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*File,  
Police Corps*

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**VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS**

Hon. Bruce Reed  
Domestic Policy Council  
Old Executive Office Building  
Room 216  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Bruce:

I gave these talking points to EMK.  
You might find them useful.

Best as ever,



Adam Walinsky

## DOJ proposal for "Community Police Corps"

The DOJ proposal is completely different from the Police Corps passed by the Senate and House and endorsed and campaigned upon by President Clinton, and from the draft bill agreed to by the sponsors for this Congress. Some of the major differences are:

1. The Police Corps provides (allowing a lower start) for growth up to 20,000 officers in each college graduating class: in other words, a target of 80,000 officers serving at any one time. There would be programs in every state. The DOJ allows for programs in a maximum of ten communities in the entire country. It provides \$25 million a year to be divided between police corps programs and education for existing officers. Allowing 60 percent to "police corps" programs, this would afford a maximum of 3,000 scholarships a year.

Comment: We may doubt that the 100 Senators who supported the Police Corps last Congress, or even the 40-odd active sponsors, would be content to divide up 10 programs, or a total of 3,000 scholarships annually.

2. The Police Corps pays four years of scholarship at up to \$10,000 a year. The DOJ pays \$5,000 a year. The service obligation remains at four years.

Comment: The DOJ allows to police officers no more money than is provided to national service participants in non-dangerous social service work. The aim of the Police Corps, of course, is to attract the most highly-qualified candidates, at least equal in quality to those applying to the service academies or ROTC. And because of the dangerous nature of the work, we provided educational benefits and incentives superior to those offered under the general national service plan.

3. The Police Corps requires a state plan, and works through the state authorities. The DOJ allows grants to localities that ignore their states.

4. The Police Corps allows students to select their own college or university: all accredited institutions are eligible to receive Police Corps students. The DOJ limits participants to educational institutions in "partnership" with police jurisdictions. Only ten of these are to be created.

5. The Police Corps aims to recruit graduates of accredited four-year institutions, with a full bachelor's

degree. The DOJ invites participation by two-year colleges, and does not require that the participants receive any degree whatsoever.

6. The Police Corps contains numerous safeguards, painstakingly negotiated with the FOP and other police organizations, regarding pay, benefits, non-displacement, coverage by existing labor agreements, etc. The DOJ contains none.

Comment: The DOJ professes to be concerned by police opposition to the Police Corps. Of course the Police Corps commands wide support from police groups, notably the FOP (though support can never be unanimous). But if police support is important, why does the DOJ omit all the union safeguards negotiated with the police groups?

7. The Police Corps provides for 16 weeks of basic training, organized and paid for federally. This gives assurance of at least basic training even in substandard jurisdictions. It also affords a major cost saving to local departments. The DOJ provides no training.

8. The Police Corps directs that special efforts be made to recruit minorities. The DOJ makes no such provision.

Comment: One principal aim of the Police Corps is to attract to policing a larger representation of minorities, more highly educated and qualified than those now applying; this is one major reason for its support from every major black chief in the country, and its consistent support from the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives. The DOJ appears to have given no consideration to such an objective.

9. It is the expressed aim of the Police Corps to supplement existing career forces with a new levy of citizen officers, just as the career military officer corps is supplemented with citizen officers recruited through ROTC. We do this for several reasons. One is cost: officers serving for four-year terms, and then returning to civilian careers, will not incur the pension liabilities that now add at least a third to the cost of employing police. Thus Mayor Rendell estimates that his pension actuaries would require him to make only 30 percent of the regular pension contribution on behalf of each Police Corps officer.

A second reason is that police departments desperately require a closer connection to the citizen world. These departments are now increasingly isolated, not only from the communities they police, but also from the wider community

on which they depend for support. Chiefs and line organizations both support the Police Corps, in the words of Willie Williams, because those officers who return to civilian life "will bring to law, business, journalism, education and politics an understanding of law enforcement and the problems of our society that cannot be learned in classrooms." And here is Dean Calabresi of the Yale Law School: the Police Corps "will create a group of people who, having had the experience of service in the Police Corps, will, in whatever they do afterwards, bring an extraordinarily valuable experience which will help all of us. . . . I would make special efforts to attract to the Yale Law School qualified applicants who had served in the Police Corps, and would give them special consideration for admission."

Third, we want to open up the closed police bureaucracy to sunlight and citizen view. As the New York Times said after Rodney King, "Critics of the Police Corps worry about the potential for conflict that might arise from infusions of 'elitist' college-educated officers. After the Los Angeles incident, the counter-argument sounds much more persuasive: The presence of such officers could become the powerful catalyst for positive change where alienation has so deprived police of their moral bearings."

Finally we want the police to represent a far wider slice of the society: more from the economic bottom, and more from the privileged elite. Dealing with today's endemic violence must become the responsibility not just of hired bureaucrats: because the social disintegration from which it springs is our deepest political problem, the solution must become the responsibility of every class and group of citizen. This is why, when President Clinton talks about national service, the first example he uses is always the police.

By contrast, the DOJ does not want to leaven the career force with citizen officers. It does not want to invite "middle-class" participation in the police.

10. The Police Corps enjoys wide support, in Congress, in the law enforcement and legal community, among community leaders and in the press. The DOJ is supported by no one.

11. The most recent Police Corps draft bill, following the national service legislation, would grant to localities \$10,000 for each year of a Police Corps officer's four years of required service, to help defray the cost of that service. The DOJ makes no similar provision.

Differences of approach aside, the obvious deficiencies of basic draftsmanship, including the failure to make any provision for police labor requirements, make clear that the DOJ is not, and is not intended to be, a serious proposal. It is rather a proposal designed to be rejected.

File:  
Police Corps

## Summary of Police Corps Proposals

### Department of Justice Police Corps Proposal:

- The total program cost would be \$25 million over five years.
- The program would be administered by existing Department components and would require only minimal additional resources.
- To be eligible for federal assistance, higher education institutions and one or more law enforcement jurisdictions would be required to enter into a partnership to administer a locally-designed Community Police Corps Program.
  - ▶ The partnership would select and evaluate participants based on guidelines established by the Department. Preference would be given to candidates interested in law enforcement careers.
  - ▶ The institution would be responsible for establishing appropriate police corps curriculum requirements, promoting police corps scholarships, and evaluating the academic record of applicants for admission to the program.
  - ▶ The law enforcement agency would be responsible for sponsoring the participant. This includes pre-selection fitness assessments for candidates, providing work-study and training opportunities for police corps students, and providing employment to qualified participants following graduation.
  - ▶ Participants in the program would be eligible for up to \$5,000 per year in scholarship assistance. Upon graduation, they would be assigned to help implement community-oriented policing for not less than four years.
- The Department of Justice would have the sole authority to approve or disapprove partnership plans.
- Up to ten community police corps partnerships could be funded at any time. Grants to partnerships would not exceed five years.
- Individuals who are unable to fulfill either the educational or police service requirements will be required to repay the scholarship assistance, plus interest.
- A portion of the scholarships would be reserved for in-service police officers.

### Adam Walinsky's Police Corps Proposal:

- The total program cost would be \$800 million over five years.
- An "Office of the Police Corps" would be established within the Department to administer the program. The Director of this new office would be subject to Senate confirmation.
- To be eligible for federal assistance, a state would be required to designate a lead agency to develop a "state police corps plan" subject to the approval of the Director.
  - ▶ States would select and evaluate participants under regulations established by the Director. No preference would be given to candidates interested in law enforcement careers.
  - ▶ Participants in the program would be eligible for up to \$7,500 per year in scholarship assistance. Upon graduation they would be required to serve on a police force for four years, but they would not be guaranteed employment by a police department.
  - ▶ No appropriate criminal justice or police corps curriculum would be required for participants.
  - ▶ Law enforcement agencies would not be required to hire participants following graduation. They are also not required to provide work-study opportunities for students.
- Dependent children of officers killed while on duty would be eligible for scholarship assistance. They would not be required to repay the assistance or serve as police officers.
- The Department would be required to establish a training program for police corps participants. Participants would attend two 8-week training sessions and would receive a \$250 stipend during each week of training.
- The Department would be required to file an annual report with Congress listing the number of current and former police corps participants; describing the geographic, racial, and gender dispersion of the participants; evaluating the progress of each state police corps program; and recommending necessary program improvements.
- Individuals who are unable to fulfill either the educational or police service requirements would be required to repay the scholarship assistance, plus interest.
- A portion of the scholarships would be reserved for in-service police officers.