chair and moved toward the 50 or so residents gathered at the clubhouse of Hillcrest Town Homes.

He flashed his trademark smile, the one the criminals who tangle with him on the street don't often see. His goal on this night was to assure them that he and the other officials gathered at the head table, including county State's Attorney Jack B. Johnson, were on their side—to empower them to regain control of their neighborhoods from troublemakers.

Young men are selling drugs on the street, littering, loitering and talking loud—creating a nuisance that annoys residents, raises concerns about potential violence and threatens property values.

Veasley, a 17-year veteran who directs the 16-officer community policing effort in District 4, was part of a program in which officers made 900 arrests and wrote 13,000 traffic citations in the first quarter of 1999. And they went into their own pockets to purchase toys for children and took 40 youths to New York City.

During the meeting, Veasley updated residents on the department's plan to increase bike patrols in the area. He urged them to set up Neighborhood Watch programs and "walking patrols" and promised to walk with them when they did.

As he concluded, Veasley paused and hoped the audience got his message.

They were the key. He's seen communities rise and fall, and most often the success stories were spurred more by community involvement than by police.

He feels a personal obligation to make them understand that.

Veasley gazes into the faces of those seated before him: the 30-something man soliciting help to start a recreation program for youths in his neighborhood, the elderly woman concerned about walking past young drug dealers down the street from her home, the enthusiastic community leader who urged residents to sign up for an anti-car theft program.

Then he preached the conclusion of his sermon:

"The community has to be involved in crime prevention," Veasley said. "You are a second set of eyes and ears for us. . . . You have to tell us what the criminals are doing. It has to be a joint effort. We need your help."

The audience applauded.

"We'd like to thank Sergeant Veasley and the other people who have come out to talk to us," community leader Chiquinta Moses said at the end of the meeting.

"We have seen things turn around, and we know they will continue to get better with us working with the police."

COPS grant provides Northeast with two extra campus officers

Special to The Daily Corinthian
BOONEVILLE -- Northeast Mississippi Community College has received a \$129,981 grant from the United States Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

Awarded under the COPS Universal Hiring Program (UHP), the grant provides funding for 75 percent of the total salary and benefits of each officer hired for three years.

"The addition of these two officers through the COPS grant will provide valuable assistance to us in providing a safe, secure campus for our students," said Hal Hughes, dean of student affairs at Northeast.

"One of our college-wide annual goals for 1998-99 was to review the college's security measures and add additional

security. The COPS grant has enable us to do just that.

"In the past we had security in the evening hours. The COPS grant is allowing us to expand to include full-time day and weekend security with certified, experienced officers," he said.

"We feel that our students, as well as the entire community, will benefit from the added security," said Hughes.

According to Hughes, COPS

funds must be used to add to, not supplant or replace, funds already budgeted for safety.

"Community policing is a crime fighting strategy that encourages law enforcement to work in partnership with the community to solve crime problems,"



Submitted photo

Lewis Tynes and Robert Cook bring approximately 20 years of law enforcement experience to Northeast's security department.

Hughes added.

Robert Cook and Lewis Tynes, both of Booneville, the two new officers hired by the

COPS grant, bring with them almost 20 years of professional law enforcement experience to the security department at Northeast. Both are graduates of the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officer Training Academy at Pearl. They join three other full-time security members Gary Spencer, Leon Lauderdale and Gennene Robinson. This full-time staff is assisted by six part-time personnel.

Tynes and Cook recently attended a Community Policing Consortium in Montgomery, Ala., where they focused on the organizational transformation for community policing and planning for community policing. Both are members of the Mississippi Campus Law Enforcement Association for Colleges and Universities. Cook is a member of the board of directors of that association.

See **Security**, page 2A

From page 1A

The COPS program is the Clinton/Gore Administration's initiative to fund the addition of 100,000 community police officers to the beat.

The Department of Justice recently announced the awarding of \$60 million to 249 communities to fund the hiring of 877 community policing officers. Northeast is one of 65 agencies/schools receiv-

ing their first ever COPS grant.

"The number of agencies receiving their first COPS grants shows the continuing need to put officers on the street doing community policing," said Joseph E. Brann, director of the COPS Office. "Both citizens and police know that community policing cuts crime."

FROM A1

Bullies

"If we can catch some of these school bullies at a young age, hopefully we can turn them around," Allen said.

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study recently cited in USA Today said that 81 percent of students at a suburban Indianapolis middle school said they had bullied classmates during the last month. Another study, according to the newspaper article, said that 75 percent of adolescents nationally had been bullied during their school years.

Annie Harman, executive for student services and alternative programs at Roanoke City Schools, said the grant will allow police and teachers to identify risk factors, such as peer pressure and issues on city streets, and take steps to keep them from

resulting in negative behavior.

Sometimes that could mean pinpointing a bus stop where a lot of students are being harassed.

"If we can look at where the hot spots are, then we can be preventative in the school system in addressing the behavior," Harman said. "It's going to benefit the kids if we can identify the problems."

The grant will pay for the cost of computers at the police department and school administration building, as well as the computer programs that will track incidents. It will also pay for a crime analyst position, Allen said. Officials plan to implement the program sometime this school year.

For the program to work, teachers will be required to contact school resource officers in each school when an incident occurs, and that officer will look into it. The officer will try to deal

with the problem at that level, but if it escalates, parents could be brought in for a conference, Allen said.

Harman said Roanoke schools already track incidents, but she said having the police involved will help even more.

"To track them with the police — it'll be a double whammy," Harman said. "So the kids better be careful because there'll be a lot of eyes out there."

Looking for patterns is the key, as well as officers and teachers teaming together to spot potential problem students, Allen said.

"There are times when we thought if the officer had stepped in earlier, there wouldn't be seven or eight complaints about one student," he said. "Maybe we can prevent someone down the road from becoming a bully."

Kimberly O'Brien can be reached at 981-3334 or kimo@roanoke.com.

ROANOKE TIMES

ROANOKE, VA
WEDNESDAY 113,054
AUG 25 1999

Grant gives police muscle to take on school bullies

FRONT PAGE

The \$111,825 will pay for computers at the police department and school administration building, computer programs and a crime analyst.

By KIMBERLY O'BRIEN

THE ROANOKE TIMES

School bullies, watch out. Roanoke police are out to get you.

A federal grant recently awarded to the Roanoke City Police Department will allow the department to purchase a computer system that will track assaults, threats and other problems in Roanoke schools.

The intent, according to police and school officials, is to target errant behavior at a young age in the hopes it can be stopped. And that means going after the school bullies — the ones who take lunch money, boss people around and pick fights with their classmates at the bus stop.

"If a child is told in the morning they're going to get beat up after school, we'll keep track of that," said Lt. Doug Allen, who helped work on getting the \$111,825 grant. "When you're in grade school, there's nothing worse than someone coming up to you and saying, 'I'll get you this afternoon.'"

The grant comes from the Community Oriented Policing Services School Based Partnership Program, which was created to fund partnerships between law enforcement agencies and schools to combat school crime and violence. In the past, COPS funding has been restricted to putting new police officers on the streets. In 1997, however, legislation was amended to allow the grants to be used to enhance school safety.

Shortly after Allen heard of the grant, a committee of police and school representatives formed to come up with ideas on how grant money could be used. About 10 ideas were floated around before the bully idea surfaced. Once that came up, everything else was tossed aside.

This, committee members thought, would be an initiative to prevent crime — by targeting the young people. Although the program will track incidents in kindergarten through 12th grade, officials feel they'll see the most benefit at the younger, more susceptible grade levels.

PLEASE SEE BUDDY PAGE

RESOURCE

From Front Page

and Timberland High School.

"The Sheriff shall provide a semester and yearly report of services and criminal incidents to the Superintendent. The end-of-the-year report will include trend data with a narrative explanation. Each school listed shall have a S.R.O. assigned on a full-time basis during the school year of eight (8) hours a day. The Sheriff may temporarily reassign any S.R.O. during the period of a law enforcement emergency. The S.R.O. assigned to the school will be permitted to travel to off-campus. In cases of emergency or unusual circumstances with the discretion of the Sheriff or his designee, a S.R.O. may be temporarily assigned such duties at the middle school level to insure the continued physical and psychological well being of the students. A record shall be kept of the dates of each such temporary assignment and circumstances warranting it. This record shall be made part of the

report required by the section of this contract entitled "Program Goals and Evaluation."

The Agreement establishes guidelines that S.R.O.'s must develop a rapport with students, be available for parent conferences, become familiar with community agencies (drug treatment centers, mental health clinics, etc.), assist the principal in developing plans and strategies to prevent and/or minimize dangerous situations....basically, The Agreement holds that the role of the S.R.O. is strictly defined, will be reviewed and evaluated, and will constantly and consistently strive for improvement. The S.R.O.'s may also accompany their schools to events outside of Berkeley County for the purpose of providing security.

Under the "Selection Qualifications" section of The Agreement, the strict guidelines are laid out: "Candidates should have a minimum of eighteen months experience as a certified law enforcement officer. Candidates should have successfully completed, presented to be enrolled in, or be willing to be enrolled in the next available School Resource

Officer training course. Officers applying to the program must be available to speak effectively before a group to intelligently present a normal and organized program of instruction, and be willing to demonstrate same during an Oral Interview Board prior to becoming a School Resource Officer. Candidates must be willing to submit to an Oral Interview Board in order to determine their respective abilities. This board will make recommendations to the Sheriff regarding such candidates that may come before it. The Oral Interview Board will be convened at the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office. The Oral Interview Board will consist of eight (8) members of the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office, the School Superintendent or his designee, and the School Board Chairman or his/her designee."

This establishes a Board, with Frances Brewer, as School Board Chairperson, Dr. J. Chester Floyd, as School District Superintendent, and H. Wayne DeWitt, Sheriff of Berkeley County, as the ones who decide who should and should not be School Resource Officers.

BERKELEY INDEPENDENT

MONCKS CORNER, SC

WEEKLY 11,500

AUG 25 1999

Berkeley Sheriff granted Resource Officer funding

*-Salaries now
competitive,
says Sheriff*

By Joseph Perry

Independent Reporter

FRONT PAGE

Berkeley County was just awarded \$261,677 in federal grant money to provide for the funding of School Resource Officers.

Now that the federal hurdle is past, 10% of that amount must be matched by the County, with a base salary at \$23,000 for four officers, according to Berkeley County Sheriff Wayne DeWitt.

Under the outmoded Resource Officer Program, officers' salaries were roughly \$10,000 a year more, a figure Sheriff DeWitt and Moncks Corner Police Chief Greg

Hoover felt was too much.

A federal grant, this money is administered by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety through the Office of Safety and Grants. This represents a portion of awards totaling \$3,422,300 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

In an agreement between The Berkeley County School District and The Berkeley County Sheriff's Office For The School Resource Program, The Sheriff shall provide School Resource Officers (hereinafter referred to as "S.R.O.'s") as follows: The Sheriff shall assign one regularly employed deputy sheriff to each of the following schools: Berkeley High School, Goose Creek High School, Berkeley Alternative School,

See RESOURCE.....Page 8A

OWATONNA PEOPLE'S PRESS

OWATONNA, MN
SATURDAY 8,200
AUG 21 1999

COPS grant will pay for local officers

FRONT PAGE

Two new police officers to be hired in federal program

By FAITH KAMMERDIENER
Press staff writer (507/233-1111)

OWATONNA — Two new Owatonna Police officers will soon be joining the force through the awarding of two COPS grants.

"I think the community is expanding at a rate we need more officers," said Owatonna Police Chief Gene Fisher. "It's a financial benefit to the city. It's a good program."

An officer for one of the grants will be hired as soon as possible. The other officer will be hired after Jan. 1, 2000.

