

FOIA MARKER

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Subgroup/Office of Origin: National AIDS Policy Office
Series/Staff Member: Todd Summers
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 21080
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Folder Title:
Issues - Needles - Endorsements - Law Enforce[ment]

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

165 CHURCH STREET • NEW HAVEN • CONNECTICUT 06510



JOHN DESTEFANO, JR.
Mayor

*The vision of New Haven's children
is our city's greatest resource*

March 3, 1998

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Clinton:

As the Mayor and Chief of Police, we write to convey our strong support for needle exchange programs operating in the City of New Haven. We urge your Administration's leadership on HIV prevention by supporting the local communities who use needle exchange as an effective HIV/AIDS prevention tactic by allowing federal resources to be allocated for this purpose if a community deems it appropriate.

Our programs have served as a national model for innovative approaches to the twin epidemics of HIV and substance abuse since 1990. We are proud of the success that our program has had. In fact, a landmark study by Yale University shows a reduction of HIV transmission annually per capita of 33 percent in New Haven. We are proud of our innovative efforts to reduce HIV infection and stand ready to continue to strengthen and maintain our program locally.

Working in partnership, the Mayor's Office, the health department and the police department have been able to develop a needle exchange program that works for New Haven. The primary goal of our program is to prevent the spread of HIV among our drug using population - keeping them safe from this deadly disease. Our programs also offer referrals to medical care, drug treatment and other social services, such as food, housing and support groups.

Needle exchange has contributed greatly to public health and public safety. Our police officers are grateful for the exchange programs because the risk of accidental needle sticks is reduced due to regular capping of needles. Needle exchange itself encourages users to discard needles properly through the exchange sites and not to leave those needles on the streets. New Haven is a safer place today because of the community partnership developed through the use of needle exchange.

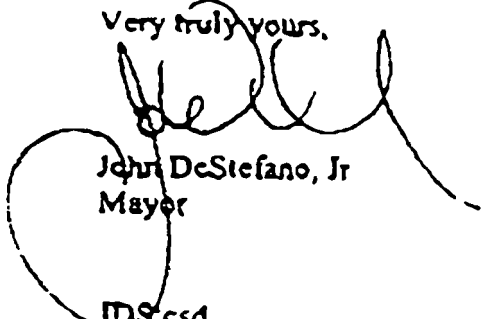
phone 203.946.8200 fax 203.946.7683

**This creative impression is the work of Kenneth Smith, a student at Hill Central.*

We know that this comprehensive approach to HIV prevention is effective and hope that your Administration will support our lifesaving methods by allowing federal resources to be used in New Haven - and nationally - for needle exchange. We urge you to act quickly because lives hang in the balance. A strong public health message supporting needle exchange and the necessary resources will demonstrate the courageous, strong commitment that this Administration has for public health and public safety and for its most vulnerable citizens.

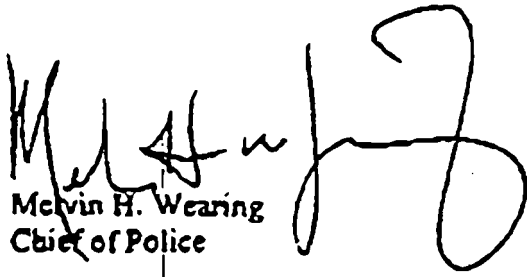
Many thanks for your consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,

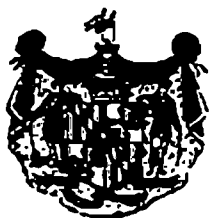


John DeStefano, Jr
Mayor

JDS:csd



Melvin H. Wearing
Chief of Police



Baltimore Police Department

COMMUNITY POLICING

The move to excellence in the 1990's



KURT L. SCHMIDTKE
Mayor

THOMAS C. FRAZER
Police Commissioner

March 18, 1998

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to ask for your support for needle exchange programs, and specifically, for you to urge Secretary Shalala of the Department of Health and Human Services to exercise her authority to allow federal resources to be used for needle exchange in communities that need it. Needle exchange is supported by scientific evidence--federally funded reports indicate that needle exchange reduces HIV transmission and does not encourage drug use. In Baltimore, we have a model needle exchange program run by the Baltimore City Health Department and supported by my Department. We are working together--as public health and public safety officials--to ensure that no more families in Baltimore must face the devastation that AIDS brings.

