



On the Beat

Community Oriented Policing Services

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President Clinton Announces \$15 Million in School Based Partnerships Grants



With First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and several school children at his side, President Clinton recently announced the awarding of \$15 million in School Based Partnerships grants to 226 communities across the nation.

The School Based Partnerships program funds innovative partnerships between law enforcement agencies and schools or community groups to target specific problems of school crime and violence. As President Clinton noted during the announcement, "Schools

ought to be right next to our houses of worship as sanctuaries in America. They ought to be places where young people are completely safe. And know that they are."

For the second year in a row, the program was very competitive. COPS received more than twice the number of applications it could fund. Applicants provided proposals on how they would use the grant money to address a specific crime problem faced by primary or secondary school students.

Problems being addressed with these grants include:

- drug dealing on campus;
- bullying and intimidation;
- assaults; and
- vandalism.

School Based Partnerships, as well as the COPS in Schools and Safe Schools/Healthy Students program, are part of the Clinton/Gore Administration's effort to help local communities combat school violence. ■

Mary Lou Leary, Dennis Greenhouse Join COPS National Search for New Director Underway

With the departure of long-time Director Joe Brann, the COPS Office has launched a national search for a new director. In the interim, Deputy Associate Attorney General Mary Lou Leary is filling in as Acting Director.

Ms. Leary has been with the Department of Justice for 14 years and has been working closely with the COPS Office for the

past 18 months. Prior to becoming Deputy Associate Attorney General, Ms. Leary was the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. She also directed the Weed and Seed initiative in the District.

Mr. Brann left the COPS Office in June 1999. After spending 4 ½ years with COPS and reaching the milestone of funding the 100,000th community policing officer, Mr. Brann returned to his family in California.

(cont. on pg 7)

Director's Column

This is my first *On the Beat* column since I began serving as Acting Director of the COPS Office in June. As many of you know, Joe Brann left the COPS Office to return to California in semi-retirement for some much-deserved relaxation. Joe was a tireless advocate for community policing and local law enforcement and was a great asset to this program. The Department of Justice has undertaken a national search for a new director.



I am delighted to have this opportunity to contribute to the success of the COPS program. For the last year and a half, I have worked as Deputy Associate Attorney General at the U.S. Department of Justice. In that capacity, I have worked very closely with the COPS Office on a wide range of issues.

Prior to my appointment at the Justice Department, I spent 16 years as a prosecutor, culminating in my service as the U.S.

Attorney for the District of Columbia. In my years as a prosecutor, I spent thousands of hours out in the field working with law enforcement officers to make our neighborhoods safe. I know from personal experience that we have the best chance of preventing crime when police and prosecutors partner with the community.

In the short time I have been at COPS, I have heard countless stories about communities who are using COPS funds to reduce crime and improve their quality of life. The partnership between COPS and America's police chiefs and sheriffs has been tremendously successful and I will work to continue that partnership.

A couple of issues back, Joe Brann promised to keep you updated about the future of the program and I am using my first column to keep his promise.

As many of you know, the COPS program is currently scheduled to cease awarding grants at the end of next year. President Clinton has proposed continuing the program until 2005 to add another 30,000 to 50,000 officers to the street. This proposal – the 21st Century Policing Initiative – also contains

much-needed funding for technology, crime prevention programs, and community prosecutors.

However, both the Senate and the House have proposed significant funding cuts to the program. The first thing everyone asks me about these cuts is, "What will this mean for my department?" Any grants that have already been awarded will be unaffected by these cuts, but our ability to meet your needs in the future is in doubt. At this point we don't know what is going to happen when the budget process is complete. What we do know is that President Clinton, Vice President Gore, and Attorney General Reno have pledged to fight for the future of the COPS program. They understand the critical role COPS funding plays in your efforts to make the streets of your community safe.

We should know more about our funding situation for next year in the coming months. But rest assured that the Administration is working very hard to see that COPS continues to provide you with critical resources, technology, and training.

Mary Lou Leary

COPS Appropriations

The COPS Office is authorized to continue awarding grants through the end of FY 2000. In January, President Clinton proposed the 21st Century Policing Initiative, which extends the COPS program through 2005 to add 30,000 to 50,000 community policing officers to the beat.

The FY 2000 appropriations for the COPS Office have been the center of much debate. In June, the Senate Appropriations Committee moved to eliminate the COPS program. Senator Joseph Biden (D-DE) introduced an amendment to restore \$495 million in funding to the COPS program for FY 2000. The amendment passed the Senate by voice vote and was a part of the final Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies funding bill passed by the Senate. During debate, Senator Biden indicated that \$495 million is not sufficient. He plans to introduce a bill to reauthorize and fully fund COPS for an additional five years and add 30,000 to 50,000 community policing officers.

The Biden Amendment to the CJS Appropriations bill includes:

- \$180 million for school resource officers;
- \$90 million for crime identification technology;
- \$25 million for bullet proof vests; and
- \$25 million for methamphetamine programs.

On August 4, the House passed the Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies funding bill for FY 2000. The bill includes \$408 million for the COPS program.

The House CJS Appropriations bill proposes for COPS:

- \$167.5 million for school safety initiatives;
- \$130 million for technology and communications;
- \$25 million for the Police Corps;
- \$25 million for bullet proof vests; and
- \$35 million for methamphetamine programs.

Each chamber of Congress must now appoint conferees to meet and form one FY 2000 Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies Appropriations bill to send to the President. ■



The Birmingham Police Department has formed a specialized Gang Taskforce to combat the proliferation of gangs in their community. The Taskforce gathers intelligence on gangs and gang members, tracks gang activity, and counsels at-risk youth.

The Taskforce compiles information on known gang members. They record members' gang affiliation and the types of crimes with which they have been associated. These profiles help the Taskforce understand the nature of each gang and effectively investigate gang-related crimes.

Taskforce members also use graffiti as a tool in investigating and tracking criminal activity. To gangs, graffiti is a form of communication, often used to threaten other gangs or brag about crimes committed. Officers have learned to interpret the graffiti, which gives them insight into the activities of the gangs. They can determine which gangs are the most active and which are emerging. When they see specific threats of violence, they intervene and try to diffuse the situation.

The Taskforce also works with the schools to prevent gang membership. Teachers, parents, police, and other community members work together to identify students who are having trouble in school and are at risk of becoming gang affiliated.



*Contact: Lieutenant L.D. King
205-933-4113*

The Boston Police Department has tackled the problem of gang violence head on. In their mission to rid Boston of the problems of gang and youth-related crime, the police department created Operation Cease Fire to target gang violence and firearms trafficking throughout the area. Through Operation Cease Fire, police work closely with the U.S. Attorney's office, the District Attorney's Office, and the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration to investigate and prosecute offenders.

One of the department's initiatives to keep youth offenders off the streets and away from the influences of other gang members – Operation Night Light – teams the police with probation officers. Probation officers ride along with police officers at night to make sure that their probationers are not out on the street. By putting these kids on notice that probation violations will be enforced, probation compliance rates have soared. Juvenile offenders are staying off the street and complying with the terms of their probation.

The Boston Police Department uses crime analysis in four target districts that have experienced high rates of gang-related crime and violence – including homicides, shots fired, robberies, and aggravated assaults – to direct patrols and identify crime hotspots. To address the violence in these areas the

Boston Police Department has partnered with Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in a collaborative effort to curtail gang-related crime. This multi-jurisdictional Youth Violence Taskforce has taken a comprehensive approach to combating gangs that has resulted in stronger undercover narcotics operations, more effective surveillance operations, and better tracking of gangs, guns, and violence.

By working with the community, as well as the gang members themselves, the Boston Police Department has sharply reduced gang-related violence. Boston is experiencing its lowest crime rate since 1971. This trend is particularly pronounced among the city's youth. Boston underwent an unprecedented 29 month period (July 1995-December 1997) in which not one juvenile was killed with a firearm. In each year since 1993, the number of juveniles killed by guns has decreased, with a drop of 60 percent from 1990 to 1998.

*Contact: James T. Jordan,
Director of the Office of
Strategic Planning &
Resource Development
617-343-5096*

In Salinas, California, the police department has developed a specialized Violence Suppression Unit as a part of their Youth Firearms Violence Initiative. The unit has been used to combat gang violence in Salinas by removing firearms from the hands of youth and gang members.

The unit uses a computerized system to track crime reports, gang members, gang territories, and firearms. They organize meetings for police and community members to come together and share information on gang activity. Crime analysis and information from the community help the department direct high visibility patrols to gang hotspots.

A coalition has been formed with the Probation and Parole Departments, as well as the courts. By working together, they ensure that offenders meet the terms of their probation and parole, including prohibitions against associating with known gang members and possessing firearms. The officers spend more time in contact with the offenders and conduct legal searches of their properties when appropriate.

The Violence Suppression Unit has been tremendously successful in fighting crime. Since its inception in 1995, Salinas' crime rate has declined by 25 percent.

*Contact: Lieutenant Steve Perryman
831-758-7350*

Questions & Answers - RETENTION

Q *What is the retention requirement?*

A Agencies that receive grants to hire additional officers must plan to retain the Federally funded positions at the conclusion of the grant funding period. Agencies must retain COPS funded positions for at least one full local budget cycle after the grant expires.

Q *Does the retention requirement apply to civilians and equipment funded under MORE grants?*

A Yes. COPS requires agencies to maintain the time-savings generated as a result of COPS MORE grants. Agencies that accept COPS MORE grants to hire civilians must retain the civilian positions and maintain the level of redeployment after the award has ended.

Q *How do agencies determine the minimum number of officers they need to stay in compliance?*

A At the end of the grant period, agencies receiving hiring grants must show that the number of officer positions authorized for funding has increased by the number of positions funded by the grant. Agencies receiving MORE grants must demonstrate that the total number of officer hours being redeployed into community policing duties as a result of the grant will be maintained after the grant ends.

Q *How long are agencies obligated to retain COPS funded positions?*

A Agencies must retain COPS-funded positions for at least one local budget cycle after the expiration of the grant.

Q *What if the COPS funded officer leaves the agency? Is this a violation?*

A COPS grants fund positions, not specific officers or civilians. If a vacancy occurs, the agency must fill the position in the most timely manner possible.

Q *What is a retention plan?*

A A retention plan serves as proof that an agency plans to fulfill its obligation to retain Federally funded positions or level of redeployment. Retention plans are submitted in writing and must include:

- the intent to retain all COPS funded positions;
- the intended source of funding for the positions after the grant expires; and
- the signatures of the chief law enforcement executive and the chief local government official.

Q *What happens if agencies fail to retain COPS funded positions?*

A Agencies that fail to retain COPS funded positions and cannot demonstrate mitigating financial circumstances that prevented their retention will face sanctions. Current COPS funds may be suspended and the agency will jeopardize their eligibility for future COPS and other U.S. Department of Justice funding. Other legal sanctions, including the reimbursement of expended grant funds, are also available to the COPS Office.

Vice President Al Gore Announces Troops to COPS '99 Grants

On August 4, Vice President Al Gore announced the awarding of \$5.9 million to 259 communities in 46 states under the Troops to COPS '99 program. These grants will fund expenses related to the hiring of 500 military veterans as law enforcement officers.

“The Troops to COPS program is an important part of this Administration's efforts to ensure that those who serve their country in the Armed Forces can continue to help this country after they leave the service,” said Vice President Al Gore in making the announcement. “That is why I am pleased to announce today \$5.9 million in grants to fund the hiring of 500 military veterans as law enforcement officers.”

The Troops to COPS program complements the COPS Universal Hiring Program. Under Troops to COPS '99, departments that hire eligible veterans with a COPS Universal Hiring Program grant may receive up to \$25,000 to pay for training, equipment, and other related hiring expenses.

For more information on the Troops to COPS program, please visit the COPS Internet at www.usdoj.gov/cops

LAW ENFORCEMENT, MAYORS SUPPORT COPS AT SUMMER CONFERENCES

Possible funding cuts for the COPS program were a major topic of discussion at a number of the major conferences this summer. The U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Sheriffs' Association, and the National Association of Police Officers held conferences this summer.

During the U.S. Conference of Mayors 67th Annual Conference in New Orleans, the mayors passed a resolution calling for the continuation of the COPS program. Both Vice President Gore and Deputy Attorney General Holder addressed the conference and called on Congress to fully fund and reauthorize the COPS program. Also, New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial, the host of the conference, made an impassioned speech to the public safety committee about the tremendous impact of COPS funding in his city.

The National Sheriffs' Association used their conference in Columbus, Ohio, to talk about the need for more funding for the COPS program. In his last official duty as Director of the COPS program, Joe Brann addressed the sheriffs and discussed the importance of the program on both a national and local level. The sheriffs also passed a resolution supporting the continuation of the COPS program.

The National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) held their annual conference in Denver, Colorado, where COPS Deputy Director Gil Kerlikowske discussed the important role

COPS has played in increasing the police presence on America's streets. NAPO is a strong supporter of the COPS program and the President's proposal to add another 30,000 to 50,000 officers to the street.



(From left to right)

U.S. Conference of Mayors Executive Director Thomas Cochran, New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial, Denver Mayor Wellington Webb, and Boise Mayor Brent Coles at the Mayors' 67th Annual Conference in New Orleans.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CONFERENCE SERIES SPONSORED BY COPS

COPS is sponsoring the Domestic Violence Training & Technical Assistance Conference Series. The conferences will be hosted by the COPS-funded Regional Community Policing Institutes (RCPIs) in twenty-four cities nationwide.

The conferences will bring stakeholders together to discuss innovative approaches to domestic violence prevention. The conference series advances community policing to combat domestic violence and promotes community partnerships to enhance family safety.

