

Crime -
50,000
Caps

COPS Talking Points

- In his 1999 State of the Union Address, the President put forward a plan to help communities put up to 50,000 more police on our streets to continue our progress in fighting crime. This was a top priority for the President, and this week, the Congress agreed to this demand in the budget.

[Background: The President's budget sought \$1.2 billion for his 21st Century Policing Initiative. While OMB is still ironing out the details, it appears that we have \$900 million to fund our request. Importantly, the budget agreement fully funds the portion of our initiative to hire 6,000 officers in FY 2000 – the first year of our plan to hire up to 50,000 officers by FY 2005 contained in our 21st Century Crime Bill and sponsored by Senator Biden.]

- This is a great victory for the American people because over the last six years, we've funded over 100,000 more community police officers for our streets, under budget and ahead of schedule. These officers are making a tremendous difference in reducing crime and keeping American families safe. Crime is down for the seventh year in a row – the longest consecutive decline in crime ever recorded.
- As the President has said, we must give police new tools and new partners to be effective in fighting crime the 21st Century. We are pleased that the budget will help equip law enforcement with the latest crime-fighting technology, and also doubles our community prosecutors initiative-- to hire more prosecutors to join efforts with community police to improve public safety.

[Background: The budget provides \$10 million for our community prosecutors, twice the current level of \$5 million, but well below our request of \$200 million. OMB estimates that the bill also provides roughly \$230 million for law enforcement technology, which is two-thirds of our request level of \$350 million. The budget agreement does not provide the \$125 million we requested for COPS crime prevention. OMB is currently awaiting details on all of these figures.]

Crime -
50,000 Cops

Leanne A. Shimabukuro

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Subject: COPS Appropriations

I spoke with OMB and Michael Deich is preparing for possible discussions on CJS with appropriations staff as soon as tonight. He would like our feedback as soon as possible on a COPS alternative that OMB believes may be offered.

Our previous alternative: As mentioned in an earlier email we sent on COPS appropriations (below), Jose' believed we needed at least \$795 million to adequately fund our COPS priorities. While significantly below our original request of \$1.275 billion, we thought this level would allow us to meet key priorities: to keep us on track to reach our hiring goal of 30,000-50,000 additional officers, provide some new technology money, and to fund half of our community prosecutors initiative (\$100 million).

Possible alternative proposed by appropriators: The appropriators may offer an alternative which is achievable within the Senate bill that would provide \$825 million for COPS. Under this proposal, the hiring level would roughly match our alternative, with significantly more money for technology, but ZERO for community prosecutors.

The key question OMB wants to know from us is whether we completely cave on community prosecutors. OMB is floating this alternative by DOJ, but they aren't expecting them to fight hard for the prosecutors initiative. Although I don't like it, my gut is to give up on the prosecutors for another year -- the program isn't technically authorized yet, and we haven't made a strong public case for community prosecutors to start loudly complaining if we don't get them. However, another more strategic question is whether we want to hold out for a higher threshold level (e.g., \$1 billion) as a matter of principle for the COPS program.

Please let me know what you think.

Leanne

Previous email sent 9/24/99:

(1) Administration Budget request was \$1.275 billion for COPS:

- * \$600 million for hiring and redeployment
- * \$350 million for crime technology
- * \$200 million for Community Prosecutors
- * \$125 million for community crime prevention

(2) House and Senate bills fund less than half of the Administration's COPS request:

- * House bill provides a total of \$405 million for COPS (\$268 million

plus \$140 million in unobligated FY99 COPS funds.) A little bit more than half of this funding is for hiring School Resource Officers (SRO's), and the rest is for funding crime technology.

* Senate bill provides a total of \$495 million for COPS (\$325 million plus \$170 million in unobligated FY99 COPS funding.) Most of the funding (\$355 million) is for hiring/redeployment and \$90 million is for technology.

****NOTE:** Both the House and the Senate provide additional crime technology funds outside of the COPS program for a total amount close to our request: \$350 million. Also, the House bill included \$7.5 million in funding outside of COPS for Community Prosecutors.

ANALYSIS:

In a quick assessment, OMB estimated that the House and Senate proposed COPS levels would result in ****1,000 to 2,000 fewer officers hired/redeployed, no community prosecutors and no crime prevention compared with the Administration's request.

Prior to Jose's departure, we met with OMB and DOJ regarding COPS funding during budget negotiations. At that time, we determined that at least \$795 million would be needed to adequately fund our priorities including sufficient funds for hiring to reach our goal of 50,000 additional officers and half of our community prosecutors initiative.

****We'll work with OMB to verify this figure so that we may use it publicly.

Please let us know if you need further information on this issue.

Chad Ryan: better race selection

Sheiff: pdt. viable part of local comm

It's just not right to take it away

- must help since 60s

NOBLE: training

IACP:
