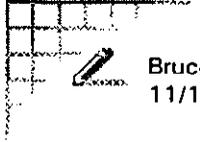


**NLWJC - Kagan**

**DPC - Box 011 - Folder 032**

**Crime - Project Exile**

Crime - Project Exile



Bruce N. Reed  
11/11/98 11:43:30 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Sara M. Latham/WHO/EOP

cc: Jose Cerda III/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

Subject: Philadelphia as NRA test city

It hasn't gotten much attention, but the omnibus budget bill included \$1.5 million for federal prosecutors in Philadelphia and \$700,000 for federal prosecutors in Camden to crack down on gun crimes. Our position has been that rather than single out one or two cities, we should help a number of places -- but the White House has never had a problem with this kind of crackdown, which is patterned after Project Exile in Richmond. (Reno is in a slightly different place: she doesn't like putting all the burden on federal prosecutors, and would be more comfortable if state and local prosecutors carried some of the load.)

One of the new initiatives we're trying to get in the 2000 budget is a broader version of Project Exile, with \$50-100m for federal, state, and local prosecutors to form gun crime strike forces. If the President signs off on this idea, we could announce it in late December or early January with Rendell, Heston, and possibly Sarah Brady, since Handgun Control supports the concept as well. At the same time, we could publicize the Philadelphia and Camden funding.

Given the AG's ambivalence, I suspect we would have a very hard time with Justice if we tried to do a stand-alone event just about Philadelphia and Camden. The broader approach would be an easier sell, and presumably would work for Rendell.

We'll keep you posted on this as we go through the budget process.