

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 12, 1994 CONTACT: KENT KEYSER Acting Press Secretary Phone: (202) 225-3452

BECKLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT GETS FEDERAL GRANT New Police Officers to be Hired

Washington, DC--U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) announced today that the U.S. Department of Justice will award \$168,087 to Beckley's Police Department for use in upgrading its police force.

With the award, officials will be able to hire additional officers, which, in turn, will allow the department to assign experienced officers to community policing. Moreover, the eastern part of the city, which has been targeted for this project, will be divided into two sections, each possessing its own, new precinct. A community board will be created and citizens will be surveyed to determine neighborhood needs and expectations. Furthermore, officers will be equipped with pagers or cellular phones to communicate directly with residents and will be encouraged to conduct foot patrols.

The award granted to the Beckley Police Department is part of a nationwide, \$150 million program that was devised to help pay for or rehire 2,023 additional law enforcement officers. The Department of Justice has distributed 250 awards in all 50 states.

"These new officers will bring increased security to Beckley area residents," said Rahall.

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U. S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

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COMMENTS: POLICE HIRING PROGRAM - ROUND THREE AWARDS

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POLICE HIRING SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM ROUND THREE GRANT TO BECKLEY, WEST VIRGINIA

Applicant: Beckley Police Department

Amount of Award: \$168,087

Population: 18,296

Number of Officers to be Hired/Rehired: 3

Program Description: Beckley sits on an Appalachian plateau in southern West Virginia at the intersection of three major highways. The city is struggling to make the transition from coal mining to a more diversified economy based on tourism and service industries. While Beckley's population has been declining, its unemployment rate has climbed to almost twice the national average. By national standards, crime in West Virginia has typically been low; however, between 1988 and 1992 serious crime in Beckley increased 60 percent, and the number of aggravated assaults increased more than 10-fold.

Beckley briefly experimented with designating patrol officers to specific neighborhoods, but discontinued this program due to budget constraints. Currently, the police department supports a crime watch and a juvenile restitution project, and also works closely with a variety of neighborhood and business groups. Officers work with youth by participating in after-hours recreation projects and conducting DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) programs in the schools.

With the additional officers, the department will be able to assign experienced officers to community policing. The eastern part of the city, which has been targeted for this project, will be divided into two sections, each with its own new precinct. A community board will be created and citizens will be surveyed to determine neighborhood needs and expectations. Officers will be equipped with pagers or cellular phones to communicate directly with residents and will be encouraged to conduct foot patrols. There will be an emphasis on cleaning up the neighborhood and improving housing code enforcement. Planned youth programs include tutoring, job training, traditional youth support groups, and expanded DARE. The officers will also work with the community and coordinate with other city agencies to meet the residents' needs.

For further information contact:

In Beckley:

Chief Billy Cole Beckley Police Department 304/256-1710

For General Program Information:

Harri j. Kramer Police Hiring Task Force/U.S. Department of Justice 202/514-6094

POLICE HIRING SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM FACT SHEET: SUMMARY OF ALL AWARDS

- Total Awards. The program distributed 250 awards, totaling approximately \$150 million, to help pay to hire or rehire 2,023 additional law enforcement officers. The Department received 2,760 applications to the program, but funding was available for fewer than one in ten applications.
- Community Policing Strategies. With these funds, jurisdictions will implement a variety of strategies to engage in community policing to prevent crime, promote problem solving, and enhance public safety. These range from initiating community policing activities in targeted areas, using foot patrols, school-based crime resistance programs, police mini-stations, or neighborhood resource centers; to expanding the nature and scope of existing community policing activities; to transforming an entire department's policing philosophy to community policing.
- Geographic Distribution. Jurisdictions located in all 50 states received awards under this program. California received 31 awards, which represent about 14 percent of the money distributed. Florida received 18 awards, which account for approximately 8 percent of the funds. New Jersey, New York, and Illinois each received 10 or more awards.
- Large Jurisdictions. 45 jurisdictions with populations of 150,000 or above received awards. These included \$4 million grants to the cities of Chicago and Los Angeles, a \$3 million grant to San Antonio, four awards of \$2.1 million, and 38 awards of \$2 million or less.
- Small Jurisdictions. 205 jurisdictions with populations of less than 150,000 received awards.
 These include:
 - 22 awards to jurisdictions of 100,000 to 150,000 population
 - 46 awards to jurisdictions of 50,000 to 99,999 population
 - 46 awards to jurisdictions of 25,000 to 49,999 population
 - 50 awards to jurisdictions of 10,000 to 24,999 population
 - 39 awards to jurisdictions of 1,000 to 9,999 population
 - 2 awards to jurisdictions under 1,000 population.
- Police Departments. 226 city, town, township, and county police departments received awards from this program, ranging in population from over 3.6 million in Los Angeles, California, to 416 in Duncan, Mississippi. Duncan is one of two cities that is either creating or reactivating a local police department. Three county police departments also received awards.
- Sheriffs' Departments. 19 county sheriffs' departments received awards either directly or indirectly from this program. These included 12 sheriffs' departments, three others that received awards as part of a consortium, as well as four that will contract with cities that received awards to provide law enforcement services in those cities.

