

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 9, 1996

PRESIDENT CLINTON NAMES WILLIAM J. BRATTON TO THE
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CRIME CONTROL AND PREVENTION

President Clinton announced today his intent to appoint William J. Bratton to the National Commission on Crime Control and Prevention.

William J. Bratton of New York was appointed New York City's 38th Police Commissioner in 1994. Previously, he served as Police Commissioner of the City of Boston. Between 1990 and 1992, he led the Transit Police in New York City where he was credited with a 50% reduction in subway crime. In 1993, he was elected president of the Police Executive Research Forum, a national policy and research organization comprised of many of the country's progressive police leaders. He has received the Boston Police Department's highest award for valor, the Schroeder Brothers Medal for rescuing a hostage and facing down a bank robber in 1975. Commissioner Bratton is a graduate of the F.B.I. National Executive Institute, the Senior Executive Fellows Program at Harvard and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in law enforcement from Boston State College.

The National Commission on Crime Control and Prevention was created to develop a comprehensive proposal, including the cost of implementation for preventing and controlling crime and violence in the United States. The President will convene the "Presidential Summit On Violence" to initiate the work of this Commission. No later than two years after the date of the Summit, the Commission shall submit a detailed report to Congress and the President containing its findings and recommendations.

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HAHNLOESER PARKS

Lee Fisher

November 29, 1995

VIA TELECOPY 202-514-4371

The Honorable Janet Reno
Attorney General of the United States
Department of Justice
Tenth and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Room 4400
Washington, DC 20530

Re: **National Commission on Crime Control and Prevention**

Dear Attorney General Reno:

As you know, I was honored earlier this year to be appointed by President Clinton as the Chairman of the National Commission on Crime Control and Prevention, which was created pursuant to the 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act.

I am writing to you to express my concern about the lack of funding for this very important commission, and to urge you to do everything that you can to make sure that funding is secured. Title XXVII; Section 270009 of the 1994 Act authorized \$1,000,000 for the commission for fiscal year 1996, but there has been no appropriation.

I know that you agree that there is no more important issue facing America today than the problem of violent crime. As President Clinton has said, economic security and health care security don't mean much unless American families have personal security.

While the U.S. Congress has made important progress over the past two years in enacting legislation to combat violent crime, there is still much to be done on the local, state, and federal levels. The Congress, in its bipartisan wisdom, decided in 1994 that a bipartisan national commission was needed to take a closer and more comprehensive look at the problem of crime and to recommend practical and creative strategies to combat violent crime in our communities.

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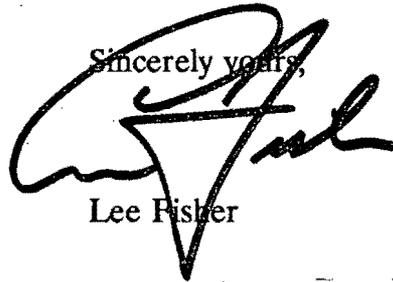
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It is extremely important that this commission be bipartisan and non-political. I am a Democrat, but having served as Attorney General of Ohio from 1991-1994, I understand and appreciate that fighting crime cannot be and should never be partisan. Those of us who may disagree on such issues as gun control, mandatory sentencing, etc., should bring our different perspectives and ideas to the table and try to find some common ground. I am confident that we can do just that with the commission. For example, I am hopeful that there will be members of the NRA appointed to the commission so that we have the opportunity to share different perspectives on the issue of guns.

I also believe that we should not reinvent the wheel. While there are new ideas to be explored, I expect that the work of the commission will also consist of digesting and focusing on those strategies which already are being employed on the local and state levels, and exploring ways to incorporate those strategies on a wider basis.

The bottom line is that there is no more important issue facing America, but this commission practically cannot go forward without appropriate funding. I ask that you do everything that you can in these coming days and weeks to make sure that this important issue does not get lost in our nation's urgent agenda.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee Fisher", written over the typed name below.

Lee Fisher

laa

bcc: Bruce Reed
Assistant to the President for Policy Development

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 12, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR MARCIA HALE

FROM: PEGGY A. CLARK, *Peggy Clark*
Special Assistant to the President and
Associate Director of Presidential Personnel

RE: NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CRIME CONTROL AND
PREVENTION

Please see the enclosed memos regarding the National Commission on Crime Control and Prevention.

The Justice memo outlines our decision not to announce the members. While we believe this is the best course, you should be aware that we already have 5-6 people ready to be appointed and 4 others in the hopper.

I hope this helps with your upcoming meeting with Victor Ashe.

cc: Bob Nash
Kumiki Gibson
✓ Bruce Reed

*Call me if you
need more info!
6-7831*



U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, D.C. 20530

June 9, 1995

MEMORANDUM

TO: Peg Clark

FROM: Kent Markus
Erik Reid *ER*

SUBJECT: Presidential Summit on Violence and National Commission on Crime Prevention and Control

Title XXVII of the Violent Crime Control Act calls on the President to convene a national summit on violence in America prior to convening the National Commission on Crime Prevention and Control (Commission). Although the President is free to announce his appointments to the Commission at any time, including prior to convening the national summit on violence in America, we recommend that such appointments not be made at this time. Our reasons are as follows:

- The Commission is not authorized to be funded until FY 1996. Further, while the President's budget requests approximately \$1 million for the Commission, it is very uncertain whether this initiative will be funded.
- If the President appoints members to the Commission now, it will underscore the fact that the Administration has taken no steps to convene a national summit on violence since the Commission cannot begin its work until the summit is held.
- Similarly, if the appointments are made at this time, Commission members and others will pressure the Administration to hold the summit as soon as possible. Again, the reason for this is that the Commission cannot begin its work until the summit is held. We believe that the Administration may want to wait until 1996 to hold the summit.

- Finally, except for Victor Ashe and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, there does not seem to be any significant political pressure at this time to appoint members to the Commission.

Please let us know if you need any additional information regarding this matter.
Thank you.