Law enforcement, domestic violence advocates, and other stakeholders will participate in the conferences. Anyone who wishes to attend may register with the conference contact person. The RCPIs will set aside 70 percent of the participant registrations for COPS grantees. Law enforcement agencies are encouraged to invite members of the community to bring varying perspectives and experience to conference discussions.

Conferences will be held this fall in Los Angeles, California; Chicago, Illinois; Springfield, Illinois; Indianapolis, Indiana; Lansing, Michigan; Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Spokane, Washington.

UPCOMING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CONFERENCES

October 3-5, 1999

Los Angeles, California

Contact: Lieutenant Todd Rogers, 562-946-7822

October 6-8, 1999

Spokane, Washington

Contact: Director Jon Walters, 206-439-3740

October 20-22, 1999

Indianapolis, Indiana

Contact: Project Director Conna Miller, 219-456-7015

Oct 27-29, 1999

Lansing, Michigan

Contact: Director Merry Morash, 517-355-2192

November 8-10, 1999

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Contact: Project Director Linda Miller, 651-917-2255

Dec 9-10, 1999

Chicago, Illinois

Contact: Co-Director James "Chip" Coldren, 312-355-1755

Dec 9-10, 1999

Springfield, Illinois

Contact: Director David Williams, 217-206-6029

Faced with problems similar to those of other metropolitan areas in the early 1990s, San Antonio experienced the highest murder rate in its history in 1993. The San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) has since committed resources and manpower to increasing its community policing initiatives. The SAPD has received over \$8 million in COPS funding to advance community policing and hire or redeploy 100 officers in San Antonio.

San Antonio Fear Free Environment (SAFFE) Unit is the core of the department's community policing activities. The creation of this unit in 1994 marked the first time the SAPD was able to commit officers to community policing activities on a full time basis. The unit is composed of nearly 100 officers dedicated to working in conjunction with the community to address quality of life issues in San Antonio's neighborhoods. Each SAFFE officer is assigned to one of six area substations. Together, they serve every neighborhood in the city. SAFFE officers focus on community policing within their assigned jurisdiction and are not responsible for responding to calls for service, a duty that can often consume over half of an officer's time. Instead, SAFFE officers establish and maintain day-to-day interaction with residents and businesses to prevent crime and engage in hands-on problem solving. They visit schools and participate in youth programs. They work closely with neighborhood associations, citizen groups, community members, and district patrol officers to identify and resolve community crime issues. SAFFE officers serve as a valuable resource for residents in taking back their neighborhoods from crime and decay.

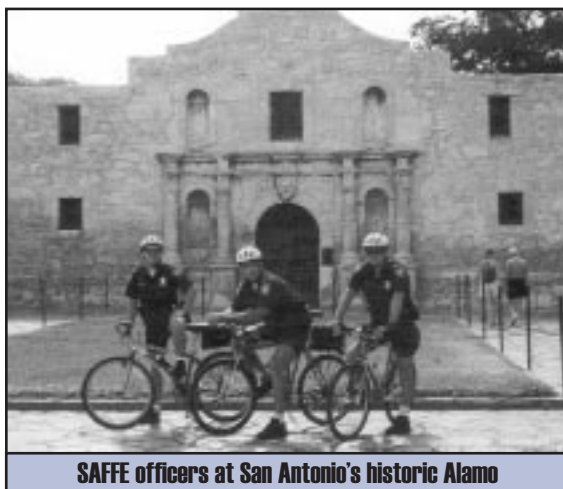
San Antonio has invested in community policing by continuing to move resources to the six area substations. SAFFE officers have all the resources they need to fulfill their policing needs without returning to the main headquarters, which allows

them to spend more time on the beat. Investigative units have been moved to the substations to provide greater support and the ability to complete effective property crime investigations. The proximity of these substations has personalized the department and demonstrated its commitment to reducing crime in San Antonio.

Since the creation of the SAFFE Unit, there has been a tremendous increase in citizen involvement with the police department. The department regularly holds Citizen Police Academies to educate and involve citizens in crime identifica-

tion and prevention. The academies were in such demand that the department expanded the program to include a Senior Citizen Police Academy, which addresses the specific needs and concerns of the senior community. These academies train nearly two hundred citizens a year to actively fight crime in their neighborhoods. Residents also participate in the Cellular on Patrol program. In conjunction with Southwestern Bell, the police department has trained citizens on neighborhood patrols to recognize criminal activities and report them to the police department on their cellular phones.

