



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sheila Anthony
Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legislative Affairs

FROM: Merrick Garland *MG*
Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General

RE: Request by U.S. Attorney, D.C., for Assistance in
Obtaining Appropriation for Park Police Task Force

Eric Holder called Jo Ann Harris and me last week to ask if the Department could help his office in obtaining legislative approval for funding for a Park Police task force that currently is participating in the Federal Assistance Program for the District. You will recall that the Program was announced as part of a White House initiative for the District last fall.

Eric's Special Counsel sent me the attached memorandum, describing the situation. The U.S. Attorney would be particularly grateful if you could discuss this matter with Senator Byrd, Representative Yates and/or their staffs. I would be grateful if you could let me know how this progresses.

Memorandum



Subject	Date
PARK POLICE INITIATIVE FUNDING PROBLEM	May 13, 1994

To
MERRICK GARLAND
Principal Associate Deputy
Attorney General

From
MONTY WILKINSON *MW*
Special Counsel
to the U.S. Attorney
(District of Columbia)

As you requested, what follows is a brief discussion of the United States Park Police's problem on Capitol Hill relating to its participation in the Federal Assistance Program.

As you know, in October 1993 Eric Holder was informed by Attorney General Janet Reno that this office would be responsible for assessing the law enforcement needs of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and locating needed resources within the federal government.

Metropolitan Police Chief Fred Thomas identified seven priority areas where immediate assistance was needed. Included in this list were the following: 1) vehicles; 2) overtime funds; 3) assistance of 150-200 uniformed officers from law enforcement agencies; 4) assistance from the FBI to reduce the backlog in firearms that need to be processed; 5) assistance with serving outstanding warrants; 6) assistance in conducting background investigations on MPD recruits; and 7) training. On March 18, 1994, we announced the successful completion of the Federal Assistance Program.

With regard to priority three, the United States Park Police established a special task force which has increased the number of uniformed officers patrolling the District of Columbia's fifth police district. The task force has been extremely successful and is providing much-needed support to MPD. Attached are a copy of the task force's year-to-date statistics as well as commendation letters that have been forwarded to our office from a fifth district resident and MPD Fifth District Commander, Inspector Claude Beheler. Indeed, the statistics and letters speak well of the task force's efforts.

On May 10, 1994, our office was contacted by a representative of the Park Police and informed that this project has encountered a potential funding problem. In order to finance this initiative,

-2-

the Park Police sought supplemental funding from Congress through the Department of the Interior. While we do not know specifically what arrangements or agreements were made with regard to the funding of this initiative, it is our understanding that the National Park Service planned to seek a supplemental appropriation from Congress to reimburse the Park Police for its expenses relating to this initiative. To date, the Park Police has spent over \$1,000,000 on this effort and was recently informed that it will have to absorb these expenses out of its current budget. From what we understand, resistance on the Hill is coming from Senator Robert Byrd (Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and its Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies) and Representative Sidney Yates (Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee's Interior and Related Agencies Subcommittee).

The United States Park Police has been a critical player in the success of the Federal Assistance Program. As reflected in the statistics, the task force's presence in the fifth district has had a measurable impact on crime fighting efforts in one of the District of Columbia's most crime-plagued sections.

The Department of the Interior supports the Park Police's continued involvement in this initiative and has instructed the Park Police not to disband its task force. Accordingly, any assistance that you can provide with this matter will be much appreciated.

~~05/05/94~~

09:56

USFP COMMUNICATIONS - 95144571

May 04, 1994

Memorandum

To: Chief, United States Park Police
From: Commander, Operations Division
Subject: Statistical Report- Crime & Violence Task Force

The following is a statistical reflection of the performance by the members of the Task Force as of April 21:

Category	Total
cases handled	1,249
arrests effected	481
firearms seized	38
search warrants executed	10
traffic NOI's	1,089
drugs seized (monetary value)	\$77,801
wanted persons apprehended	62

John D. Schamp, Deputy Chief

05/05/94

14:11

USPP COMMUNICATIONS → 95144571

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001-2188

April 30, 1994

[Handwritten signature]
Chief Robert Langston
United States Park Police
1100 Ohio Drive Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20242

Dear Chief Langston,

Since the joint MPD/USPP Task Force has been deployed within the Fifth District, members of the United States Park Police have been of invaluable assistance to our department and the Fifth District. The initial target area in the Bloomingdale Neighborhood has experienced a dramatic reduction in crime and many of the residents in that neighborhood have publicly expressed their appreciation and praise for the police officers who have made their neighborhood "A Safer Place".

Lieutenant Mario Sevilla of my staff has been working closely with Lieutenant Robert Kass of your department and they have identified six (6) officers from the United States Park Police that have exhibited sustained superior performance while serving on the MPD/USPP Task Force. I wish to extend my sincerest thanks on behalf of the Metropolitan Police Department, the Fifth District and the citizens of the Bloomingdale Neighborhood to you and these officers as well as all of the members of your department who have served to make this mission so successful.

Please convey my congratulations and my appreciation to the below named officers from your department for their exemplary performance. Their dedication and unselfish devotion to duty is truly worthy of recognition and is clearly in the highest tradition of Law Enforcement.

**OFFICER MICHAEL DOWNS
OFFICER THOMAS NEIDER
OFFICER PAUL PADBERG
OFFICER PAUL RICHARDS
OFFICER WILLIAM SEPECK
OFFICER MICHAEL WALLACE**

I have enclosed certificates for each of these officers as a token of our appreciation for their services. Thank you again for your support.

[Handwritten signature]
Claude J. Beheler
Inspector / Commander
Fifth District

04/28/94

09:15

USPP COMMUNICATIONS → 95144571

NO.637

002



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES PARK POLICE
 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Date: 4/16/94

To: Chief, U.S. Park Police

Through: Commander, Operations Division

From: Lt. Robert J. Kass, Task Force

Concur. S/C J. Schump 4/28/94
210 777 4/18

On 4/14/94 I received a letter, see attachment, from Ivan M. Gubern of 335 W St. NE Washington D.C. commending the members of the Combined Violent Crime Task Force who are presently assigned to Sector Two of the Fifth District of the Metropolitan Police Department. I respectfully request that a copy of this commendation be forwarded to the work file folder of each sworn member listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
 Lt. Robert J. Kass

Captain Michael Fogarty
 Lt. Robert Kass
 Lt. Philip Cholak
 Sgt. John Farrell
 Sgt. Ilmar Paegle
 Sgt. Peter Markland
 Sgt. Kelcy Stefansson
 Ofc. Daniel Back
 Ofc. Dennis Bosak
 Ofc. Leon Capps
 Ofc. Jonathan Crichfield
 Ofc. Michael Downs
 Ofc. Irving Edwards
 Ofc. Robert Stainheimer
 Ofc. Michael Wallace

Ofc. Terry Felt
 Ofc. Kathleen Fontaine
 Ofc. Vincent Gaudiose
 Ofc. Rufus Gillette
 Ofc. John Gott
 Ofc. Charles Guddemi
 Ofc. Thomas Hart
 Ofc. A. Kapetanakos
 Ofc. Robert Kolsch
 Ofc. Robert MacLean
 Ofc. Gill Marsh
 Ofc. Mark Monaghan
 Ofc. George Nader
 Ofc. Michael Taylor
 Ofc. Michael Watson

Ofc. Thomas Neider
 Ofc. Kevin Nieves
 Ofc. Frank Oliver
 Ofc. Paul Padberg
 Ofc. G. Panagiotopoulos
 Ofc. James Pankas
 Ofc. David Reynolds
 Ofc. Marco Ricciardi
 Ofc. Paul Richard
 Ofc. Mark Ruocco
 Ofc. Michael Russo
 Ofc. Noreen Schirmer
 Ofc. William Sepeck
 Ofc. Andrew Varhach

04/28/94

09:16

USPP COMMUNICATIONS -> 95144571

NO. 637

003

April 9, 1994

Lt. Kass
Commander of Task Force
US. Park Police
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20242

Dear Lt. Kass:

I have something to say and I think you are going to want to hear it! In the last few weeks I have had to stop several of your officers while patrolling my Northeast neighborhood. Why? Because I had no choice, based on the efforts and actions I have observed so far in an attempt to control the excessive drug problem here.

Is something wrong, you wonder? Not at all. In fact, as of tonight I have stopped a total of eight of your officers to say thank you. That's it, THANK YOU. I know the chore of cleaning up the streets around 4th and Rhode Island Avenue is a big one and your team of professional officers have been outstanding! I write to you because you must be made aware of the positive effects you all have contributed to an improved quality of life here in the District.

First, I am a young African-American man who bought his first home at age 24. Little did I know, that soon after my purchase (four winters ago) Spring would come and the front and side of my corner row house would be an active site for street front drug deals and late night loitering. Over each of the last four years the open air hustling and my sleepless nights have increased. My wall, my steps, my curb, and my corner have continued to increase in illegal popularity until a few weeks ago when I finally began to entertain the notion that I was getting something for my tax dollars. Here is what happened:

I looked down from my bedroom window one evening to see Park Police stopping a car with questionable tags on it. The behavior of the officers was straight forward and professional, the whole time. (I always pay particular attention to both the good and the bad guys.) Additional support arrived and the officers searched the car, removed the tags, and detained the young men. I thought to myself "this is incredible, what are the Park Police doing up here, and now I bet that car will sit at the corner of my house for weeks just as in the few instances when the DC Police have done the same." Well, I was wrong, the car was gone in three days. What a great job, from start to finish.

I learned of your special efforts here and have been stopping your officers to say thank you ever since. It is important that you know of the early success of this project. There is only one other young professional in this block and she and I (just yesterday) discussed selling our homes at any cost,

or loss before another Summer of hell in Northeast. Your officers have given me hope that I may not need to panic yet and sell before I want to.

Officer Panagloiopoulus and his partner have information on how you might get in touch with me so that I can be of assistance to your efforts. Officers Guddemi and MacLean were polite enough to give me information on how I could make my voice heard by you. My thanks to each of them. If you can, give me information so that I might write to the funding source that supports this project. It would be great to have your officers around for a while. I would also like a phone number were I can report activities as they occur.

THANK YOU,



Ivan M. Gubern