Critics of needle exchange have said that needle exchange programs are not supported by law enforcement officials. I am writing to tell you that in Baltimore that is not the case. The needle exchanges have been well-accepted by the community (65% of Baltimore residents support needle exchange), and have had excellent cooperation with the Police Department. In fact, we have had only one call for assistance during the period of operation of the exchanges. We are seeing "hard core" addicts get into--and stay--in drug treatment programs as a result of their referrals, and we support these drug demand reduction efforts.

In addition to reducing HIV transmission by approximately 40% and providing clients with access to drug treatment, other benefits of needle exchange are clear to us in Baltimore. Scientific evidence generated from our exchange programs shows us that

[Handwritten signature]

The President
March 18, 1998
Page 2

discarded needles do not increase after the opening of a needle exchange--a welcome piece of news for officers walking the streets. We also know that the average age of a needle exchange client is 39 years old, therefore proving that we are not enabling youngsters to get needles--an outcome that I am especially grateful to know is true. I would never condone a program that promotes drug use among our children--and we know for a fact that needle exchange does not.

With 80% of cases of AIDS in Baltimore being related to injection drug use, we had to put into place a strong action plan to halt HIV. We urge you to support federal funding for our efforts and the work of over 100 communities across the nation utilizing needle exchange as part of HIV prevention. Supportive action of the Administration on needle exchange will clarify once and for all that the science has spoken--and that needle exchange is an effective intervention in the battle against the twin epidemics of HIV and substance abuse.

Sincerely,


Thomas C. Frazier
Commissioner

Info Copy: Dr. Peter Beilenson



POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
THOMAS J. CAVILL HALL OF JUSTICE
830 BRYANT STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94103
March 1, 1998

FRED H. LAU
CHIEF OF POLICE

The Honorable Donna Shalala
Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 615F
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala:

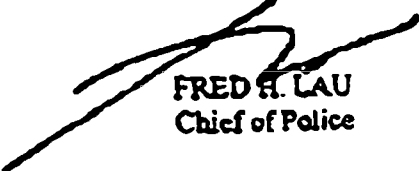
I am writing to express the San Francisco Police Department's support for the needle exchange program operated by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation HIV Prevention Project (SFAF HPP), as well as support efforts to eliminate current federal restrictions on funding of needle exchange programs.

In 1993, Mayor Frank Jordan declared a state of emergency in San Francisco due to the skyrocketing AIDS epidemic and began to fund San Francisco's local exchange program which is now the largest in the nation. Since its inception, this public health program has continued to expand with the strong support of Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr. and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

A cooperative relationship has been developed between the Police Department and the SFAF HPP to ensure the success of the needle exchange program within the context of law enforcement. The SFAF HPP has informed the Department of all sites for the needle exchange. It has provided training and education for officers so that they understand how the programs operate and can participate fully in this effective partnership of public health and public safety officials. Individuals who provide staff support at the exchange sites present laminated cards to officers which immediately verify their role in the exchange process.

Of significant importance to our officers is the positive impact that needle exchange has had on public safety. Officers report that needle sticks are less likely to occur during routine "pat downs" because exchange syringes tend to be capped. This fact, in addition to removing dirty syringes from the streets, thus removing potentially dangerous biomedical waste from the community, and providing participants with referrals to health care and drug treatment programs certainly help prove that the needle exchange program is beneficial to the public health and safety in our community. I fully support the program and hope that the federal government through its efforts will join in this partnership.

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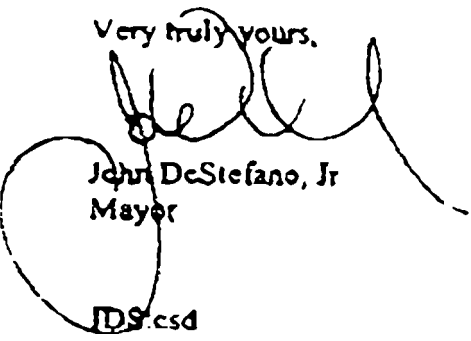
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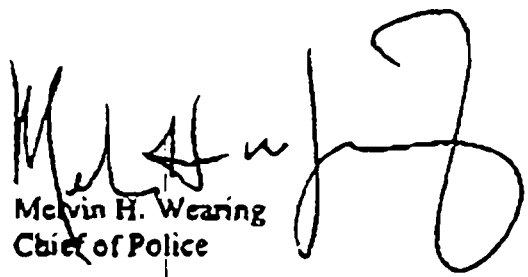
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Very truly yours,



John DeStefano, Jr.
Mayor

JDS:csd



Melvin H. Wearing
Chief of Police



FRED H. LAU
CHIEF OF POLICE

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
THOMAS J. CAMILLI HALL OF JUSTICE
850 BRYANT STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94103
March 1, 1998

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Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 615F
Washington, D.C. 20201

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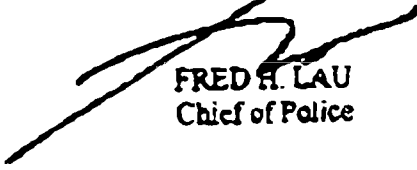
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Sincerely,


FRED H. LAU
Chief of Police



DEPARTMENT BULLETIN

95-288
12/13/95

HYPODERMIC NEEDLE EXCHANGE

The San Francisco Department of Public Health currently funds a needle exchange program in San Francisco. The program is run by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation HIV Prevention Project (HPP), with assistance from Prevention Point (PP), an all-volunteer group.

In 1993, Mayor Frank Jordan declared a state of emergency due to the HIV epidemic. The city began funding the program immediately thereafter and currently provides over \$200,000 for the purchase of needles, alcohol wipes, bio-hazardous waste containers, and several staff members at HPP.

Currently, HPP operates at 10 sites around the city during 12 different times each week, according to the schedule printed below. It is the policy of the SFPD to allow these exchange sites to operate without interference. Surveillance activity and the confiscation of needles, alcohol wipes or other exchange supplies at or near the exchange sites are against Department policy.

Individuals staffing the needle exchange will have cards available to present to any police officer. The laminated cards are printed on bright yellow paper with red lettering.

Monday	Civic Center (near Larkin St.)
Tuesday	138-6th St. (between Mission and Howard)
Tuesday	Webster (between Eddy and Ellis)
Tuesday	Duboce (between Church and Market)
Wednesday	14th St. and Mission (near the Armory)
Wednesday	138-6th St. (Between Mission and Howard)
Wednesday	Ellis (near Taylor)
Thursday	Jerold and 3rd sts. (Bayview/Hunter's Point)
Thursday	Bancroft (near Keith)
Thursday	938 Valencia (near 20th St.) (For women only)
Thursday	Hemlock Alley (between Post and Sutter/Polk and Van Ness)
Friday	138-6th St. (Between Mission and Howard).

Please direct questions about the program to Pat Christen, SF AIDS Foundation/HIV Prevention Project, 487-3050, or Roslyn Allen, SFAF HIV Prevention Project, 861-6710 (beeper 207-3506).

Frank C. Reed
FRANK C. REED
Acting Chief of Police

SAN FRANCISCO AIDS FOUNDATION HIV PREVENTION PROJECT

Please refer to SFPD Bulletin #95-288 (dated 12/13/95).

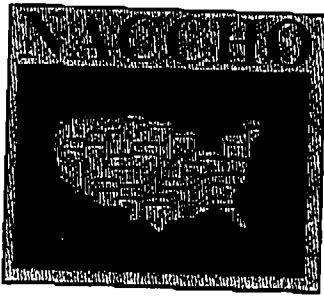
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**440 First Street, NW
Suite 450
Washington, DC 20001
Tel: 202-783-5550
Fax: 202-783-1583**

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER): 1

DATE: March 10, 1998

TO: Sarah Scheduler

FROM: Michael Meit

COMMENTS: I am sorry that I didn't receive your message yesterday. I hope that this information is not too late. The contact persons who have agreed to discuss their support of harm reduction/needle exchange in Boulder County, Colorado, are:

**Charles Stout, Executive Director, Boulder County Health Department
303-441-1141**

George Epp, Boulder County Sheriff 303-441-4609

Alex Hunter, Boulder County District Attorney 303-441-3700

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Michael Meit

**FAX TRANSMITTAL**

DATE: 3/6/98

TO: Sandy Thurman

FAX #: 632-1096.

FROM: Kristin O'Connell

5 PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET

- ① USCM letter
- ② New Haven letter
- ③ San Francisco letter