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- State Police Departments. The Illinois and Maine state police departments received awards to hire additional police officers to engage in community policing activities within local jurisdictions in their respective states.
- Consortia of Law Enforcement Agencies. Three consortia of law enforcement agencies received awards from this program. These include a consortium comprised of a county sheriff, state police, and six municipal police departments in Oregon; a consortium of a county sheriff and two city police departments in Utah; and a consortium of city police and county sheriff's departments in Kansas.
- American Indian Tribes. The Choctaw (Mississippi) and Nisqually (Washington) American Indian tribes received awards to hire additional police officers to engage in community policing activities within their respective jurisdictions.
- Transit Police Department. The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority police department received an award in excess of \$1 million to hire additional police to engage in community policing activities.
- Increased Federal Share. Among awardees, more than half (11) of the 20 requests for an increase in the federal share per officer were granted. The Police Hiring Task Force considered requests for an increase in the federal share only after an application was selected for funding.

MAY 1994



U. S. Department of Justice

WASHINGTON OFFICE

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Office of Legislative Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20530 May 16, 1994 Already Ochone,

U.S. House of Representatives Rayburn House Office Bldg., Rm. 2269 Washington, D.C. 20515-4803

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall II

Dear Congressman Rahall:

Knowing of your interest in the Police Hiring Supplement Program, we wanted to highlight some of the overall program accomplishments and summarize the final status of applications in your state.

Designed to increase the number of officers on America's streets and expand community policing, the program has awarded a total of 250 grants, reaching jurisdictions in all 50 states. More than 2,000 additional officers will be hired or rehired from the \$150 million in the 1993 Supplemental Appropriation Act. Although most of the money was awarded to police departments, other recipients include sheriffs, Indian tribes, state police, and a metropolitan transit authority.

We are pleased to inform you of the awards made in your state. The jurisdictions funded, as well as a complete list of all who applied from West Virginia, are in the enclosure. We congratulate the winners. With so much interest and so little money, the competition for these grants was very intense. Money was available to fund fewer than 1 in 10 of the 2,760 requests to hire additional officers. In general, successful applicants demonstrated severe needs and provided strong community policing strategies.

While we are pleased to make this down-payment on the President's commitment to place 100,000 police officers on the street, this program has demonstrated the magnitude of unmet public safety needs in communities across the nation. Only the Crime Bill can provide the much-needed resources to help address these needs and to assist the many jurisdictions that we were unable to help through this supplemental program.

Both the Administration and Congress share a commitment to improving public safety. Let us work together to enact a comprehensive crime bill that puts all 100,000 officers on the job. Thank you for your support of this important program.

Sincerely,

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Sheila F. Anthony Assistant Attorney General

Enclosure

Police Hiring Supplement Program

WEST VIRGINIA

AWARDS

| Applicant # | City/County | Awardees | Award Amount | Officers Funded |
|-------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 4A406WVDM | BECKLEY/RALEIGH | CITY OF BECKLEY | \$168,087 | 3 |
| 4B307WVDM | CHARLESTON/KANAWHA | CITY OF CHARLESTON POLICE DEPT | \$768,978 | 12 |
| 4C376WVDM | MARTINSBURG/BERKELEY | CITY OF MARTINSBURG POLICE DEPT | \$190,284 | 3 |

OTHER APPLICANTS

Applicant

City/County

4A273WVDM 4A372WVDM 4C169WVDM 4C419WVDM 4C758WVDM 4B885WVDM 4A112WVDM 4B930WVDM 4C417WVDM 4B534WVDM 4B762WVDM 4C263WVDM 4A010WVDM 4B925WVDM 4B283WVDM 4B741WVDM 4A811WVDM 4C725WVDM 4B342WVDM 4B806WVDM 4C301WVDM 4B247WVDM 4B913WVDM 4B912WVDM 4C210WVDM 4B760WVDM 4B697WVDM 4B628WVDM BLUEFIELD/MERCER BRIDGEPORT/HARRISON BURNSVILLE/BRAXTON CEDAR GROVE/KANAWHA CEREDO/WAYNE CHARLES TOWN/JEFFERSON CLARKSBURG/HARRISON CLARKSBURG/HARRISON CLENDENIN/KANAWHA FAIRMONT/MARION GLASGOW/KANAWHA GRAFTON/TAYLOR HUNTINGTON/CABELL **KEYSTONE/MCDOWELL** KIMBALL/MCDOWELL MADISON/BOONE MADISON/BOONE MONTGOMERY/FAYETTE MORGANTOWN/MONONGALIA NORTHFORK/MCDOWELL OAK HILL/FAYETTE POINT PLEASANT/MASON **RIPLEY/JACKSON** SAINT MARYS/PLEASANTS SUMMERSVILLE/NICHOLAS UNION/MONROE WEIRTON/HANCOCK WINFIELD/PUTNAM

Other Applicants

CITY OF BLUEFIELD POLICE DEPT CITY OF BRIDGEPORT POLICE DEPT TOWN OF BURNSVILLE POLICE DEPT TOWN OF CEDAR GROVE TOWN OF CEREDO POLICE DEPT CHARLES TOWN CITY POLICE DEPT CITY OF CLARKSBURG POLICE DEPT HARRISON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT TOWN OF CLENDENIN CITY OF FAIRMONT TOWN OF GLASGOW CITY OF GRAFTON CITY OF HUNTINGTON POLICE DEPT CITY OF KEYSTONE POLICE DEPT TOWN OF KIMBALL POLICE DEPT BOONE COUNTY SHERIFF DEPT CITY OF MADISON POLICE DEPT CITY OF MONTGOMERY POLICE DEPT CITY OF MORGANTOWN POLICE DEPT TOWN OF NORTHFORK OAK HILL CITY POLICE DEPT TOWN OF POINT PLEASANT JACKSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT CITY OF SAINT MARYS CITY OF SUMMERSVILLE POLICE DEPT MONROE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT CITY OF WEIRTON POLICE DEPT PUTNAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT