

“COPS” COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING PROGRAM ARRA FUNDS APPLICATION

The following excerpts from the U.S. Department of Justice’s “CHRP PROGRAM REQUEST” are provided to assist the public in understanding the requirements of the application, and to provide context for the Program Narrative that follows, which was submitted by the District to US DOJ as part of its CHRP application on April 10, 2009. Additional information on the program and selection process is available at www.usdoj.gov/recovery/.

“Your agency may apply for COPS funds to use on or after the official grant award start date to hire new, additional officer positions (including filling existing unfunded vacancies) or rehire officers who have already been laid off, or are currently scheduled to be laid off on a future date, as a result of state, local or tribal budget reductions. Please base your application request on your agency’s current anticipated needs for funding in these primary categories. Please also be mindful of the initial three-year grant period and your agency’s ability to fill and retain the officer positions awarded, while following your agency’s established hiring policies and procedures.

As described in detail in the CHRP Application Guide, it is imperative that applicants understand that the COPS statute nonsupplanting requirement mandates that CHRP funds may be used only to supplement (increase) a grantee’s law enforcement budget for sworn officer positions and may not supplant (replace) state, local, or tribal funds that a grantee otherwise would have spent on officer positions if it had not received a CHRP award. This means that if your agency plans to:

(a) Hire new officer positions (including filling existing officer vacancies that are no longer funded in your agency’s budget): It must hire these additional positions on or after the official grant award start date, above its current budgeted (funded) level of sworn officer positions, and otherwise comply with the nonsupplanting requirement as described in detail in the CHRP Application Guide and Grant Owner’s Manual;

(b) Rehire officers who have already been laid off (at the time of application) as a result of state, local, or tribal budget cuts: It must rehire the officers on or after the official grant award start date, maintain documentation showing the date(s) that the positions were laid off and rehired, and otherwise comply with the nonsupplanting requirement as described in detail in the CHRP Application Guide and Grant Owner’s Manual;

(c) Rehire officers who are (at the time of application) currently scheduled to be laid off on a future date as a result of state, local, or tribal budget cuts: It must continue to fund the officers with its own funds from the grant award start date until the date of the scheduled lay-off (for example, if the CHRP award start date is September 1 and the lay-off is scheduled for November 1, then the CHRP funds may not be used to fund the officers until November 1, the date of the scheduled lay-off), identify the number and date(s) of the scheduled lay-off(s) in this application, maintain documentation showing

the date(s) and reason(s) for the lay-off, and otherwise comply with the nonsupplanting requirement as described in detail in the CHRP Application Guide and Grant Owner's Manual. [Please note that as long as your agency can document the date that the lay-off(s) would occur if the CHRP funds were not available, it may transfer the officers to the CHRP funding on or immediately after the date of the layoff without formally completing the administrative steps associated with a lay-off for each individual officer.]”

MPD Community Policing Plan Narrative

Community policing is the cornerstone of the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) operational philosophy. MPD's mission is to safeguard the District of Columbia and protect its residents and visitors by providing the highest quality of police service with integrity, compassion, and a commitment to innovation that integrates people, technology and progressive business systems. Community policing is a critical part of this effort, which is reflected in the organization of the Department around 46 Police Service Areas (PSAs) in seven police districts. Each PSA has a team of officers who work with community members to fight crime and disorder in their neighborhoods. PSAs are supported by other specialized units in the Department, including the narcotics, gun recovery, traffic and investigative units.

MPD is committed to continually improving and expanding the practice of community policing through: 1) Reducing crime and the fear of crime in the community; 2) Positioning MPD nationally and internationally as a model for how it serves the community; 3) Making the relationship between police and neighborhoods paramount by tailoring policing to the needs of specific neighborhoods; 4) Encouraging teamwork and leadership at every level of the police department and throughout the community; 5) Emphasizing that every MPD employee has the power to influence positive change, and encouraging them to improve the service they provide to both the Department and community; 6) Focusing on how MPD can serve and engage young people.

Chief Lanier's community policing philosophy is carried out through the following efforts:

Partnerships and Outreach To Formalize Community/Police Collaboration – MPD embraces the view that community policing can never be a “police only” operation. By its very definition, community policing must be a strong, active and trusting partnership among police officers, residents, community leaders, business owners, other city departments and neighborhood stakeholders, all committed to the single goal of neighborhood safety.

Community Meetings and Events – each month PSA managers meet with residents, businesses and other stakeholders in their PSAs, and also attend community organization and Area Neighborhood Advisory Committee (ANC) meetings. During these meetings, crime data is shared and police and community residents engage in problem-solving to address general disorder and quality of life issues. In addition, PSA managers are provided with cell phones that enable residents to access them directly and immediately. MPD also hosts a vast number of community outreach events in each PSA, including youth camps during the summer.

Community Dialogue – Another key component of MPD’s community policing philosophy is being responsive to community inquiries, complaints and concerns. Chief Lanier requires that all emails and phone calls, including to her Executive and District command staff, are responded to within 24 hours. Citizens have come to appreciate and expect this type of response and follow-up by the MPD. In addition, the Community Listserve is available to all police districts and the membership grows daily. Through the list-serve, MPD managers share crime data and information, crime prevention tips, and answers to real time inquiries from citizens. In addition, an anonymous Tipline and Text-messaging resource makes it easier for citizens who do not feel comfortable calling or talking to police officers directly to share information about crime.

Staff Training To Build Community Policing Skills – MPD conducts nation-wide recruitment drives to attract the best, brightest and most diverse candidates to police the nation’s capital. Training – Once on board, new recruits and sworn personnel are trained on the fundamentals of community policing through its Recruit Officer Training Program (ROTP), field training, and continued professional development programs. Officers are trained in the “SARA” (Scan, Analyze, Respond, and Assess) community policing problem solving methodology, as well as conflict mediation and trust building. In August 2007, the Metropolitan Police Academy launched “Operation FREE” (Focused Redeployment Enhancement Effort) to give recruits nearing graduation the opportunity to meet members of the communities they will soon serve, increase police visibility in neighborhoods and provide face to-face interactions.

Diversity – Cultural competency also is an integral part of MPD’s community policing strategy. As part of her Departmental reorganization, Chief Lanier created a centralized Special Liaison command structure comprised of the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit (GLLU), Latino Liaison Unit (LLU), Asian Liaison Unit (ALU) and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Unit (DHHU) which fall directly under the Executive Office of the Chief of Police. This unit develops and fosters relationships with communities that otherwise might not be comfortable interacting with police or that may have cultural or linguistic barriers to doing so. Foreign language fluency by any member of the Department is valued and officers who take and successfully pass a foreign language test that emphasizes conversational skills receive a language stipend of \$1,300 per year.

Increased Use of Neighborhood Foot & Bicycle Patrols – Having a strong, visible and accessible police presence in all neighborhoods – officers on foot, bicycles, Segways, scooters, and in squad cars – is key to community policing.

Operation Full Stride – In 2007, Chief Lanier launched Operation Full Stride, which has dramatically expanded the Department’s use of an age-old tactic and has added foot patrols to all seven police districts. Operation Full Stride helps citizens get to know the foot beat officers in their PSA so they feel comfortable calling on them in a time of need or when they have a question or want to share information with the police. It is our hope that, over time, Full Stride will increase the level of citizen participation and assistance to MPD in preventing and solving crimes.

All Hands on Deck Operations – Since 2007, MPD has conducted special All Hands on Deck (AHOD) weekends, held four to five times a year, in which all available sworn MPD personnel

are placed on patrol throughout the City with assignments that emphasize community policing, focused law enforcement and community outreach. The AHOD initiative is part of the Department's larger effort to improve public safety by encouraging greater communication with residents. Having more officers on patrol during AHOD allows officers to engage in more proactive policing, rather than be dedicated solely to responding to multiple calls for service.

Walk-thrus – MPD also regularly participates in and leads neighborhood walk-thrus with other government agencies so that the environmental and social conditions that contribute to crime are abated. After-action reports, including commitments to schedule follow-up neighborhood clean-ups, are prepared by all agencies. This ensures long term solutions or actions are taken in areas that may be plagued with disorder.

Conclusion – the 150 entry-level officers requested with CHRP funding will allow MPD to build on its accomplishments in community policing and facilitate even greater communication, outreach, participation, crime prevention and problem solving efforts. Despite its progress reducing crime in recent years, the District still has communities – just blocks and miles from the U.S. Capitol and White House – that struggle with significant social and economic obstacles, as well as deeply entrenched cycles of violence. The additional police officers hired with this funding will partner with members of these communities and other government agencies to provide targeted resources to fight crime and allow MPD to serve as a national model for community policing in severely economically distressed urban settings.