The Owatonna Police Department currently has 28 full-time and part-time officers serving the city.

The national grant, created by President Bill Clinton, is designed to put more police officers on the street in a community-policing effort. The grant reimburses the city for 75 percent of the costs of a police officer over a three-year period, which runs approximately \$36,000 annually. The police department then is required to hire the officers permanently.

"They (the federal government) wants those officers retained as long as possible," Fisher said.

When the two new officers come on board, Fisher said he will train for another officer to a gang and drug strike force.

FLORIDA TODAY

MELBOURNE, FL
MONDAY 84,365
AUG 23 1999

Grant to aid W. Melbourne in school violence study

By Francis X. Donnelly
FLORIDA TODAY

WEST MELBOURNE — This community of about 9,400 has won one of the largest grants awarded in Florida by a federal program to combat school violence.

The West Melbourne Police Department will use the \$126,467 grant to conduct a yearlong study of city schools to determine what causes student disputes and how to prevent them.

The nature of the disputes can range from disagreements over petty matters to rivalries between student factions to escalating arguments with teachers.

"We're real proud we were chosen for it," Steve Wilkinson said. As the department's community relations officer, he worked on the grant proposal for a month.

The money will come from an annual program in the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services in the U.S. Department of Justice that allows law enforcement to team with schools to fight crime and violence.

In West Melbourne, the year-long study will involve its three schools: Central Middle, Meadowlane Elementary and an alternative school for students with chronic discipline problems.

David Piccolo, principal of Central Middle School, said he looked forward to sitting down with police to begin working on the program.

"I'm real pleased," he said. "Whatever we can do to work as a community to improve our schools is what we want to do."

The announcement of the grants by President Clinton on Monday, which occurred after the start of the school year, came too late for the West Melbourne study

"We just saw it as a way to attack the problem before it occurs."

— Steve Wilkinson,
W. Melbourne Police Department
Community Relations Officer

to begin this year.

That's because West Melbourne police want to set up the study before the school year begins and implement it on the first day of school, Wilkinson said.

But federal officials said West Melbourne can wait until next year, which is when they plan to implement it.

Clinton, who made the announcement during a ceremony in the White House, said the program was dispensing \$15 million to 226 communities in the nation.

In Florida, 15 communities shared \$900,000. West Melbourne received the fourth-largest amount after Miami, \$207,000; Tampa, \$165,000; and Fort Lauderdale, \$131,000.

After the information is compiled, an analyst hired for the program would then study the information to determine whether there are underlying reasons for the disputes. Police and school officials then would try to come up with possible solutions.

Police and education officials said West Melbourne schools didn't have more disciplinary problems than those in other cities, but such a program is still important.

"This allows us to be proactive," Wilkinson said. "We just saw it as a way to attack the problem before it occurs."

YORK DISPATCH

YORK, PA
WEDNESDAY 40,000
SEP 8 1999

Grant will pay for six new cops

By MIKE HOOVER
Dispatch/Sunday News

Six more police officers will be put on York City streets next year, thanks to a federal grant.

York City Council agreed to accept a \$450,000 COPS Universal Hiring Supplemental Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.

The grant was sought in March, with final approval coming in August, said Herbert Grofesik, city police commissioner.

The way the funding works is, the grant will pay 75 percent of the police officer's salary the first year; 50 percent the second and 25 percent in the third and final year. York City's share would be \$295,000, Grofesik said.

The police officers would be dedicated to the department's community-based officer program, he said.

"I think the community appreciates having officers right there for them," Grofesik said.

SCRANTON TIMES

SCRANTON, PA
THURSDAY SEP 9, 1999
43,976

Grant To Put Police Officers In City Schools

629785
BY THOMAS K. STAFF

THE SCRANTON TIMES

FRONT PAGE

A federal anti-crime program will put five police officers in Scranton schools on a permanent basis for the first time.

The \$625,000 grant to pay for the officers was announced today by President Clinton and the U.S. Department of Justice.

The grant is part of the Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services program that has already put 13 additional police officers on the streets of Scranton.

The officers will be used in the Scranton School District's intermediate schools and its two high schools, said Pat McCabe, district assistant superintendent.

Mr. McCabe said district officials and principals met with city police representatives earlier this year to assist in the preparation of the grant application.

They will serve as counselors and instructors on drug and alcohol-related issues and will be visible during lunch hours, Mr. McCabe said, who thinks the officers will make a positive contribution to the schools.

Mayor Jim Connors said President Clinton made him and many other mayors across the country happy with the announcement.

"I think it is a fabulous idea," Mr. Connors said. "As well as public safety they will be there as an educational component."

Mr. Connors said the officers will be "big brothers to the kids."

The city presently uses officers hired previously under the COPS program to provide foot and bicycle patrols in the downtown and neighborhoods.

The nine bicycles were all donated to the city by various orga-

POLICE

FROM PAGE 1

nizations.

Police Lt. Kevin Murphy, who oversees the COPS program in Scranton, said the officers will be certified to instruct students in anti-drug and anti-gang activity.

The grants announced today will allow the hiring of 1,600 police officers in cities and towns across the country. The grants to-

tal \$85 million to fund the hiring of 751 officers for school districts in communities nationwide.

The funding is to be used to pay for the salary and benefits of the new officers for up to three years.

President Clinton said the COPS program is helped to reduce crime and improve public safety throughout the country.

"Our strategy of more cops and less guns clearly works and we need to keep building on this progress by helping to put more police on the beat," President Clinton said.

How quickly the officers will be able to start patrolling Scranton schools is uncertain.

The city does not have an active civil service list from which to make the appointments.

The preparation of the tests and the testing itself takes several months.

BOZEMAN DAILY CHRONICLE

BOZEMAN, MT
FRIDAY 13, 1999
SEP 10 1999

Clinton awards funding for three police officers

President Clinton Thursday announced the awarding of \$265,000 to hire three police officers in Montana.

The grants include \$150,000 to Boulder to hire two police officers, and \$115,947 to Libby for an officer who will work in the schools.

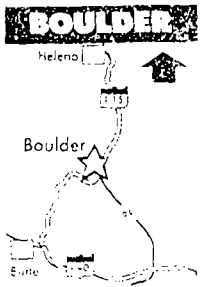
In all, Clinton announced \$147 million to fund the hiring of 1600 police officers in cities and towns across the nation. The federal grants, announced in Washington, D.C., included \$85 million to hire 751 officers to work in schools in 319 communities.

The money was awarded under the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, or COPS.

"The COPS program is helping to reduce crime and improve public safety across the country," Clinton said. "Our strategy of more cops and less guns clearly works, and we need to keep building on this progress by helping to put more police on the beat."

Boulder gets grant to double police force

By CAROLYNN EARLEY
IR Staff Writer



The timing couldn't have been better for the town of Boulder to receive about \$150,000 in federal grant money to hire two new police officers.

With the town's long-time police chief Dennis Sullivan's scheduled to retire soon and the demands on the town's two-person police force increasing, the additional manpower will come in handy, according to John Leary, town administrator.

"The timing is wonderful,"

Leary said. "The town council has been on the borderline of hiring another officer for several years."

President Bill Clinton announced Thursday the awarding of \$147 million to fund the hiring of 1,000 police officers in cities and towns across the nation through the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services' (COPS) Universal Hiring Program.

"The COPS program is helping to reduce crime and improve public safety across the country," Clinton said. "Our strategy of more cops and less guns clearly works, and we need to keep building on this progress by helping to put more police on the beat."

The grants provide funding for

'Being on call seven days a week, 24 hours a day is tough on us,' Marquis said. 'It'll be nice to have a family life again.'

Sgt. Steve Marquis

75 percent of the total salary and benefits of each officer hired for three years, up to a maximum of \$75,000 per officer.

Since Sullivan applied to the grant program earlier this year, Sgt. Steve Marquis has "waited with bated breath" for a response from the federal government.

He thinks it will be a relief to take the occasional sick day without leaving Sullivan scrambling to find a reserve officer to cover his shift or leaving his fellow officer

alone on the beat.

"Being on call seven days a week, 24 hours a day is tough on us," Marquis said, noting that reserve officers can dedicate only limited hours to the department. "It'll be nice to have a family life again."

Marquis also is pleased that the department won't be short-handed after Sullivan retires — when the police chief leaves, the Boulder police force still will have one more member to cover the increasing number of emergency calls

than it has now.

While Leary didn't have the exact budget information readily available on Thursday, he said the town council intends to budget its funds to allow the police department to maintain the new officers once the grant money runs out.

"It has always been our wish to have a third officer," Leary said. "Now we can."

The COPS program is the Clinton/Gore Administration's initiative to add 100,000 community policing officers to the beat.

Community policing is a crime fighting strategy that encourages law enforcement to work in partnership with the community to solve crime problems.

BRISTOL PRESS

BRISTOL, CT
WEDNESDAY 20, 484
SEP 1 1999

Grant to study bullying falls through

By ERIN R. KING
and MARK PETERS

The Bristol Press

Principal says school had no problem anyway

BRISTOL — Bristol Central High School won't be the site of research into the circumstances and locations where bullying occurs, since the police department didn't receive a much-publicized grant to start the program.

The application for the \$108,000 federal grant, doled out by the U.S. Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Agency, was made by the Bristol Police Department and approved by the City Council in May.

The application required singling out one school to focus efforts like tracking arrest histo-

ries and motives of students accused of bully crimes like harassment, threatening and intimidation and interviewing victims of these crimes.

After determining prime locations where crimes at school occur, prevention measures could then be taken. Officers would also work with offenders to help them stop bullying.

It is unclear why Bristol Central was specifically selected for the grant. Since Principal Chris Clouet said school officials do not consider bullying a major distraction to the learning process at the school.

"We don't have a bullying problem," Clouet said. He said it

would make sense if BCHS was targeted for study because it is the city school with the largest population. About 1,350 students were enrolled at the school during the last school year.

Lt. Daniel Britt, who filled out the application, said the grant focused on numerous school crimes, ranging from bullying and larceny to assault with a weapon and rape.

"The ones that seemed most appropriate to our community were bullying, intimidation and threatening," Britt said.

However, Britt said the federal money probably was given to large cities, such as New York

and Boston, who need to address more serious crimes in their student populations.

"I am happy to report that we don't have problems in those serious areas," said Britt, referring to the sexual assaults and weapon charges schools in larger cities must contend with.

"I would have been surprised if we did get it," said Britt, who learned about the department's rejection by mail.

The city decided to try for the grant because of "heightened fears," according to the grant application, after incidents of school violence like the April 20 massacre at Columbine High

See GRANT, Page A2

* Grant to study bullying at Bristol Central High falls through

From Page A1

School in Littleton, Colo.

The grant application also mentioned that city young people identified bullying as a "major concern" in a recent survey, but the Voice of Bristol Youth Report, which surveyed over 1,000 Bristol teens and was done a year ago, does not

address the topic directly.

The Voice of Bristol youth survey, given to students in June 1998, did ask students about weapons, involvement in fights with other young people and gang membership. Only 2 percent of Bristol ninthgraders and 4 percent of 11thgraders surveyed reported that they

belonged to a gang.

The Bristol police were one of 300 applications for \$38 million in federal grant money. According to Britt, \$38 million is a very small amount of money for a grant that will be dispersed nationally. If police had received the grant it would have been used to fund overtime pay for

the officer coordinating the project as well as pay a police student coordinator and a teacher-student coordinator to implement the program.

The bullying research program would not have used any city funds. Since there was no federal funding, the program will not be implemented at all.

COURIER-NEWS

BRIDGEWATER, NJ
FRIDAY 46,000
SEP 10 1999

Grants let towns hire new cops

Three Central Jersey towns will share \$85 million in grants from the COPS Universal Hiring Program announced by federal officials Thursday.

The following municipalities are among the 319 nationwide that will receive funding for new officers:

■ Plainfield will receive \$750,000 for 10 additional officers;

■ Bridgewater will receive \$450,000 for 6 additional officers;

■ Warren will receive \$75,000 for one officer.

The grants fund 75 percent of each officer's salary and benefits for three years.

Thursday's award was the fourth grant that Bridgewater received from the COPS program since April. The other grants allowed the department to hire 10 officers, resulting in a total of 90 members before Thursday's award.

Nationwide, the grants will be used to hire 751 officers. The COPS program has funded the addition of more than 100,000 officers.

— Terri Needham

INDEX - JOURNAL

GREENWOOD, SC
THURSDAY 16,800
SEP 9 1999

S.C. gets new officers through federal program

WASHINGTON — ⁶²⁹⁷³⁰ South Carolina is getting nearly \$700,000 to pay for nine new police officers from a federal program designed to put thousands of new police on the nation's streets.

Charleston will get \$450,000 for six new officers, Blacksburg is getting \$150,000 for two officers and Travelers Rest is getting almost \$99,000 for one new officer it was announced Wednesday.

The federal grants were awarded under the Universal Hiring Program and the COPS in Schools Program.

The Universal Hiring Program grants provide funding for 75 percent of the total salary and benefits of each officer hired for three years, up to a maximum of \$75,000 per officer.

The grants, announced by President Clinton and the Justice Department's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, total \$147 million for 1,600 new officers.

RAPID CITY JOURNAL

RAPID CITY, SD.
SATURDAY 34,219
AUG 21 1999

Grants to help fight school crime

529780
The Lawrence County Sheriff's Department and the Sturgis Police Department will receive a total of \$196,210 to help combat school crime and violence. The funding comes through a special U.S. Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program. ment will receive \$102,150 to fight juvenile drug use, and the Sturgis Police Department will get \$94,060 to prevent vandalism and to improve the relationship between students and police officers.

The Black Hills Special Services Cooperative will work with both agencies to address specific problems. The Lawrence County depart-

TIMES-PRESS

STREATOR, IL
THURSDAY 10,000
AUG 19 1999

Ottawa adding cops under federal program

OTTAWA - The city will use a federal grant to add two police officers, increasing its force to 34.

The increase will allow the city to use a \$150,000 Community Oriented Policing (COPS) grant awarded last fall, which will cover 65 percent of the cost of two officers' salaries and benefits for three years.

Police Chief Dale Baxter presented figures showing Ottawa is below both the national and local averages for the number of police officers per 1,000 in population.

Baxter said Ottawa's police department has been "under strength for years. Only now, with 34 officers, is it coming up to match other towns."

He said the national average is 2.4 officers per 1,000 people. With Ottawa's 17,974 population, that would equal 43 officers. But cities with populations between 10,000 and 25,000 average 1.9 per thousand, which the new force of 34 will enable Ottawa to match.

In nearby towns Peru has 2.15 officers per thousand, La Salle has 1.98, Morris has 1.97 and Mendota has 1.94. Ottawa's rate would be 1.99 per thousand with its boost to 34 officers.

TONAWANDA NEWS

NORTH TONAWANDA, NY
THURSDAY 13,500
AUG 19 1999

CITY OF TONAWANDA

City, schools receive \$69,808 grant to fight violence and crime

GRILLER FRONT PAGE
Grants have been awarded to the City of Tonawanda and Niagara Falls to fight school violence and crime under the Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing (COPS) School Based Partnerships program.

The City of Tonawanda, in partnership with Tonawanda Junior/Senior High School, will receive \$69,808 under the program. The Niagara Falls Police Department receives \$109,139.

The COPS School Based Partnerships program funds partnerships between law enforcement agencies and schools or community organizations to target specific problems of school violence and crime, using innovative community policing strategies.

The grants fund resources to combat violence and crime such as: computer technology, crime analysis personnel, community organizers, school personnel, and training and technical assistance.

MORNING JOURNAL

LORAIN, OH
SATURDAY 46,000
AUG 21 1999

Elyria police seek peaceable schools

By COLLEEN MYTNICK

Morning Journal Writer

21 AUG 1999

ELYRIA — With the help of about \$150,000 in federal grant money, school officials and police are launching a study that they hope will curtail violence in Elyria schools.

The United States Justice Department grant teams up school officials with police so that old problems can be tackled in new ways. A total of \$15 million in such grants were handed out this year to selected police departments

throughout the country.

To be eligible, applicants must choose one item from a list of problems and then submit a plan to study that problem. The list includes drug dealing, assault, vandalism, larceny, threat/intimidation, and alcohol-related problems.

Elyria police, who selected non-sexual assault, were awarded about \$135,000 to study the problem in 1998 and were given a supplementary grant of about \$17,000 this week. The study, which begins this school year, will be conducted at the

three junior high schools and at Elyria High.

"We hope to figure out why assaults are taking place," said Elyria Police Lt. Robert Hood. "And then, hopefully, to cut down and lessen the assaults that are taking place."

To do so, police have spent about \$30,000 on computer software, Hood said. The rest of the money will pay people hired specifically to study the problem, including a graduate student from Youngstown State University who will be paid to collect data.

"It's going to be a lot of work," Hood said. "But everything is in place to start this year."

Dan Pfeiffer, a spokesman for the Justice Department's Community Oriented Policing Services, said it's too early to judge the effectiveness of the grants because the program is only in its second year. Until the federal budget for next year is approved, it is not known if the program will be extended, he said.

Elyria School officials did not return phone calls for comment.

WASHINGTON TIMES

WASHINGTON, DC

SATURDAY 100,928

SEP 4 1999

HANCOCK (C.D. 11-20)

Police receive grant to help schools

The Hancock Police Department has received a \$76,000 federal grant to help defuse social tensions at Hancock Middle-Senior High School.

The Justice Department grant will allow police and school

authorities to provide after-school programs and take other initiatives to combat stereotyping and prevent violence among rival cliques in the western Maryland town of 1,900.

Police Chief Donald Gossage said students who identify with various groups, including athletes, the Ku Klux Klan and gloomy-looking "Goths" have clashed in school and around town.

"This school is kind of similar to Columbine," Chief Gossage said, referring to the high school in Littleton, Colo., where two students killed 13 people on April 20 before taking their own lives.



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World Wide Web Edition

financial resources. He lauded the state's congressional delegation, specifically Kennedy, as well as Silva and his staff for their efforts.

"Cumberland was the only community in the state to receive this type of grant, and the accomplishment of bringing nearly a half-million dollars into town for community policing is phenomenal," Gaschen said. "I hesitated at first about having policemen in the schools, but after listening to Tony explain the program, I think it will prove beneficial for years to come."

The mayor said federal authorities are looking at Cumberland as a model program.

"If this type of community policing can work here, it can work in other suburban areas," Gaschen said. "This program could provide a national blueprint."

Nationally, there are literally hundreds of high schools where police officers are assigned to schools, Silva said. In Rhode Island, the chief said he is aware of a permanent police presence only in North Providence High School.

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World Wide Web Edition

Woonsocket Call (North Attleboro, MA)

Date of Publication: 09/09/99

Account Number: 6297BD

Headline: Grant will put cops in schools

By PAUL R. DUBOIS

Staff Writer

CUMBERLAND -- This community has received a \$250,000 federal grant to station police officers at the high and middle schools.

Beginning in March, full-time police officers will become part of the daily student life at Cumberland High School and the two middle schools. The U.S. Justice Department's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program funded the grant, which will finance two full-time police officers for three years, according to U.S. Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy.

"This is fantastic news for the town, and the award is a tribute to the police department and its chief," Kennedy said.

Police Chief Anthony J. Silva, ecstatic after receiving the news, said the grant will allow his department to finalize an effort begun two years ago for a total police-school partnership. The department has been awarded \$462,485 in federal money during

the past 18 months for the school partnership.

School Superintendent Joseph M. Nasif Jr. shared Silva's enthusiasm, saying he views the announcement as "fantastic news." He said police have maintained a part-time presence at the high school during the past few years, and that has proven beneficial to students and faculty.

"Some people will say that we're turning the schools into a police facility, but I view the officers as another resource and another opportunity for the students to obtain assistance," Nasif said. "Our experience has been that the students work with police officers to help create a strong and safe school environment."

Key to the program will be the officers assigned to the task, Silva said. He wants experienced officers who will convey the message that police are in the building to be used as resources and not as law enforcers.

"They will enforce the law if the situation arises, but for the most part, they will serve as a tremendous resource, enhance our community policing program and help any student or even faculty member who needs it," Silva said. "They will be trained in handling problems and hopefully they will head off any potential problems before they reach the crime stage. It is a proactive approach."

Nasif said Silva has been very effective in conveying his community-policing message to students throughout the system.

"You can see the respect they have whenever he walks into any classroom in this community," Nasif said. "They're genuinely thrilled to see him. If the police presence helps to cement a safe all-around atmosphere, then we welcome them. When parents understand this partnership, I'm convinced they will be supportive."

Silva said he will post the new positions shortly to determine which officers may be interested in serving in the schools. Two soon-to-be-hired rookies will take their places on patrol. The new recruits will have to undergo testing and then attend the Municipal Police Training Academy, which is why the cops-in-schools program cannot be implemented until March.

Mayor Francis A. Gaschen said the latest grant is match-free, meaning the community will not have to provide any

BURRELLE'S

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World Wide Web Edition

Providence (RI) Journal Bulletin - Print Circ 169,000

Date of Publication: 09/15/99

Account Number: 6297BD

Headline: BLACKSTONE VALLEY: Grant to pay for police officers in schools

Source Website: <http://www.projo.com>

Grant to pay for **police** officers in schools

n The school district hopes the two full-time officers will build supportive relationships with students, as well as give lectures and attend events.

By JOANNE MARCIANO

Journal Staff Writer

CUMBERLAND -- At a time when metal detectors and surveillance cameras are becoming commonplace in schools, the Cumberland **Police** Department is taking a different route in its attempt to stop school violence before it starts.

Beginning this spring, two veteran **police** officers will work full time in the town's high school and two middle schools. The move is an attempt to build relationships between students and **police** officers, according to officials.

"They're not going to be up there as a **police** officer and a **police** officer only," Sgt. Christine Crocker said yesterday. "They will serve as counselor and teacher and then law enforcement officer."

The salaries and benefits for these positions will be paid for by a **federal grant** of \$250,000 payable over the next three years. The grant was awarded to the Cumberland **Police** Department by the **U.S. Department of Justice's** Office of Community Oriented Policing Services last week.

Cumberland was the only community in Rhode Island to receive one of the **federal grants**.

One veteran officer will work at the high school and another will share full-time duties between Cumberland and North Cumberland Middle Schools.

Duties of the officers will include speaking to students about issues such as relationship violence, date rape drugs and the legal ramifications of various crimes.

"A lot of people don't understand what their rights are," Crocker said.

Officers will also contribute to after-school activities and attend sporting events and dances within the district, officials said.

"We're going to ask them to get involved with every facet of the School Department," Crocker said.

And the resulting relationships should prevent violence, according to Crocker. That's because students will feel comfortable discussing issues with the **police** officer at their school before a problem arises, she said.

"This is one way for us to get the message out to people that we're not just here when somebody breaks the law," Crocker said.

According to school officials, the **police** officers will be a welcome addition to the schools.

"I think that what the **Police** Department is doing is the right way to go," School Committee Chairman James T. Higgins said.

RECORD

STOCKTON, CA
TUESDAY 57,837
AUG 24 1999

Major crimes, such as assaults, down in Calaveras County

By Francis P. Garland

Lode Bureau Chief 629700

SAN ANDREAS — Major crime took yet another tumble in Calaveras County during the first half of 1999, and officials say that community-oriented police and volunteer programs are a big reason why.

According to Sheriff's Department statistics, Class I crimes — murder, assault, robbery, burglary and theft, among them — decreased by 8 percent for the first six months of the year, compared with the same time period a year ago.

The number of assaults reported in the county fell by 20 — from 179 to 159 — for an 11 percent drop.

The number of thefts dropped from 236 during the first six months of last year to 212 this year.

The number of burglaries remained about the same — 204 this year, compared with 208 last year. The county did not have a murder during the first six months of the year but did experience one robbery and three rapes. Only one rape was reported during the same time frame a year ago.

Sheriff Dennis Downum said a combination of factors is keeping crime down locally.

"The way we have our people deployed is helping," Downum said. "And the volunteer program adds a greater presence."

Downum said deputies are

assigned to the same patrol areas for longer periods of time, which allows them to get to know their communities better.

"It gives them a better sense of who the good guys and the bad guys are," Downum said.

Also getting a salute is the county's Neighborhood Watch program, which Downum said has grown by leaps and bounds since he took office in 1995.

"They add a greater presence within the community," Downum said. "They offer us tremendous support."

Kathy Maxwell, a Sheriff's Department community-services and crime-prevention officer, said there are well over 100 Neigh-

borhood Watch groups and several thousand active volunteers — and that number is growing.

Recently, Neighborhood Watch chapters were established in the large Arnold-area subdivision of Blue Lake Springs. And the west-county towns of Burson and Wallace also have seen a resurgence, Maxwell said.

Maxwell said a spate of burglaries galvanized the Wallace/Burson areas, enabling Maxwell to form 13 Neighborhood Watch groups in the area.

Similar enthusiasm was displayed last weekend when Maxwell held a Neighborhood Watch meeting in Paloma.

"I think people all of a sudden

realize they can do something themselves," Maxwell said. "They can be our eyes and ears and guide us and give us the best information."

Neighborhood Watch participants aren't encouraged to actively hunt down law-breakers, but that's exactly what happened recently in the Wallace/Burson area after a suspected car theft.

Maxwell contacted Neighborhood Watch leaders, known as block captains, and told them something was going on and to alert the other volunteers.

"I went over there an hour or so later and people were out on horseback, on foot, on (all-terrain vehicles) searching the fields," she recalled. "I asked the deputies,

who are all those people? He said, 'Those are all your Neighborhood Watch people.'

"They thought they could take care of it then and there. It was impressive."

It's not only the eyes and ears of Neighborhood Watch participants that prove invaluable, Maxwell said.

In the Jenny Lind area, for example, residents have taken note of strange odors and alerted sheriff's deputies. Some of those calls have resulted in the discovery of illegal drug labs.

"They're flat doing it up here," Maxwell said. They know what to look out for, and they know what to do when they see something."

82

TIMES
PAWTUCKET, RI
WEDNESDAY 18,000
AUG 25 1999

Cumberland schools a model in effort to improve safety

E6297BD

EDITORIAL

A new school year is about to begin.

We always worry about our kids when they leave home for the classroom. But our concerns and fears are a bit more intense these days in light of the many incidents of school violence that have occurred over the past few years.

We know that since the shootings at Columbine High School last spring, educators and community officials are taking more active steps to stem potential violence. And we are very happy to see that at least one area community, Cumberland, is continuing an effort begun two years ago to check and hopefully prevent violence on its school campuses.

A Times article last week noted that the town of Cumberland's Police Department has received two federal grants totalling \$111,025 to help reduce school-related crimes. This is the second year that the U.S. Justice Department has funded the town's School-Based Partnerships program.

Actually, Cumberland was the first police department in the state to receive federal funding to address school-related crime. It received \$101,470 in September of 1998 from the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS).

We applaud town officials in Cumberland for being proactive about stopping school violence, and we thank the officials who helped get them the cash.

U.S. Rep. Patrick Kennedy has cited the town for taking a strong stand against school-related crime. "The successful awarding of these grants for the second straight year is a tribute to the aggressive approach to tackling

crime being made by Mayor Francis Gaschen, Police Chief Anthony Silva and Schools Superintendent Joseph Nasif," Kennedy said.

The congressman went on to praise Sgt. Christine Crocker for writing the grant applications.

Crocker developed the initial grant which asked for funds to look at the underlying root causes of school violence. When that money came through, problem analyst Keith Fayan was hired for a year. Together, Crocker and Fayan wrote the new and successful proposal for another year of federal funding, according to Chief Silva.

During his first year on the job, Fayan distributed 1,100 surveys to middle school students asking questions about bullying, intimidation, threats, assaults, disorderly conduct and name-calling, among other things.

These are important questions to ask. Not only do they give a good picture of the school's social environment, but they may also point to larger problems that are not easily seen, but should be handled now before they become more serious.

"We want to know how safe the students feel, and take that information and try to develop a plan," said Chief Silva. "Before, it had always been a Band-Aid approach, (but) with this approach, we can improve the schools through a safer learning environment."

In every community, it is the duty of every educational and municipal official to give children a safe environment in which to learn. Cumberland's program could be a model for every school department that wants to take every step possible to ensure the safety of students.

Community policing improving in L.A.

10297157
THE mission of the Los Angeles Police Department is to enhance public safety by reducing the fear and incidence of crime, maintaining public order and facilitating the safe and expeditious movement of traffic.

The primary service delivery vehicles used to accomplish this mission are the 18 community police stations. The uniformed men and women who work on patrol, responding to calls for service and engaged in problem-solving activities to reduce crime and improve the quality of life for the communities within the city of Los Angeles, comprise the bulk of our day-to-day presence in those communities.

Senior lead officers have always been an integral part of that system and will continue to be in the future.

In the early 1990s, the department was faced with rising crime rates and a tremendous call load that did not adequately provide our uniformed patrol officers sufficient time to engage in problem-solving activities or develop meaningful relationships with the public they served.

To develop those informal relationships and better coordinate our response to community concerns, the department moved the senior lead officers from the



**BERNARD
C. PARKS**

Basic Car deployment. The move was never meant to be permanent and, in fact, the senior lead officers were still expected to coordinate their problem-solving activities with the other members of their Basic Car.

Over the course of the next several years, the senior lead officers, for the most part, proved effective in establishing increased community liaison and engaging in problem-solving activities. However, what was lost was the day-to-day communication with other members of the Basic Car, as well as the insight and wisdom each senior lead officer possessed in providing guidance to new police officers fresh out of the academy and learning this profession dedicated to public service.

Since that time, the city leaders have made significant budgetary commitments to increase the size of the department by more than 2,000 officers. With sufficient resources now in place to achieve these goals, it is appropriate to bring the senior lead officers back to the Basic Car

deployment and ask each one to provide leadership within their Basic Car, in problem-solving and maintaining effective partnerships with the communities they serve.

It is not acceptable that 168 senior lead officers are the sole focus of supporting the tenets of community policing. The strategy of returning these officers to the Basic Car is but one part of the department's strategic initiatives to institutionalize community policing and provide a greater level of service to the people of Los Angeles.

The Daily News can be certain that community policing has improved since the senior lead officers' return to the Basic Car deployment. Incidents of crime continue to drop. The number of arrests has more than doubled since 1996, while the use-of-force incidents have gone down since 1994. Officer-involved-shootings have decreased by 42 percent since 1990. Vehicle pursuits have also declined by 41 percent, from 907 in 1993 to 534 in 1998.

The department's commitment to the community is also evident in its hiring process and in ensuring fair representation from the diverse community it serves. Fifty-three percent of our police officers are people of color; female

officers have increased from 215 in 1980 to 1,734 in 1998. The LAPD leads all California police departments in hiring sworn female officers. In addition, an outreach program, which holds open community forums with the chief of police, has also been created to allow all sectors of the community to air their concerns and establish meaningful discussions with department representatives.

The forums include the black community, Hispanic community, Asian/Pacific Islander community, gay and lesbian, religious and youth communities. Community links such as the Neighborhood Watch programs also continue.

In response to the ever-changing needs of the community, the Basic Car is evolving toward serving the community better and institutionalizing community policing. Each officer is now primed to take ownership of the community he or she serves. It is my sincere hope that the community welcomes the changes and embraces the advances the LAPD is making with community policing.

Bernard C. Parks is the police chief of the Los Angeles Police Department. Readers can write him at LAPD, P.O. Box 30158, Los Angeles, CA 90030.

COURIER

RUSSELLVILLE, AR
FRIDAY 11,500
AUG 27 1999

Some good police work

EDITORIAL

Communications is one of the most important factors involved in good police work. We're not talking about the kind of communications that other enterprises need most — person-to-person, internal and external. That's critical in police work, too. But we'd contend that mobile communications is even more critical.

In fact, it can be a matter of life and death.

Imagine, if you will, you're a deputy sheriff who spots a speeding vehicle on a rural road somewhere in Pope County late at night. You're a long way from the dispatch center, and there is a mountain nearby that makes your radio contact spotty at best. You stop the vehicle and try to call in for a license check.

You understand that the vehicle could be occupied by a night-shift worker who's running late or by a criminal with a bigger gun than you have. Your life is on the line either way when you approach the vehicle, but without a quick, efficient license plate check you could be walking into an ambush.

It must be a lonely feeling, but it's what we expect of our law enforcement officers.

And it doesn't have to be a rural road or at night. The danger can be just as great, if not greater, inside city limits or on Interstate 40, broad daylight.

That's why it's important we provide them with the best available equipment. We want them to be able to protect us and our property. To do that, they must be able to protect themselves, to communicate with each other, and get the latest possible information.

Various police agencies in Pope County rely upon themselves to collaborate on applying for and securing a \$234,000 grant

Editorial

from the federal Community Oriented Policing Services, a division of the Department of Justice. The grant will provide 70 percent of the money needed to equip about 37 police units with portable computers that will give the operating officers instant access to national and state crime information center information.

That will take a big load off the county's 9-1-1 dispatchers, who are often overrun with license plate and driver's license check requests from officers — sometimes at critical times.

The officers will also be able to communicate "silently" with each other and with dispatchers when radio contact might interfere with a criminal investigation.

Russellville already has 10 portable computers in use, and Police Chief Lloyd Hartzell said they have been most helpful to his officers.

Good law enforcement does not necessarily fit into the boundaries we establish for governmental purposes. In fact, smarter criminals sometimes take advantage of the jurisdictional issues that sometimes get in the way.

Sheriff Jay Winters said the grant application was successful because the various city and county agencies worked together like one unit, and that's certainly encouraging. One place we don't want turf wars is law enforcement.

We're proud of the effort and the results.

—Roy Ockert Jr.

Shift in trooper training is positive

562978D
EDITORIAL

Any attempt to add a civilizing influence to the road-rage culture of Interstate 95 and otherwise improve public safety in areas patrolled by Connecticut state police should be welcomed. So even though some misgivings have been expressed about new "community policing" training for state troopers, we think the results can only be positive.

The program will begin with a contingent of 40 recruits who started their training this week. In addition to undergoing physical conditioning and traditional law enforcement training, they will also be schooled in projecting a cooperative image to members of the public on a day-to-day basis. Officials say they want troopers to present themselves as problem-solvers who will work with the public to deal with public safety matters. That may well help make things less stressful for motorists involved in mishaps on the roads; drivers may be encouraged to be more cooperative with troopers and thus resolve problems more quickly. In that same vein, troopers will be encouraged to get to know store owners and others in their patrol areas so police can identify problem situations and perhaps head off others. Also, there will be an emphasis on getting troopers out into communities to build closer relations with

The Issue:

"Community policing" initiative should be effective in fostering needed public cooperation.

schools, businesses, senior citizens and other segments. The idea is to have troopers both provide helpful information and obtain feedback.

The goal is to build trust that will entice members of the public to provide information in investigations and allow troopers to address some of the root causes of public safety problems. One of the examples of the latter cited by police officials involves high-accident locations: Troopers would be encouraged to look for factors at those locations that may be contributing to the accident rate and report them to the state Department of Transportation or other relevant authorities. "What we want our troopers to look at is, 'Who are the other people to help me solve issues?'" said Sgt. Clifford Thermer, recruit coordinator for the Connecticut State Police.

Robert Veach, president of the troopers' union, said he believes in the program but thinks there aren't enough troopers on the road to give them an opportunity to practice the principles

while running from call to call. He also expressed concern about the possible emergence of an elite group that will get plum assignments in community outreach efforts.

And although we think the motivation is good, we're not sure about using terms like "customers" or "partners" to refer to civilians — as mentioned by some police administrators. That seems like self-conscious lingo that might prompt distracting derision among both troopers and the public.

State police administrators say that 226 troopers will be hired under a federal grant to help ease the burden on troopers patrolling the roads. That is a welcome development, given Mr. Veach's concern and an obvious need for a police presence to help rein in aggressive driving and deal with other problems on the heavily traveled highways in the area. But even without them, the community policing idea, which has been successfully embraced both locally and around the country, should not be dismissed.

There can't be a police officer on every street corner to deter crime or apprehend criminals, so the public must cooperate with authorities if the law is to be enforced. This new state police initiative has the potential for improving such cooperation for everyone's benefit.

HARTFORD COURANT

HARTFORD, CT
THURSDAY 227,792
AUG 26 1999

No More Fighting Words

62972D
What a strange culture we live in. It is social suicide to call someone, say, an Indian giver, or to refer to a police van as a paddy wagon. Yet it is acceptable to fill the airwaves with explicitly sexual song lyrics that would make Don Imus blush.

We wince at "incorrect" references to someone's handicap, race, ethnic origin or gender, yet we routinely put up with bizarre talk show guests, violent street language and obscenities. If you doubt this, lip-read while watching professional sports on TV.

Social scientists may one day decipher this curious dichotomy. Meanwhile, there is justification for sanitizing slurs to enforce sensitivity. Politically correct language may be annoying, but it has weeded out many a hurtful stereotype.

Still, the state police are on the verge of taking the concept beyond useful limits.

Beginning with the present training class of 40, troopers will be taught the Royal Canadian

Mounties' method of community policing. In addition to the usual characteristics, such as physical fitness, the "new" trooper will be required to show compassion and to get to know the people in the community he or she covers.

The sound idea behind this strategy — already employed by most local departments — is that highway troopers should be viewed as trustworthy servants of the citizenry, rather than threatening militarists. This image change couldn't be more timely, given animosity rising from recent shootings involving police officers, publicity about corruption in Hartford and periodic allegations of racial profiling.

Here's the rub: To enhance the public's perception of a kinder, gentler force, time-honored police words such as "perpetrator" will be softened. Criminals and victims alike will be referred to as "clients" and the public as "partners."

Sorry. We don't mean to offend. But "Stop! Client!" just doesn't have the proper ring to it.

Cops on campus

A chance for police and educators to grow

EDITORIAL

6297BD
Schools have opened this year with a considerable police presence.

At a number of schools around the county, officers who worked the schools last year have come back and a crop of freshmen will make their first appearances. Recently deputized school cops are exploring hallways, making new friends, and becoming familiar with their surroundings — a typical school experience that opens a new chapter in the evolution of community policing.

So far, such school-based partnerships appear to be a welcome experience for both sides.

Post-Columbine, schools see safety as a priority. Officers on the scene are likely to spot signs of potential trouble, as well as projecting a reassuring presence.

As for the police, these assignments promise to be pleasingly visible and generally positive. Another plus: the federal government, via a new round of COPS grants, often covers most costs.

Whether the experiment makes lasting changes in education or law enforcement remains to be seen, but it's hard not to fall for the sales pitch.

Students stand to benefit from programs and activities inspired by the partnership, and it is expected that some will find a new path for themselves by focusing on their school cop as a role model. Like a teacher who impresses ideas and interests upon attentive minds, a school resource officer is in a position to make a lasting impression among young acquaintances.

The officer in school is also well-positioned to deal with school problems like vandalism, drugs and violence. A police officer's job description includes keeping the peace, arresting offenders, providing emergency assistance and working for crime prevention. Such a resume,

one at many schools.

It may have been \$60 million in federal grants that encouraged many of the new relationships between school and police departments, but the potential benefits are a good reason to take a sincere interest in making such partnerships permanent — sanctified by that important formality: a line on the municipal budget. In anticipation of that day, there are a few hard questions that should be raised.

Where is an officer listed on the school's organization chart? Is a cop-on-campus authorized to call in patrol officers without the principal's approval? What role will police play, if any, in student discipline?

What access will the school officer have to student records, personnel files and other school information? Does the cause of school security trump the privacy rights of students, staff and parents?

What code of ethics will guide the officer as he balances the roles of counselor and investigator?

School and police administrators have certainly debated these questions, but they are policy issues that need broader discussion. As the experiment moves forward we look forward hearing from school boards, city and town councils, selectmen and town meetings on these matters.

Offering good schooling and protecting public safety are a community's most important tasks. A closer working relationship between educators and police is worth pursuing, and worth discussing. At this point, though, the school officers themselves have our sincere support; they face the challenge of getting the effort off to a successful start.

So welcome back to school, officers. You have begun a journey that will introduce you to new people and ideas. Make the most of your school years — it's an investment in our

JOURNAL TRIBUNE

BIDDEFORD, ME
FRIDAY 11,502
SEP 3 1999

Strides against city crime

■ There's much to be pleased about in the latest crime stats released by police chief.

EDITORIAL

Though Rochester Police Chief Robert Duffy failed to make good on his pledge to reduce serious crime by 20 percent over the past year, optimism abounds that he's on the right path.

After all, a 37.5 percent reduction in murder and manslaughter, and a 42.4 percent drop in robbery are major accomplishments. Overall, serious crime here decreased 16.2 percent.

Don't forget, too, that most urban areas began experiencing dramatic declines in homicides more than five years ago. New York City's murder rate, for instance, has been cut by nearly 70 percent since 1993.

Rochester is starting to catch up. Credit Duffy's focused leadership and growing citizen involvement in helping to make neighborhoods safer.

Since taking over the top job in the more than 600-member department, Duffy has made major changes both inter-

nally and externally. One of his biggest inside moves was to reassign about 60 specialty unit officers to street patrols. That change alone significantly improved police presence in city neighborhoods and backed up talk among police brass about the value of community policing.

It's been consistently demonstrated across the country that getting more officers into neighborhoods where they become actively involved in curbing quality of life problems pays huge dividends in helping reduce serious crime. For example, checking the identification of a person stopped for minor offenses often results in the arrest of a fugitive.

These changes in policing are not going unnoticed by citizens. They're a likely major contributing factor to the increased number of volunteers who are patrolling city neighborhoods.

By sticking to these strategies and initiatives, it's reasonable to expect continued declines in overall crime, and significant reductions in drug offenses and rapes — the two categories that saw increases over the past year.

Build on these successes. ▮

Community policing

Not only the police are responsible

EDITORIAL

On the front page of this section today, staff writer Leigh Dyer reports on an extended interview with Charlotte-Mecklenburg's new police chief, Darrel Stephens. In it he describes his vision for a city that is not merely safe, but caring and livable.

Specifically, he details a philosophy that successful police work and public safety ultimately rise or fall on the quality of the relationship between a community and its police department. His comments are peppered with the vocabulary of communication, shared effort and mutual stakeholding.

"I want the people of Charlotte and the police department to know," he says, "that I'm very committed to the kind of policing that builds partnerships between the police and the community."

In the publicity surrounding his appointment, much of Mr. Stephens' resume has already been amply on the record: Street cop risen to national prominence in law enforcement, thoughtful pub-

lic servant, skilled manager. To this, in today's interview, he adds a hint of his view of himself: Collaborator and contributor in multiple aspects of community life.

Truly successful partnerships, of course, cannot be the work of only one partner. Thus Mr. Stephens' vision can be realized only if the community — all of it — is prepared to respond. For this, local ground has been well prepared. Thanks in part to the skill of former chief Dennis Nowicki, the community is familiar with the idea that police are partners and the community's health is everybody's business.

Still, it's a point worth emphasizing — perhaps more bluntly than Mr. Stephens himself would care to do in the early hours of his new relationship with Charlotte-Mecklenburg. The community's health is not only everybody's business, it's everybody's responsibility. While the changing of the guard has highlighted Mr. Stephens' role as a new face in community leadership, the record of his tenure here won't be written only by him and his officers. It will be written — for better or for worse — by all of us



Stephens

Swift action can stem flow of dangerous new drug

By Sen. Russ Feingold
Guest Columnist

The news in July that police discovered a substantial methamphetamine lab in Janesville is just part of the disturbing rise of methamphetamine manufacturing and use in the Midwest. Inexpensive to make using household ingredients and farm chemicals and known to sometimes induce violent behavior in those who use it, meth means trouble for Wisconsin law enforcement and for our communities.



Feingold

While methamphetamine is not yet as widely available in Wisconsin as it is in other parts of the region, the spread of this dangerous drug throughout neighboring states such as Iowa and Minnesota sug-

gests that Wisconsin is at risk for the proliferation of meth unless swift action is taken at the federal, state and local level.

I was proud to co-sponsor a 1996 bill, which later became law, that strengthened and enhanced penalties for the trafficking of meth. But we've got to continue to increase federal support to successfully stop meth at the border. In late July, the Judiciary Committee held a hearing during which I spoke about the problem of meth in Wisconsin, and I recently became a cosponsor of the Methamphetamine Anti-Proliferation Act of 1999 (S. 486), a bipartisan bill to enhance the ability of state and federal law enforcement agencies to fight the manufacture, distribution and use of meth.

The bill would provide additional funding for law enforcement training on meth investigations and meth lab clean up. Rural, small and mid-sized communities also would benefit from the bill's provision for the hiring of new agents to assist state and

We've got to continue to increase federal support to stop meth at the border.

local law enforcement. The bill also would provide needed resources for meth abuse prevention and treatment. Finally, the bill includes a provision for farmers who have been the victims of theft of anhydrous ammonia, which is an ingredient in methamphetamine. The bill would make it a federal crime to steal or transport stolen anhydrous ammonia across state lines intending or knowing it will be used to produce a controlled substance.

We must balance law enforcement activity and tough sanctions with effective and adequately funded education, pre-

vention and treatment initiatives to effectively combat meth in Wisconsin. I believe this legislation offers that balanced approach, by both providing law enforcement the resources they need and getting users the necessary treatment.

Above all we must continue the federal-local law enforcement partnerships that have proved so effective in fighting drugs and other criminal activity in Wisconsin. In April of this year, the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance was awarded a \$9.5 million Byrne grant for use throughout the state to fight crime and the spread of drugs. Part of that grant was targeted specifically to develop a multistate task force to fight the spread of meth.

Another federal-local partnership that has paid off for Wisconsin is the Community Oriented Policing Services program, or COPS, which has provided close to \$70 million in grant money to fund the equivalent of more than 1,100 new community

policing officers on the street in Wisconsin since 1994. COPS has been an invaluable resource for local law enforcement in Wisconsin, and as our communities work to keep meth off our streets, the COPS program becomes more important than ever for our state. Though the COPS Program is slated to end this year, an amendment I co-sponsored in July would preserve the COPS program through fiscal year 2000 to provide funds to hire more than 1,500 more police officers nationwide.

