

1
2 COMMUNITY POLICING FOR SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

3
4 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

5 NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

6
7 Monday, August 23, 1993

8
9 Stouffer Concourse Hotel

10 Arlington, Virginia

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12 12:30 p.m.

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1 STATEMENT OF LAURIE ROBINSON, ASSOCIATE DEPUTY
2 ATTORNEY GENERAL

3 Ms. Robinson: Good afternoon. It is exciting to be
4 here today with all of you to explore new initiatives
5 which are really bringing change to the way we are dealing
6 with crime in this country.

7 As Mike noted, this is my first day on the job. And
8 Bill Geller and Mike Russell were so persuasive -- they
9 told me not even to report in for duty at the Justice
10 Department, but to come directly to this conference, that
11 there will be an important discussion today on the
12 community policing. And after having spent the morning
13 with you, I agree with their assessment.

14 I want to say that I am very excited about working
15 with the office justice programs and its diverse
16 constituencies.

17 I welcome the opportunity together to explore,
18 through community policing and otherwise, how we can
19 really make a difference in addressing the problems of
20 criminal justice and crime today.

21 It is a privilege for me to introduce our keynote
22 speaker. I have known the Attorney General since she
23 served on a major American Bar Association committee back
24 in the eighties, shared by Sam Dash.

25 For those of us who worked with her on the Dash

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1 Committee, we know what the country has learned over the
2 past six months, that she is deeply committed to trying
3 new approaches to crime and violence; that she is
4 determined and often impatient about aggressively
5 addressing the problems of children and families; and that
6 she is not afraid to express views, which, at the time of
7 our work in the eighties, for example, are not necessarily
8 popular ones.

9 A past ABA president, Sandy Dallenbear who has known
10 her for many years, told me many years ago, "Janet always
11 speaks her mind."

12 I will not recite for you biographical information
13 about the Attorney General, because her background is
14 well-known to all of us.

15 But I will say that the themes she has spoken about
16 so forcefully in the months since her appointment are so
17 relevant to the discussions at this conference; themes of
18 partnership, of agencies working better together, of
19 inter-governmental cooperation, and of practical and
20 innovative approaches, not rhetorical ones, to addressing
21 the crime problem in America.

22 I hope you will join me in welcoming Janet Reno, the
23 Attorney General of the United States.

24 [Applause.]

25

1 STATEMENT OF HON. JANET RENO, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE
2 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3 Attorney General Reno: Thank you very much. It is a
4 great honor to be here today.

5 And as I came in and started seeing people who had
6 touched my life and impacted my life over the last 15
7 years in Miami, it made me realize more than ever that
8 this nation is still a nation of communities, of
9 neighborhoods, of people working together and caring.

10 I see a judge who has given me more trouble than
11 anybody else in Dade County.

12 [Laughter.]

13 Attorney General Reno: And Francina Thomas was right
14 behind him in giving me trouble and in supporting me. And
15 Chief Hanson was fussing and complaining about new
16 initiatives.

17 But all of these people and so many others have
18 touched my life and made such an incredible difference.
19 And it is what I learned in the community that I come from
20 that has held me in the best stead, of all the efforts
21 that I have undertaken here in Washington.

22 I think we have to put in perspective what we are
23 talking about in terms of community policing and in terms
24 of America. And I see it more graphically in these six
25 months than ever before.

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1 Think about what happened in this nation in this
2 century. It suddenly grew to a great nation, with long
3 life expectancies, and great, huge cities.

4 People left neighborhoods. They left communities.
5 They left farms and came to those cities. A depression
6 and a war followed. And then people started going from
7 the cities into suburbia.

8 And the solidarity of a community, of a neighborhood,
9 did not exist for so many different Americans. They lost
10 the sense of the police officer they knew. They lost the
11 sense of a school teacher who taught their brother and
12 their mother.

13 They lost the sense of the family physician who knew
14 all their problems, a person they could talk to on a
15 regular basis. They lost the sense of community and of
16 neighborhood.

17 With World War II and this nation growing so big, we
18 saw the proliferation of federal agencies; federal
19 agencies who came into their own and, too often, acted
20 like they knew best, and that they could tell local and
21 state officials what to do.

22 We saw a proliferation of these agencies so that we
23 now have 34 different agencies that touch on drug
24 enforcement in the federal government.

25 We have seen the proliferation of task forces, as

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1 people have fought through this arbitrary or artificial
2 form of task force that we could somehow work together
3 better, losing sight of the fact that what was necessary
4 to get people working together was people talking together
5 and dealing with the hard issues, not in some artificial
6 structure, but in the street -- in the community, working
7 together, knowing each other, developing the trust,
8 fussing at each other, and then supporting each other,
9 working through problems and getting them done.

10 Because of this proliferation of government both at a
11 state and federal level, I think there has become a sense
12 in these last 30 years of, "Well, government will solve
13 our problem. And if government did not solve our problem,
14 then we would give government more money. And it would
15 certainly solve our problem."

16 But as we did this, we watched everything get too
17 big. We watched our social service agencies transform
18 from local community groups into large state umbrella
19 agencies that did not understand their people and did not
20 relate to their people.

21 We watched the school teacher, who for so long had
22 exercised independent judgment in how to teach a class, be
23 controlled from the state capital in terms of minimum
24 education requirements and other directives imposed on him
25 or her and limiting their real ability to teach. We lost

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1 the personal sense.

2 I think it was best told me by a person who was in
3 public health 30 years ago.

4 She said, "Ms. Reno, I used to go knock on the door
5 of the people that I was working with. I would sit and
6 have a cup of coffee at the kitchen table, and talk to
7 that new mother about how to raise her child and about
8 nutrition, and about infant care. I'm afraid to go their
9 now."

10 The school teacher told me that 30 years ago she
11 would go to the home and find out why that child was
12 truant. But she was afraid to go there.

13 It became disjointed with police doing their thing,
14 and teachers doing their thing, with the feds going in one
15 direction and locals going in another.

16 And in the middle of all of this, we so often waited
17 until the crisis occurred rather than developing
18 prevention programs. We would rather spend our money on
19 foster care than develop family preservation programs that
20 gave strength to the family and empowered the family.

21 We would rather wait and fill jails rather than put
22 our monies into juvenile justice systems that made sense.
23 We would rather have remedial programs in our community
24 colleges rather than put our dollars into programs and
25 elementary schools that gave our children an opportunity

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1 to have a strong basis for learning.

2 And with all of this, people -- deprived of a sense
3 of support -- began to feel more powerless every step of
4 the way so that if you go to neighborhood groups, as I
5 have over these last 15 years, you have the question asked
6 at you again and again, "What can I do? What difference
7 can I make? I feel so helpless. What do I do?"

8 Well, I think that there is a new feeling, a new
9 atmosphere, a new strength now out upon this land that can
10 make a difference.

11 I think what has happened over these years, in the
12 last five or six, as government has begun to run out of
13 money, the federal government has said to the states,
14 "Here is the program. You manage it," without giving the
15 states the money.

16 The states having no new sources of revenue have
17 turned to the local communities and said, "Here is the
18 program. You manage it," without giving the local
19 communities the resources to do the job.

20 And what has happened is that communities and
21 neighborhood and American citizens, with their back up
22 against the wall, have indicated and demonstrated the
23 innovation, the creativity, and the boldness that made
24 this nation great in the first place.

25 Because of necessity, we have come back to the

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1 people. And what we have basically got to do in
2 developing community policing efforts, in developing our
3 partnerships, is we have to trust the people, and
4 understand that if they are given half a fighting chance,
5 they can become self-sufficient. If they are released
6 from some of the ties that bind them in terms of
7 bureaucracy, they can make a difference.

8 But how do we do it? From my vantage point, we have
9 to begin with a national strategy. I was amazed when I
10 came to the Department of Justice and found that police
11 agencies within my jurisdiction, and in related
12 departments, had not really sat down together to talk
13 about national crime strategy, and how the various efforts
14 of the federal law enforcement should be deployed across
15 this land to help local law enforcement, and to address
16 key issues.

17 One agency is going in one direction. Another agency
18 is going in another, and then one-half of one agency is
19 going in a different direction.

20 You have, again, the 34 different agencies working
21 together supposedly on law enforcement, but they are all
22 torn apart by turf battles, by credit claiming, by
23 fragmentation, by duplication.

24 We have to come together in federal law enforcement
25 and develop a common approach to the problem, based on a

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1 sound plan and a sound national strategy that can end the
2 turf battles. And let's start getting the job done.

3 But even if we do that, we are going to face a
4 shortage of prison cells at various stages. I come from a
5 state where the average sentence being served is only 20
6 to 30 percent of the sentence.

7 I then come to a federal government that is
8 imprisoning people on minimum mandatory sentences for
9 crimes that are far less severe than people are getting
10 out of jail for in various locales throughout this nation.

11 We have to develop a partnership between state prison
12 officials and federal officials to make sure that as we
13 work together in law enforcement in America, we have
14 enough prison cells to house the truly dangerous, "the
15 mean-bads," the career criminals, the major traffickers,
16 the major distributors, for the length of time the judges
17 are sentencing them; and that we have truth in sentencing
18 with respect to this category of offenders.

19 We have then got to develop a partnership between
20 local, state and federal law enforcement and prison
21 systems so that we develop alternative programs for those
22 that are coming back to the community sooner rather than
23 later.

24 Police officers have to speak out because it is
25 police officers who have told me sometimes, "Don't give me

1 any more policemen until you figure out where to put the
2 people that my police officers are arresting now, either
3 in terms of alternative programs, in terms of jails, in
4 terms of prisons."

5 We have to link law enforcement, prison systems,
6 alternative sanction programs together so that we properly
7 process the people that police officers are arresting
8 around this nation every minute of the day.

9 And to do that will require local prosecutors working
10 with federal prosecutors in determining what should be
11 charged in state court, what should be charged in federal
12 court.

13 So we are not in the process of grandstanding and
14 claiming credit, but we are in the process of using our
15 respective resources as wisely as possible to get the job
16 done.

17 And then we have to figure out how the federal
18 government can best help local communities.

19 I, for too long in Dade County, sat around a table
20 where federal agencies came to town and said, "Look, we've
21 got this wonderful grant for you."

22 And I said, "Well, I don't need that grant. Couldn't
23 I have it this way to meet community needs?"

24 They said, "No. You can't have it that way. You
25 don't get it if you don't do it our way."

1 Others would come to town and they would say, "Here,
2 we understand your problems in Dade County better than you
3 do. You can have it for this, because this is what you
4 really need it for."

5 I said, "Well, how long have you spent in Dade
6 County?"

7 They said, "Well, we have been down here on a site
8 visit for the last five days, and we know it all now."

9 [Laughter.]

10 Attorney General Reno: We have to understand that
11 local communities, local police agencies, agencies in
12 rural areas and small suburban communities understand the
13 needs of their communities better than any federal person
14 in Washington, including the Attorney General, will ever
15 understand, that they can better assess their needs,
16 better assess their resources, and understand what works
17 and does not work. And we have to develop procedures --

18 [Applause.]

19 Attorney General Reno: -- for getting the money to
20 you so you can do it.

21 [Applause.]

22 Attorney General Reno: The other thing the federal
23 government did over the last 15 years was to say, "Oh,
24 your grant application is wonderful. And it fits in
25 exactly with what we want. And this is wonderful. We

1 will give you some money for a year."

2 [Laughter.]

3 Attorney General Reno: "What about next year?"

4 They said, "Well, we don't know."

5 [Laughter.]

6 Attorney General Reno: We have to let people in
7 Washington, including the Attorney General, understand
8 that if you are going to try to make a program work, you
9 have to have a track record for longer than a year or two
10 and some expectation that the funding source can continue
11 to show what works and what does not work; and then, based
12 on that, develop improvements.

13 We can do so much if we work together and remember
14 what it is like to have to administer an agency. With all
15 the conflicting demands in this day and time, we have to
16 try to trust local communities, local police departments,
17 keep the politics out of it, get the dollars to you in
18 ways that you can use it over time that can prove the
19 project right or wrong.

20 [Applause.]

21 Attorney General Reno: And that leads to community
22 policing. There are people here in this room who have
23 taught me so much about community policing.

24 It is important for you to remember the same thing as
25 I have just castigated the feds for, that it does not help

1 for the police chief and the mayor to go storming into a
2 neighborhood and say, "This is what we're going to do for
3 you."

4 And you have people sit there and look at you blankly
5 and say, "What do you know about my neighborhood? This is
6 the first time you have been out here in two years. Why
7 don't you come talk to us and listen to us and find out
8 what we really need?"

9 [Applause.]

10 Attorney General Reno: And it is amazing to me when
11 you come sit around a table and talk to people and find
12 out what they really need, what they can tell you.

13 This past week, I went to Omaha, Nebraska. I went to
14 a juvenile detention facility. I sat around the table
15 with approximately seven young men and one young woman who
16 were in detention, and were considered serious offenders.
17 They did not want to talk at first.

18 They could not figure out what a Janet Reno was, or
19 what she was doing there, and why she was asking, "What
20 would have prevented it?"

21 "And even if she did mean it, what good was it going
22 to do?"

23 But finally they started talking. And it was amazing
24 how they were able to start talking. The Governor and the
25 Senator sat there and listened to them talk about the need

1 for programs after school and in the evening that would
2 have kept them out of trouble -- programs that had a
3 relevance where people knew how to talk to them -- and
4 give them some self respect, and give them some limits,
5 and give them opportunities and some guidance.

6 The theme was common around that table. If we can
7 learn that much from young people, think of what we can
8 learn by going to our communities, trusting our people and
9 asking our people what they need to get the job done.

10 We have to remember that the best care-giver of all,
11 the best role-giver, the best limit-setter, the best
12 police officer and social worker of them all is a strong
13 family.

14 And we have to do whatever we can to go to that
15 family, support that family, and understand that most
16 American families have the basic foundation if only we can
17 reweave the fabric of society around them, to give that
18 family the opportunity to exercise all the authority it
19 can in the best of ways possible.

20 We have to learn how to talk to people. About three
21 weeks ago, I was in Los Angeles talking to about 12 former
22 gang members 25 to 30 years old.

23 Again and again, the common thread was, "You have to
24 teach you all how to talk to us. If we do something
25 wrong, we know we deserve the consequences. But you can

1 punish us without demeaning us, without putting us down,
2 without harassing us, without making us feel this high.

3 "You have to learn how to talk to us. School
4 teachers have got to learn how to talk to us. Somehow or
5 another you can talk to us and give us the pat on the back
6 when we need it. You can give us the kick in the pants
7 when we need it. And we will respect you for it when you
8 do it the right way."

9 We can learn so much by learning how to talk and how
10 to listen. We can understand that most people, if we
11 reach out and help them right up front, can be pulled
12 back.

13 There are what I call the "mean-bads, the bads, the
14 want-to-be's and the goods." And you can get most of
15 those want-to-be's back from being the bads if you just
16 get in there quick and pull them back, and give them other
17 alternatives, and show by example what can be done.

18 So we have to free our officers to deal with people.
19 Every time I turn around in these last six months, what I
20 learned from Miami is being echoed around the nation.

21 Police officers are becoming the heroes and heroines
22 for communities, for people who want somebody who
23 represents order, but represents it in a compassionate
24 way.

25 Police officers are on the cutting edge of everything

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1 good that is happening in communities, whether by reaching
2 out themselves, or joining in a partnership with a public
3 health nurse to make a home visit that could not be made
4 five years ago because the nurse was afraid.

5 Police officers are on the cutting edge with that
6 school teacher in finding out why that kid is truant.
7 Police officers are the heroes and the heroines of America
8 today.

9 And if we can just work together, form these
10 partnerships, we can do so much to make a difference; not
11 in task forces, not in protocols and MOUs, but in people
12 talking together and appreciating working together just
13 based on common trust and self respect.

14 But as we do that, we have to develop an approach
15 that takes into account what is going to happen, because
16 too many of us are learning what it is like to grow up in
17 America.

18 The first thing all of us have to understand is that
19 the most formative years in a person's life is zero to
20 three. Now, why should I be talking to a bunch of police
21 officers about zero to three?

22 Because nobody else is worrying about zero to three
23 now when the family is breaking down around that child who
24 is zero to three.

25 And the reason it is so important is 50 percent of

1 all learned human response is learned in the first year of
2 life. What good is it going to do in education 15 years
3 from now if we do not give them the foundation now?

4 The concept of reward and punishment and conscience
5 is developed in the ages of zero to three. What good is
6 punishment 13 years from now when they put a gun up
7 besides somebody's head and are totally remorseful, if now
8 they do not understand what punishment means?

9 We have to do what we can in law enforcement to give
10 the social service agencies, the public health system,
11 others, the opportunity to get in there and help that
12 young family help that child get off to a good, sound,
13 solid start in America.

14 We have to make sure that when we see children
15 wandering across a housing development at three years old
16 with nobody following him, nobody caring about him -- you
17 would not let your child around unsupervised at three
18 years old -- just by asking, "Where are you going? What
19 is happening?"

20 Follow through. Go to the management. Make a
21 difference. You can, maybe, be getting that child off to
22 a new and fresher start. Why do we wait?

23 Police officers traditionally did truancy prevention
24 programs because it reduced day-time burglaries. But if
25 we got police officers, school teachers, and the social

1 workers together and started going to the house to find
2 out why the child was truant in the first place, we could
3 be doing so much in terms of prevention for future, more
4 serious crimes. In terms of --

5 [Applause.]

6 Attorney General Reno: Police officers sometimes
7 -- and I am going to be a little bit critical -- had to be
8 dragged kicking and screaming to understand how critical
9 domestic violence was in this nation today, how the impact
10 of domestic violence is felt from one generation to the
11 next.

12 The good police officer, the caring police officer,
13 the one that wanted to make a difference, understood that
14 the child who saw his father beat his mother was going to
15 come to accept violence as a way of life. And he did
16 something about it. And he became involved.

17 We can do so much if we get doctors and others
18 understanding that if there is one place that we can begin
19 to effectively intervene in violence it is in terms of
20 doing something about family violence at every level,
21 whether it be spouse abuse or child abuse.

22 And we can make the difference. You can see the
23 signs. We do not have to wait until that child is in the
24 emergency room with a fracture. The good police officer
25 could begin to see the signs if he knows his neighborhood

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1 and knows how to intervene in an effective and caring
2 manner.

3 We can do so much if we develop programs after school
4 and in the evening. One of the most heartwarming things I
5 see is to go to various public programs around Dade County
6 and see police officers giving their free time in soccer
7 programs, little league programs, and other programs, to
8 get kids off on the right foot; taking them fishing.

9 And I said, "What are you going to do about the
10 liability?"

11 And he said, "I've given up worrying about liability.
12 If they are going to sue me, they're going to sue me."

13 [Laughter.]

14 Attorney General Reno: And I have seen, around the
15 nation, so many examples of police officers on the cutting
16 edge making the difference.

17 Where do we go from here? You are doing so much with
18 so little. Last month, Congress passed, and President
19 Clinton signed into law, a bill that provides for \$150
20 million in community policing grants.

21 Now, when I heard that this might be -- that we would
22 be responsible for it in the Department of Justice, and
23 they were going to do it in kind of an arbitrary way, I
24 said, "No, we are going to try to do it in ways that can
25 truly help communities."

1 I do not know whether we have come up with the
2 perfect balance. But I am dedicated to making sure that
3 you get those dollars in ways that can truly help you,
4 without smoke and mirrors, so that it counts.

5 There will be \$75 million available for jurisdictions
6 at or above 150,000 and \$75 million for those below.
7 Grant funds are available only for the salaries and fringe
8 benefits of hired or rehired law enforcement officers over
9 a three-year period. Grant funds cannot be used to
10 supplant state or local funds.

11 I have been on the other end of the line looking at
12 federal grants and saying, "Oh, what a wonderful way to
13 solve a budget problem."

14 [Laughter.]

15 Attorney General Reno: Just remember, I have been on
16 the other side.

17 [Laughter.]

18 Attorney General Reno: This is to try to get you
19 some new help. We hope that we will be able to fund
20 approximately 2,000 officers, with the point being to
21 increase sworn law enforcement officers in areas where
22 they are truly needed, to improve the long-term ability of
23 law enforcement agencies to engage in community policing,
24 and to develop innovative programs for crime prevention.

25 The first question I was asked when I came to

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1 Washington to start to prepare for my confirmation was by
2 police agencies and police chiefs, who said, "All right.
3 Now, if you get this money for community policing, what
4 are we going to do with these people when we arrest them
5 if you don't have jails, and you don't have prosecutors,
6 and you don't have courts? This seems kind of
7 imbalanced."

8 What I am seeing throughout this country is what I
9 was beginning to see in Dade County, that the great
10 community policing programs, by identifying the "mean-
11 bads" and getting them put away, and going to court and
12 supporting the prosecutor in terms of getting significant
13 sentences, can help through the other community policing
14 programs, pull back the little "want-to-be's" so that
15 crime is being reduced in significant numbers in
16 communities where these programs are in place.

17 We can make it work by giving to police officers the
18 resources to do the job. Key application requirements
19 include a demonstrated public safety need, including the
20 need for more law enforcement officers.

21 Assessment of need will be based both on public
22 safety and economic factors. The community policing
23 strategy will require the preparation of a three-year plan
24 for community policing that emphasizes community
25 involvement and inter-agency cooperation.

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1 The plan should include provision for continuing the
2 initiative and retaining the positions with program funds
3 at the end of the grant.

4 Again, we want to try to work with you to address
5 critical, immediate needs in the community; and to do it
6 without smoke and mirrors, but in ways that it can make a
7 difference for you.

8 The federal share per officer may not exceed the
9 greater of 75 percent of the total salary and benefits
10 over the life of the grant, up to a maximum \$75,000, or 50
11 percent of the total salary and benefits over the life of
12 the grant. Authorized federal share per officer may be
13 increased with extraordinary evidence of economic
14 hardship.

15 There are other provisions contained herein. The
16 applications will be considered in three rounds. The
17 first deadline is October the 14th. Awards are expected
18 to be announced in November and December of 1993.

19 I would ask each one of you to work with us. We will
20 try to be available to you. We want to try to respond in
21 making this a real partnership that can address your
22 needs, but that is just a very small first step.

23 As you have read and heard, the President has
24 announced and, along with Senator Biden and Chairman
25 Brooks, planned for the crime bill to be introduced when

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1 Congress returns this fall, that will provide for funds to
2 put up to 50,000 police officers on our streets.

3 I am one of those that says, "Now, how are we going
4 to afford this?" because I don't like the federal
5 government coming and saying, "We've authorized 50,000
6 officers for you."

7 And I say, "Where are the 50,000 officers?"

8 And they say, "Oh, we didn't appropriate the money."

9 I am dedicated to trying to make authorizations and
10 appropriations matched so that when something is promised,
11 we try to deliver it. And if we cannot deliver it, we
12 tell you what we can do and what we cannot do.

13 [Applause.]

14 Attorney General Reno: Some of you have had concern
15 about the Police Corps. It is going to provide for
16 scholarships. Some of you have expressed reservations. I
17 would like to sit down and talk with you, see what we can
18 work out.

19 I do not know whether we can work out anything, but I
20 want to sit down and talk with you and get the problems
21 addressed in the right way so that we know exactly where
22 we stand.

23 There are going to be other provisions. Empowerment
24 zones and enterprise communities, under the economic plan
25 developed by the President, will provide for all of us an

1 opportunity to show what communities can do.

2 I have a dream that one community or a number of
3 local, smaller communities can come to Washington and come
4 to one desk where the Department of Justice, and weed-
5 and-seed, and Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
6 programs, and HHS programs, and Department of Education
7 programs, and HUD programs, and Labor programs, and all
8 those multiplicity of programs that get passed, are all
9 around one table.

10 And a community can say, "Look. Here are our needs
11 and resources, addressing an agenda for prevention as well
12 as for reacting to the crisis. This is what we need.
13 What can you do for us?" and that we would work together
14 in developing waiver efforts to make sure we got dollars
15 to you in ways that made sense, both in prevention, in
16 terms of police resources, and in terms of efforts that
17 can make a difference to communities.

18 We can do so much through the crime bill in terms of
19 this school safety initiative that is included, in terms
20 of more police officers for public housing.

21 And finally, police officers and police chiefs in
22 this nation have been on the cutting edge of one great and
23 principal controversy. They represent the feelings of
24 most American people.

25 And that is that we have to get the Brady Bill

1 passed. And we have to develop a ban on assault weapons
2 that have no use for sporting purposes.

3 And if police chiefs, if police officers can speak
4 out, can say, "Look, do you know what this assault weapon
5 is like? Do you know it has no purpose whatsoever except
6 to kill another being? Why in the world do we want it on
7 our streets?" then people are going to begin to listen to
8 you.

9 And you can persuade Congress that we have to get
10 some handle on weapons in America. There is so much that
11 we can do if we can work together.

12 I want to create that true partnership. My home
13 phone number was listed at home. I returned all my phone
14 calls. I tried to see every officer, including the
15 officers who wanted to fuss at me because I had not filed
16 a charge they thought should be filed.

17 I got into some good arguments with them. And you
18 can expect that if you try to call, and we disagree, I
19 will try not to get into an argument.

20 [Laughter.]

21 Attorney General Reno: But, the telephone number is
22 (202) 514-2001. And, obviously, if it is a problem that
23 can get resolved otherwise, try to do so.

24 But if it is really a problem that goes to the heart
25 of this partnership that we are trying to develop, if you

1 have ideas and suggestions, please call me, because I am
2 bound and determined to do everything I can to make the
3 Department of Justice a true partner with you every step
4 of the way. Thank you.

5 [Applause.]

6 [Whereupon, at 1:27 p.m., the presentation ended.]

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