San Antonio's SAFFE Unit has received resounding support from community members. Residents feel safer in their neighborhoods and offer much of the credit to community policing and good communication between residents and law enforcement. Residents have good reason to feel safe – crime rates have been declining steadily over the past several years. Since the homicide rate reached its peak in 1993, it has declined each year and is currently the lowest rate on record. Likewise, the rate of total violent crimes has dropped each year since 1993. Overall, the crime rate has fallen 12 percent since the SAPD used COPS funds to implement the SAFFE program in 1995.



SAFFE officers at San Antonio's historic Alamo

“Community policing has opened the lines of communication between the police and residents. When problems arise, folks feel like they can call a police officer, one they know by name, one that works in their neighborhood. Now, that makes a difference.”

— Sergeant Daniel Hayes, San Antonio Police Department

COPS in School Program Receives Tremendous Response

More Than 1200 Agencies Apply for Limited Funds

The COPS in Schools grant program has been extremely popular among local law enforcement. The COPS Office has been flooded with applications from around the country. Over 1200 agencies have applied for the limited grant funds.

The first round of COPS in Schools grants were announced in April 1999. The announcement included \$68 million in awards for 331 communities to hire 600 School Resource Officers (SROs). The second and final announcement is expected this fall. Over 1200 agencies are competing for funding for the final awards. These applications include requests for \$280 million to hire 2500 officers. The limited remaining funds will be awarded to 300-400 departments nationwide and are expected to total \$70 million.

The COPS in Schools grants provide up to \$125,000 over a three year period for agencies to hire community policing officers to work in schools. The presence of these officers provides schools with on-site security and a direct link to local law enforcement agencies. The officers combine the functions of law enforcement and education. They perform a variety of duties, from teaching

crime prevention and substance abuse classes to monitoring troubled students to building respect for law enforcement among students.

As part of the Clinton/Gore Administration's continued effort to combat school violence, the Departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services have teamed up to bring communities the Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative. A number of grants under this initiative will also provide funds for SROs.

In addition to providing funds for hiring, COPS has directed \$5 million to the training of SROs. Recipients of COPS in Schools and Safe Schools/Healthy Students grants are required to attend a COPS sponsored School Resource Officer training program within 18 months of receiving the award. The officer who will be deployed to the school and one school administrator are required to attend the training. Approximately 12 trainings are being scheduled and will be held throughout the United States. COPS will cover all expenses associated with the training.

(cont. from cover)

Also new to the COPS Office is Principal Deputy Director Dennis Greenhouse. Mr. Greenhouse comes to COPS from the Office of National Drug Control Policy, where he served as Acting Deputy Director of the Bureau of State and Local Affairs. He has an extensive background in public service, including eight years as the County Executive for New Castle, Delaware.

Mr. Greenhouse is replacing former Principal Deputy Director John Hart, who has served the Clinton Administration in various roles over the past seven years. ■



Mary Lou Leary settles in as Acting Director of the COPS Office.

cops Calendar

October 13-15, 1999	Organization for the Protection of Children's Rights (OPCR) 4th International Conference on the Child Montreal, Canada Contact: (514) 593-4303	November 10-14, 1999	Coalition for Juvenile Justice Who Holds the Keys? The Status of Juvenile Confinement Salt Lake City, Utah Contact: Thya Cocolin (202) 467-0864 or JuvJustice@aol.com
October 14, 1999	United Against Crime Network Small Town and Big City Success Stories: What's Working in Crime Prevention Teleconference Contact: www.unitedagainst.com	November 11-13, 1999	Search Institute Healthy Communities, Healthy Youth Conference Denver, Colorado Contact: www.search-institute.org/conference/1999.html
October 15, 1999	Harvard School of Public Health, Prevention Institute, Inc. Building Bridges: Strengthening Schools and Communities Teleconference Contact: (877) 778-4774 or www.walcoff.com/partnerships	November 13-16,	Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) 10th Annual International Problem-Oriented Policing Conference San Diego, California Contact: (202) 466-7820 or www.PoliceForum.org/home/POPConf.html
October 30 - Nov. 3, 1999	International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) 3rd Annual Conference: Law Enforcement Education and Technology Exposition Charlotte, North Carolina Contact: www.theiacp.org	December 1-4,	Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America National Leadership Forum X Washington, D.C. Contact: (800) 542-2322 or www.cadca.org
November 3-6, 1999	National Crime Prevention Council National Conference on Preventing Crime Washington, D.C. Contact: www.ncpc.org/power99	December 2-3,	Koch Crime Institute Koch Crime Institute Conference on Juvenile Justice Overland Park, Kansas Contact: (800) 375-5624 or www.kci.org

ON THE BEAT Fall 1999 No. 14

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Within the Washington area, call 202.307.1480

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