With the continued work of the COPS program, and support for the Methamphetamine Anti-Proliferation Act of 1999, we can help Wisconsin law enforcement fight meth at the local level. I will continue to work with my colleagues in the Senate to curb the spread of meth in the Upper Midwest and to prevent this dangerous drug from taking root in our communities.

Russ Feingold represents Wisconsin in the U.S. Senate.

More cops

Federal grant to boost crime-fighting

Since the Linder/Maple study on the Jackson Police Department last spring, the greatest hurdle to improved crime-fighting seemed to be the goal of beefing up the ranks.

PLAN NOW

■ It's great that the Justice Department gave Jackson \$17.25 million to hire 230 police officers.

■ The city must start now to plan how to pay those officers when the funding runs out.

The goal of adding 230 officers to the budgeted number of 450 seemed totally out of reach for a number of reasons.

First, police pay was paltry. Not only was it difficult to entice quality recruits, but it also was hard to retain officers once they were trained.

The lure of higher pay and better working conditions in surrounding communities was too great.

Second, the number of officers in the field was already at least 100 below the budgeted number. Just filling the budgeted number seemed out of reach.

Third, even if pay were boosted and changes were made in the department to improve morale and increase effectiveness, how would the city pay for more officers?

At best, the necessary goal of boosting police ranks seemed to be a distant — if all but impossible — task.

Mayor Harvey Johnson Jr. seems to have pulled a rabbit out of his hat. The announcement this week that the U.S. Justice Department has awarded the city a \$17.25 million grant to hire 230 more officers is astonishingly good news.

The boost would put the city on track for the New York-based consultant's projection that the city could cut its violent crime rate in half by 2001 if the group's plan was followed.

There still are some potential rough spots.

First, the department remains about 90 officers short of the budgeted strength of 450. It will take time to fill the budgeted number, much less the additional slots.

And city officials should take as long as necessary to fill vacancies to ensure that only qualified recruits are hired.

Second, the city will have to find funds to retain these recruits once federal funding runs out.

That will demand a financial commitment and will require planning now to ensure that the city doesn't end up in a financial crunch trying to meet the obligation.

For the moment, the good news of the grant overshadows future concerns. It provides solid financial support for beefing up law enforcement, but also challenges the city in recruiting and maintaining this larger force.

City officials should be planning how to best use this resource while realistically gauging how to sustain the crime-fighting effort over the long haul.

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

WINSTON-SALEM, NC
SUNDAY 105,000
SEP 5 1999

Two Good Programs

Government, especially federal government, programs seem more often to feature red tape and waste than efficiency and effectiveness. So it was heartening Thursday to read two stories about federal law enforcement programs that have been getting the job done.

The first was the Violent Fugitive Task Force, a cooperative effort among, currently, the U.S. marshal's district office, the state and federal bureaus of investigation, the N.C. Division of Adult Probation and Parole, the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office and the Greensboro and High Point police departments.

The task force was developed when someone looked at the open-case file and asked, "Who's looking for these people?" The answer was no one, despite the serious nature of many of the offenses.

The task force has eight members. The Winston-Salem Police Department is not now represented but has been. Chief Linda Davis hinted that the reason the city police pulled out was that the task force has done such a good job that violent offenders on the loose are fewer and their crimes are down.

Members of the task force seem to love the job and have become very good at finding elusive fugitives. Dave Griffith,

the chief deputy U.S. marshal for the middle district of North Carolina, put it this way: "This is one program that I'm sure . . . the taxpayers have gotten their money out of."

The second federal success is the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, which has pumped \$5.5 billion in grants nationwide to local law enforcement agencies, which have used them to add officers, technology and equipment to their crime-fighting efforts.

That program is scheduled to close down next year, and Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., was in town this week to talk about a bill he's co-sponsoring with Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., to renew COPS.

These are the sorts of programs where the federal government seems to be most successful. They provide money without bureaucratic micro-managing of local agencies on how the money is spent. And they appear to have had substantive success in achieving the clearly stated goals at which they are aimed.

Someone who approaches you and says, "Hi, I'm from your government and I'm here to help you," may still cause a shiver of concern, but in some cases, help could actually be on the way.

MA

COPS help make streets around Norland safer

Officers, residents applaud program

By **AURIN SQUIRE**
Herald Writer

When Miami-Dade County schools open Monday, five police cars will be patrolling the neighborhood around Norland Senior High School.

And that's the way most residents like it.

The patrols are part of the Community Oriented Policing Squad, or COPS, program run by the Miami-Dade Police Department's Intracoastal District.

Officers joined residents from the Sierra Norwood area on Tuesday at district headquarters to honor COPS participants and applaud the results of the police/community partnership.

"Before this, children were getting robbed in and outside of the school and people couldn't even stand on the bus stop because they'd be robbed too," said Deborah L. Williams, presi-

dent of the Sierra Norwood Homeowners Association Inc. The area is roughly bounded by Countyline Road, Cloverleaf, the Florida Turnpike and U.S. 441. "The neighborhood started getting bad a few years ago but this program has improved things a whole lot."

Crime statistics for the area seem to back up her claim. Since COPS' inception last year, crime around Norland High and the nearby neighborhood is down in three out of the four major categories.

Auto thefts and burglaries were down 27 percent this month compared to the same time period a year ago. And home burglaries were down 11 percent from last year.

Buck Anderson, a crime analyst at the Intracoastal district, said COPS' credibility is in the numbers.

"It's been very effective, as you can see by the decreases," said Anderson. "This has been one of the best programs we've done."

COPS operates in three

NORTH DADE

phases: public education, enforcement and prevention. In the first phase, officers become familiar with the neighborhood, hand out questionnaires on crime and fliers about the program. They then hold a series of community meetings.

Carl A. Wright was the lieutenant in charge of organizing

the Norland-area COPS. Phase one started in May near Norland High lasted for two months.

"After that comes phase two where we sweep the streets and clean up the area by making a lot of arrests," said Wright, who had five officers working the area. "The last stage is just maintaining what we've accomplished."

The officers working the beat also hand out their business cards so residents will know how

to reach them.

Wright said the statistics of crime in the area were important but what COPS really does can't be measured.

"You can't record the intangibles like how many people didn't start in the life of crime because of a strong police presence," said Wright. "You get a return in numbers but won't really see the prevention until years from now."

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VINDICATOR

YOUNGSTOWN, OH
WEDNESDAY 90,000
AUG 18 1999

HUBBARD

Area kids attend Browns practice

The department contacted the Browns organization after seeing an advertisement.

By JOHN GOODALL

VINDICATOR TRUMBULL STAFF



HUBBARD — Police arranged for about 120 children to attend a private practice of the Cleveland Browns and tour the new stadium.

Officers obtained tickets and helped charter three buses that took the youngsters to Cleveland on Tuesday. The Browns, returning to the National Football League this season after a three-year hiatus, will play their first

game in the new lakefront stadium Saturday.

Township Police Chief Tod Coonce said his department learned of Tuesday's special practice at the stadium through a newspaper advertisement. The practice was open to season ticket holders and underprivileged children.

Fit the program: The chief said he and his officers thought the activity might fit well with the department's Community Oriented Police Services program which has been working to steer juveniles away from crime.

"We didn't necessarily have underprivileged kids," Coonce said. "But we told them [the Browns] about what we were doing with young people and

they helped us out."

Police were given tickets which they handed out to the Hubbard Little Eagles, which fields football teams of 6-through 12-year-olds. The local Fraternal Order of Police lodge chartered one bus for the trip and the Little Eagles chartered the other two.

Officers from the township and city departments were among the chaperons.

COPS-sponsored activities, such as attending the practice and tour, give youths a chance to see another side of law enforcement, Coonce said.

"We try to build a relationship with them before they get into trouble," the chief said. "It's worked well for us."

Lincoln County: Increasing policing staff

Continued from 1B

many big cities – tough prosecution of less severe crimes as well as major ones, with no tolerance for drug offenses.

"We're certainly not afraid to take a case to trial, even if it's relatively minor," Abdallah said. "From time to time, we hear complaints that we're being too hard. But we believe, as do a lot of others, that prosecuting all crime helps deter major crime."

Law enforcement offices in the county have been able to increase their staffs in recent years with help from the federal COPS program, which has provided money for salaries, Johnson said. The sheriff's staff has expanded to include five deputies, counting the drug agent.

Additional patrolling throughout the county is likely to cut down on crimes such as burglaries, Abdallah said.

County Commissioner Steve Larsgaard, a lifelong resident of the county, said Abdallah, Johnson and other law officers deserve much of the credit.

"The sheriff's department and the



Ken Klotzbach / Argus Leader

Dick Dubro, Tea's police chief, fills out an accident report while on duty in Tea. Lincoln County is "a safe place to live," he says.

state's attorney are on the cutting edge of law enforcement," Larsgaard said.

"If I was dealing drugs, I'd think twice about coming to Lincoln County."

Crime comparisons

Felony filings in counties with populations above 20,000, during the 1999 fiscal year, which ended June 30.

County	Pop.	Felonies
Minnehaha	143,011	1,242
Pennington	87,702	835
Brown	35,433	194
Brookings	25,989	110
Lawrence	22,509	259
Codington	25,456	158
Meade	21,911	152
Yankton	21,051	205
Lincoln	20,411	65

Tea Police Chief Dick Dubro, who's been involved with law enforcement about 35 years, said Lincoln County hasn't had much of a problem with serious crime.

"It's a safe place to live," he said.

Another likely factor in the reduction of felony crimes locally as well as nationally is a strong economy, Abdallah said.

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ARGUS-LEADER

SIoux FALLS, SD
SUNDAY 75,000
AUG 15 1999

Lincoln basks in growth with low crime

By RANDY HASCALL
Argus Leader Staff

Some things just go together: population growth and crime, for instance.

At least that's the way it's supposed to work.

But while Lincoln County's population has grown at a faster rate than any other South Dakota county in recent years, its number of felony crimes has fallen to nearly half of its 1996 level, which was an all-time high. It has the lowest felony crime rate of South Dakota counties with populations over 20,000.

The rate of felony filings has declined for three consecutive fiscal years. The only other county in the nine-county First Judicial Circuit that has experienced a drop-off each of the last three years is Hutchinson, where the population has remained steady.

Lincoln County State's Attorney Scott Abdallah attributes the drop to several factors. At the top of his list is

the work of law-enforcement officers. When a felony is committed, officers do an excellent job gathering information and solving the crime, he said.

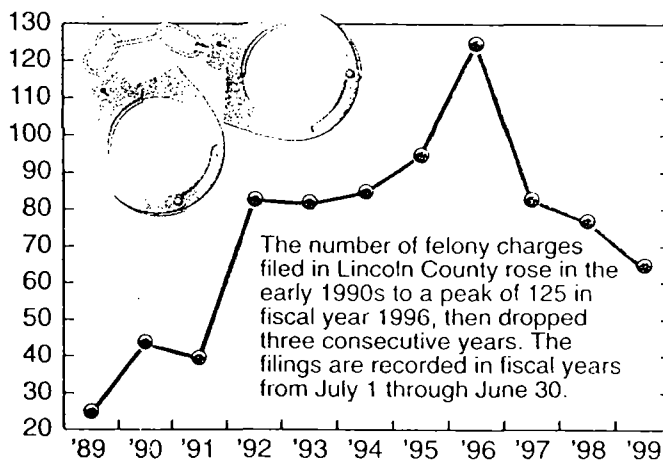
The county's drug task force, started in January 1995, also deserves credit, Abdallah said.

"It's said that up to 80 percent of all crime nationwide is related to drugs and alcohol," Abdallah said. "If you can control drugs and alcohol, you've taken the first step toward reducing crime."

Moreover, county commissioners have been willing to crack down on underage drinking, a contributor to many crimes, Abdallah said. The board pulled liquor or beer licenses for three establishments in recent years.

Through operation of the drug task force, the county has sent many people to the penitentiary, said Sheriff Dennis Johnson, who also spent 15 years with the Canton

Lincoln County felony filings



Source: Lincoln County state's attorney

Kristy Anderson / Argus Leader

Police Department.

"A small percentage of the people commit a large number of the crimes," said Johnson, who acknowledges that crime is cyclical, in part because two or three individuals are often responsible for a spree. "Get-

ting those people off the streets is one of the biggest factors."

Abdallah said the county has adopted the same policy that's become popular in

Lincoln County / See 9B

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World Wide Web Edition

Maui (HI) News - Print Circ 18,000

Date of Publication: 09/06/99

Account Number: 6297BD

Headline: Police officers assigned to Maui high schools

By LILA FUJIMOTO

Staff Writer

WAILUKU -- A few minutes into the mid-morning recess, Clyde Holokai is surrounded by students as he enters the "Bear Cave" at Baldwin High School.

The teen-agers shake hands, talk and roughhouse with the uniformed Maui Police Department officer whose beat is the Wailuku campus of about 1,700 students.

"I'm loving it," says Holokai, who just the week before had encountered silence when he approached the same group of students, most of them football players, who gather in the hallway near the administration building. "It took awhile. Nobody wanted to say anything."

"A lot of them think I'm here to bust them. That's not my job. For the most part, I want to talk to them, help them."

Holokai is working to make the campus a safer place, in part by listening to students' worries to try to prevent problems. He's also hoping to change students' attitudes toward law enforcement as one of six MPD school resource officers assigned to Maui County high schools since the school year began Aug. 23.

A three-year federal community policing grant is paying the officers' salaries in the first program of its kind in the state, says Sgt. Hervina Santos, who supervises the officers.

The department has officers at Lanai and Molokai high schools and is working to place an officer in Hana, the only public high school in the county without a resource officer. Officer Brian Abe works part time at St. Anthony High School and fills in when other duties take officers away from their assigned campuses.

The program expands the idea of community policing to the schools, which provide an office, telephone, campus radio communication and a typewriter or computer for the officers.

The officers are usually at school before the first bell rings at 7:45 a.m. and stay until school ends. They spend recesses and lunch hours walking the campus, talking, eating and mingling with students.

"We're not their moms, we're not their dads, we're not security, we're not teachers," Santos says. "We're just their friends. But we also are professionals."

That means stepping in to arrest students for criminal activity after campus security officers investigate, as Holokai already had done several times at Baldwin in the first week and a half of school.

Another of the officers' duties is gathering information and reporting on both on- and off-campus activities, such as large "rave" parties, drug dealing or other illegal activity, Santos says.

Although the grant-writing and planning for the school resource officers began long before the shooting that left 15 people dead and 21 injured at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., last April, the tragedy has highlighted concerns about school safety and spurred positive responses, says Russell Yamanuha, a Maui High School vice principal.

In the 1997-'98 school year, 5 percent of the 1,850 students enrolled at Baldwin at the time had been suspended for criminal offenses, with disorderly conduct leading the list of crimes, says Principal Wallace Fujii.

He said criminal offenses have decreased in recent years. "Hopefully, having the school resource officer on board

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GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE

GREEN BAY, WI
SATURDAY 58,000
AUG 28 1999

Beat cops bring Green Bay police prestigious award

FRONT PAGE
BY ANDY NELESEN
PRESS-GAZETTE

Green Bay beat cops have won the Super Bowl of community policing.

Mayor Paul Jadin announced Friday that the Green Bay Police Department won the Herman Goldstein Award for Excellence in Problem-Oriented Policing. Green Bay police were selected from 75 other nominees. The Boston Police Department won the award in 1998.

Steve Scully and Bill Bongle, community policing officers for the Broadway area, wrote the presentation "Street Sweeping, Broadway Style" for the award. They will give a presentation in November at the 10th Annual International Problem Oriented Policing Conference in San Diego.

"There have been people that have invested their life savings in a business on this street," Bongle said of North Broadway. "It came down to how much we enjoyed the community — the people — and what we were doing with the community and trying to make it better down here."

Bongle said community

police tried to solve problems rather than relocate them.

"Rather than coming in and telling people what we think should happen, we work with the residents and figure out solutions that they can live with," Bongle said. "We didn't want to just come in and start pushing people around. We wanted to fix the problems right here."

Problems on North Broadway have dropped since Bongle started in the program in May 1995. Total police calls have dropped 25 percent from 1997 to 1998 and 58 percent since 1993.

"This is a tribute to the efforts the police department has made in this program and in this area," Jadin said.

"The residents saw we were cleaning up this area and created the economic opportunities that allowed people to open businesses in the area," Jadin said.

Bongle said the city's backing of \$3.1 million in streetscaping improvement showed the community was behind the effort.

"Once we saw the city was committed to the streetscape, we knew things had turned around and were on the way up," Bongle said.

Kingston police bicycle patrol adds new dimension

Continued from page A1

Center on Franklin Street where they keep their bikes. Their hope is to use the bikes 10 months of the year, storing them in December and January.

Every three or four days, officers rotate from the bike to the patrol car. But biking officers prefer the open air because the bikes are a good public relations tool — officers in police cars are less accessible because the cars can be viewed as a barrier, Keller said.

"There's a lot more interaction with people," he added. "You're a lot more approachable on the bicycle in this uniform."

Cyclers are the only members of the force, besides the marine patrol, who can wear short pants in the summer. For cooler days, they have windpants, but haven't had much use for them with this summer's rash of 90-degree days.

Besides helmets, they wear a bulletproof vest under short-sleeve shirts embroidered with

their badge and name, and a duty belt holds their gun and handcuffs. When officers have to use their guns, they are trained to be as far from the bike as possible because they can't use them for cover and because it's difficult to ride while shooting a weapon, said city police Sgt. Egidio Tinti. Mounted officers are trained to shoot while on the horse.

City officials started the bike patrol after disbanding the department's mounted unit last summer. Bike patrols are favored because of cost-effectiveness. About 10 to 15 bike officers can be fully outfitted for the cost of one patrol car, according to the International Police Mountain Bike Association, an independent not-for-profit organization.

Kingston's unit is tentatively budgeted for between \$2,500 to \$3,500 next year, about a third of the cost of the mounted unit, Tinti said. The department started up its patrol with a federal grant for community policing services.

It's also more efficient to have officers walking, on bikes or in a car. Bike officers can

travel faster and farther than foot officers, and they are able to patrol areas unreachable by car.

KELLER RECALLED driving a police car while chasing a 14-year-old runaway who was on a bike. He was unable to catch him with the car because the teen rode through alleyways to escape.

Keller called for backup with his location and soon after officers on bikes caught the boy.

Bicycles also give officers the "stealth" advantage — because they are silent, police on bikes can ride right up to the scene of a crime before they are noticed.

For their safety, officers always have to get off their bike to speak with someone. Anytime officers interview someone, the bike has to be between them and the interviewee, Keller said. In the event the interview isn't going well, the bike can be used to

defend the officer. "Human instinct is to catch what is coming at you," he said.

During more than 80 hours of training, officers were told that, "if you've got to dump the bike, dump it," Keller said. "To replace something on the bike is very minimal."

Packs on the rear of the bikes hold everything an officer needs to make an arrest: tickets, accident reports, arrest reports, notebooks, tools and masks for cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The bike weighs about 30 pounds with all of its equipment, including lights and shocks.

When they make an arrest, one officer might stay with the suspect, while the other one picks up the police car, or they call for backup, Tinti said.

Officers can spend almost an entire eight-hour shift sitting on a narrow, state-of-the-art bike seat riding an estimated 10 to 15 miles a night.

"It just gets numb after a while," Keller said.

DAILY FREEMAN

KINGSTON, NY
MONDAY 27,000
AUG 23 1999

Bikes stretch arm of law

■ Bicycle patrolling police officers travel up to 15 miles in a single 8-hour shift to keep crime off the streets of Kingston.

By JENNIFER JOHANNESSEN
Main staff 624730

KINGSTON — The newest four-wheeled Kingston Police patrol, cruising the streets this summer is fueled by six to eight water bottles instead of a tank of gas.

"We can get to any area faster than a patrol car (from Midtown)," said city police bike patrol Officer Robert J. Keller.

Keller is a member of the department's Mountain Bike Patrol, which has been riding the streets since the beginning of June. The six-member unit includes Officers Bill Hadsel, Kirk Strand, Chris Hulbert, Colin Bell and Eric Paulding, making it one of the largest police bike patrols in Ulster County. Departments in New Paltz, Woodstock and the villages of Saugerties and Ellenville also have pedal-powered patrols.

Working in pairs, bike patrol officers spend about 80 percent of their time in Midtown Kingston, one of the more troubled spots of the city. They patrol from 4 p.m. to midnight riding through the area from dusk until evening when

complaints can reach their peak.

Officers ride on the top-of-the-line mountain bikes through city parks and the Uptown business district during the afternoon. Their arrests are mainly drug-related, though some include traffic tickets and "quality of life" arrests, such as open bottles of alcohol and more recently, prostitution.

At the start of their shift, officers drive a patrol car from headquarters to the Everette Hodge Midtown Community

See Kingston, page A2 A

even though it is summer and the neighborhood's children have been out just about every night, things are quieter. They credit the increased police presence in the neighborhood and the quiet pressure that officers have applied to Topalian to improve conditions in his buildings.

"Last summer, you'd be afraid to come out of your house because there would be crazy street fights," said a woman who has lived on Grafton Street for several decades. "There are still a lot of scary-looking characters around but there is a lot less drinking on the corner going on this year."

Like several other homeowners on Grafton Street, the woman asked that her name not be used. "It's still pretty rough down there," she said, nodding down the street toward the apartment buildings. "I don't want someone throwing rocks at my house or slashing my tires because I talked about it."

The Quincy Point officers say they are encouraged by the number of calls they've been receiving from Grafton Street residents. "Initially, the number of calls tend to increase because people feel more comfortable talking to the police. But the seriousness of the problems decreases," Tobin said. "We want people to call us, to beep us and tell us what is happening down there."

Patrol officers assigned to the community policing units are more likely to be passing out ice cream coupons to children than parking tickets. They respond to emergencies as they arise, but their main role is to establish a presence in an area so problems can be addressed before becoming chronic and criminal.

Community police officers also keep an eye on situations in the neighborhood that could fester and explode if left unattended. Each day before they begin their shifts, members of the community policing units go over a log of calls to their coverage areas. Part of their role is to keep tabs on potential problems.

"We try to follow up on the calls from the previous night. Especially in domestic cases, you want to check back in with people to make sure people are OK and know who they can contact if they need additional help," Officer Dentremon said.

"If we can't help directly with something, usually we can get a person in touch with another agency that can," Radzevich said.

Quincy's community policing program is still a work in progress, officers said. "As you get to know the neighborhoods better, you start getting a feel for what might work in different situations," Tobin said. "Nothing is written in stone, you have to go with what gets results."

your hair out," Tobin explained.

Police met with the landlord, Topalian, and with tenants twice this summer for informal discussions that included a neighborhood barbecue put on by the Police Athletic League.

Topalian said a large part of the problem was being caused by a few unruly tenants. He managed to evict one particularly troublesome group last month.

Homeowners just up the street from the apartment buildings say

■ POLICING

Continued from Page 1

neighborhood would have been met with suspicion, Murphy said. But eight months after the start of community policing patrols in the city, officers assigned to Quincy Point have become a part of the landscape.

"They're down here a lot, and not just when there's trouble," Murphy said. "Most of the kids know their names. You can even beep them. They give out their numbers."

For the past several months, the community policing team in Quincy Point has been attempting to change the way residents think about police and the police approach to the neighborhood.

"This isn't the traditional form of police work," Officer Ralph Radzevich said. "This isn't being in a patrol car, responding to calls then getting back in the car and riding away to the next call."

Traditional patrols in which officers respond as calls for service come in are still the mainstay of a regular patrol officer's work shift. In addition to those patrols, however, the city now has community policing teams in Quincy Point, Germantown, West Quincy and Norfolk Downs.

The goal of these teams is not so much to make arrests and respond to crises but to prevent crime and improve the conditions in which people are living in the city.

Community policing is the somewhat vague, catchall phrase used to describe the kind of police work that Tobin, Radzevich and the two other Quincy Point officers, James Dentremon and Christine Kraunelis, are doing in places like Grafton Street.

"Community policing means a lot of different things to different people, but here it means officers can get out of the cruiser and talk to people when it isn't an emergency situation. The police get to know what the problems are in the neighborhood and who may be causing them because they are there and they are gaining people's trust," Tobin said. "They have the time and resources to find out where the chronic problems are and how to try to fix them."

The Quincy Point team set its sights this summer on the five apartment buildings on lower Grafton Street that are owned by Andy Topalian of Braintree. The small stretch of real estate generated nearly 200 calls to police during the past year. From July 7 until August 11 of this year, there were 28 calls to police, a rate that outpaces other areas of the city.

The vast majority of the calls were for what police call "quality of life"

issues, including complaints about teenagers hanging out on street corners late at night and people blaring stereos.

"They are the kind of calls that aren't exactly criminal but if you had to live with them, you'd be pulling

Police find integral role in Quincy Point community

PATRIOT LEDGER

QUINCY, MA
THURSDAY 79,688
AUG 26 1999

FRONT PAGE

By ELIZABETH W. CROWLEY
The Patriot Ledger

When Maryann Murphy was growing up in a housing project in South Boston, the sight of a police officer meant trouble.

The cops would show up in their cruisers, arrest somebody and be on their way, not to return until the next emergency, she recalled. Murphy doesn't know whether anything has changed in her old neighborhood, but in the Quincy neighborhood where she lives now, things are different.

Around twilight on a warm summer evening, Murphy sits atop the concrete steps leading to her apartment and puffs a cigarette. She lives in one of the five apartment buildings at the lower end of Grafton Street in Quincy Point.

The drab, monotonous stretch of buildings is home to 20 families, including several dozen children. Children and young adults congregate on front stoops and street corners. At one end of the block, a man who looks to be in his late teens keeps a tight grip on his pit bull's leash while chatting with a couple of girls sitting on the sidewalk curb. Up the street, several young boys on bicycles lean against a stop sign as they talk.

And in the midst of all the social activity, a Quincy police officer strolls along the street, all but ignored by most of the people he passes.

"Hey Brian," Murphy shouts from her seat on the stoop. "Hey Tobin." Busy talking with the group of teenagers on the corner, Sgt. Brian Tobin doesn't respond immediately. But he spins on his heels when Murphy's 4-year-old daughter bellows, "Hey cop!"

Less than a year ago, the presence of a uniformed officer in the

Monday, Sept. 13, 1999

The News Journal
A Gannett newspaper

OUR VIEW

SAFER STREETS

Community policing deserves the credit for reducing city shootings

Wilmington City Council President James Baker is right: nobody should be celebrating as long as there is any serious crime on city streets. But Mayor James Sills can't be faulted for pointing out shooting: have dropped 42 percent in four years and praising his police force for helping make that happen.

At this time in 1996, Wilmingtonians and suburbanites were agog over the epidemic of street shootings, most of them drug-related, that swept parts of the city. By that year's end, there had been an astounding 108 reported shootings in a city of less than 80,000. The mayor was paying for making deep cuts in public safety to dig the city out of a financial crisis.



News Journal file
From left, Wilmington Police Chief Michael Boykin, Mayor James Sills and Public Safety Director David Bostrom

Police morale was in the dumps. As so often happens, crime bred more crime.

The next year was hardly better. Mr. Sills was wrapping up his first term in office and had been elected for a second, but in some ways that period was a low point for his administration. Then he reversed himself and restored the police to full strength, replaced his police chief and brought in a new public safety director from Washington, D.C. Slowly, talk about community policing and redeployment into new patrol sectors began to become reality rather than a point of contention within the police department.

Merchants and corporations formed a voluntary tax district downtown and hired unarmed street patrols linked by radio with the police. City Councilwoman Stephanie Boulden, against the advice of some civil libertarians, insisted on having video surveillance cameras mounted in high-crime areas of her district, a successful experiment that is about to spread throughout downtown. Slowly the shootings — as well as the city's crime rate in general — began to decrease.

Perhaps prosperity has had something to do with it, as some suggest. But in the worst of times, only a few hard-core thugs terrorized the streets, not the average youths idling on corners who since have been drawn into the job market. There was something more. Attitudes changed as police worked on crime from inside neighborhoods, with residents supporting them, rather than being perceived as a hated strike force from outside. Community policing, properly implemented, has made a difference.

That can be celebrated.

WHITE MT. INDEPENDENT

SHOW LOW, AZ
TUESDAY 6,458
AUG 31 1999

Grant provides two new officers

Debbie Hoag
The Independent

FRONT PAGE
2 2475 D

SHOW LOW —The latest in a number of successful grant applications by the Show Low Police Department has resulted in the acquisition of two new full-time patrol officers.

The grant, which will pay 75 percent of the officers salary for the next three years, is one of many grants the Show Low Police Department has pursued in the last 13 years, and which has resulted in \$800,000 worth of everything from new software to bulletproof vests.

It all started with a grant-writing class

sponsored by the Arizona Police Officers Standards and Training organization in 1986. Show Low Police Captain John Jarrett attended the workshop, and has been writing grant applications for the department ever since.

"We've been very successful," said Jarrett. "We've gotten grants from the State of Arizona, from the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, from the Arizona Criminal Justice Enhancement Fund, and from Department of Justice."

Another recent grant, written in conjunction with White Mountain Safe House and the Pinetop-Lakeside Police Department,

has provided a law enforcement victim's advocate for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

"The advocate is basically on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week," said Donna Kalberg, executive director of Safe House. "The advocate responds to all domestic violence calls the precincts receive, as well as calls from the hospital, can walk a victim through the entire legal process, and does education also."

"We have three basic goals," said Jarrett. "To keep the public safe, to keep our offi-

See NEW OFFICERS, Page 5

NEW OFFICERS, from Page 1

cers safe, and to keep them on the streets." Jarrett said that a computerized booking system which allows officers to complete booking paperwork in half the time it takes to hand-write a report, is an example of a grant that worked to accomplish that goal.

"The city is growing," said Jarrett. "We received 16,000 calls last year."

"The grants have allowed us to do things within the department that, if we had to wait for the regular budget process, would be difficult to accomplish," said Show Low Police Chief John Corder.

"Our two new officers are part of the grant process. With the growth that the area has seen, we are likewise seeing an increase in requests for service. These officers will help us meet our daily needs," said Corder.

Corder said that new officers are put through an exhaustive process even before they are sent to the 16-week police academy in Phoenix. "We've got a pretty good look at each officer, and feel pretty confident they'll fit well

"The grants have allowed us to do things within the department that, if we had to wait for the regular budget process, would be difficult to accomplish."

— John Corder
Show Low Police Chief

into our organization."

The two new officers are also part of a two-year push to target local residents to become police officers, instead of hiring certified officers from other parts of the state or country, Corder said.

Officer Jason Spear is a 1995 graduate of Show Low High School, who said he became interested in police work after having an opportunity to go on several ride-alongs. "I decided I liked it," said Spear. "It's great."

Robert Rothrock, who relocated in Show Low from Pennsylvania three years ago, came here after getting out of the military. "I wanted to do something productive," said Rothrock. "To interact with the community."

Possible Message Points on COPS

- Due to the Majority's failure to pass an acceptable CJS Bill, the COPS Office is unable to award any grants for the hiring of additional police officers.
- There are more than 800 applications for grants to hire school resources officers sitting in the COPS Office.
- Another school year has begun and thanks to the gridlock on Capitol Hill, these communities are unable to take essential first steps to make their schools safer.
- In addition, not only is the Majority hurting these communities in the short-term with their inaction, they are looking to cut our initiative to hire more police officers which has played a major role in our historic drop in crime. Cutting the COPS program will have a long term effect on the safety of our streets and neighborhoods.



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Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)
Communications Division
1100 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530
202-616-1728
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FAX COVER SHEET

Date:

To: *Diana Benos*

From: Dan Pfeiffer

Fax:

Phone:

Number of Pages (including cover):

Comments:

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES/21ST CENTURY POLICING INITIATIVE
(BA in millions of dollars)

	<u>FY 1999</u>	<u>FY 2000 Req.</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>Senate</u>	<u>Alternative Level</u>
BA	1430	1275	268	325	625
Unobligated Balances			<u>140</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>170</u>
Program Level			408	495	795

Subcommittee: Commerce/Justice/State

2000 Budget Policy: The budget requests \$1,275 million for the 21st Century Policing Initiative:

- \$600 million to hire, retain, and redeploy officers and to provide equipment and support.
- \$350 million for crime solving, systems interoperability, and forensic sciences.
- \$200 million for community prosecution.
- \$125 million to engage entire communities in preventing crime.

Latest House Action: The House mark includes \$268 million, the authorized amount for the hiring program in the 1994 Crime Act. In addition, the House permits the use of an additional estimated \$140 million in unobligated balances for a program level of \$408 million including:

- \$167 million for hiring school based resource officers and for school safety initiatives.
- \$130 million for technology, additional technology funding provided outside of COPS.
- No funding for prosecutors, prevention or Indian earmark (\$45 million in budget) and inadequate funding for program administration and the police hiring program.

Objection to the House level was communicated in a July 29th letter and August 4th, SAP.

Latest Senate Action: The Senate provides \$325 million for COPS and permits the use of \$170 million in prior estimated unobligated balances for a program level of \$495 million including:

- \$180 million for school based resource officers and school safety initiatives
- \$175 million to hire, retain, and redeploy additional officers.
- \$90 million for technology (additional technology funding provided outside of COPS).
- No funding for prosecutors or prevention, insufficient funding for program administration and insufficient funding for police technology and hiring of new officers.

Objection to the Senate level was communicated in a June 10th letter and July 21st, SAP.

Alternative Level: \$795 million, \$300 million above the Senate level, is needed to provide sums sought by the DPC for the initiatives below. Specifically, this level fully funds the first year of the President's goal of hiring 30,000-50,000 additional cops; adds \$60 million to the Senate level to upgrade police departments' crime analysis capabilities, which DPC considers essential; provides half the request for Community Prosecutors; and adds \$43 million to the Senate level for other Administration priorities: Safe Schools (+\$20 million), Training and Technical Assistance (+\$6 million), and Program Administration (+\$17 million).

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>Senate</u>	<u>Alternative</u>
Hiring	382	132	292	389
Technology	350	130	90	150
Prosecutors	200	8	0	100
Other	<u>343</u>	<u>138</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>156</u>
Total Program Funding	1,275	408	495	795

FY 1999 Appropriations Action: The 1999 appropriation provided a total of \$1.4 billion.

Prepared By/Date: Jim Boden (5-3740), J:\DATA\99-51\CJCOPS (8/23/99)

Page
Dial signals
7-5000