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ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION
ON THE ISSUE OF
COMMUNITY POLICING AND FEDERAL CRIME BILL

Wednesday, February 16, 1994

Kirk Community Center
2000 Cecil Street
Baltimore, Maryland

12:25 p.m.

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1 STATEMENT OF KURT SCHMOKE, MAYOR, BALTIMORE

2 Mr. Schmoke: Let me thank you all very much for
3 being here. I was just trying to explain the logistics of
4 this to the Attorney General and to Senator Mikulski.

5 This is billed as a round-table discussion on the
6 issue of community policing and also on the Federal Crime
7 Bill and the impact that the Crime Bill would have on
8 local communities.

9 We invited a number of people to join us. And we are
10 -- we apologize for the setup of the room, that some of
11 our friends and colleagues are sitting behind us.

12 (Indicating)

13 But we hope that if something sparks an idea for
14 discussion, that you would please just let me know and
15 then come around.

16 And then at the end, we have a presentation that one
17 of our students from the Garrison Middle School would like
18 to make to the Attorney General.

19 As you know, Attorney General Reno has spent the
20 morning with us, first at the Office of U S Attorney,
21 Lynn Battaglia, where she met with a number of law
22 enforcement officials, the Attorney General Kern, a number
23 of people from the FBI, DEA, the ATF, the State Police,
24 and the Baltimore City Police who are in ongoing efforts
25 to focus on the problem of violent crime in the city and

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1 metropolitan area.

2 And they are doing a very good job in working
3 together and coordinating strategy. But we recognize that
4 it takes more than just the law enforcement officials. It
5 takes an entire community effort.

6 And so we came to East Baltimore, in particular,
7 where there are so many outstanding programs initiated by
8 the clergy of East Baltimore in partnership with Johns
9 Hopkins Medical Institution, along with the police and
10 local government in trying to improve the quality of life
11 and uplift the quality of life here in East Baltimore.

12 And it is the type of effort that, I think, can go a
13 long way in other communities to help in improving not
14 only the aspects of crime, but other community outlook.

15 But we know that we really could get a great boost by
16 having the President's Crime Bill passed. It is vitally
17 important to us.

18 We recognize that there are -- not everybody is going
19 to agree on every single provision. But we think that at
20 the core of it, it provides enough material, enough
21 information and enough resources that will help benefit
22 communities around the country.

23 Now, Senator Barbara Mikulski has joined us. And we
24 thank her very much for all of her tremendous efforts on
25 behalf of this city and this state.

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1 We do know that she has been tireless in her work in
2 -- with respect to fighting crime . I would ask her,
3 before we have the Attorney General -- I am sorry. I will
4 call on the Attorney General .

5 Attorney General Reno: No .

6 Mr. Schmoke: And then --

7 Attorney General Reno: Let the --

8 Mr. Schmoke: You will have --

9 Attorney General Reno: Let the Senator go first.

10 Mr. Schmoke: Aha, the Attorney General has been in
11 Washington for a while now.

12 [Laughter.]

13 Mr. Schmoke: And she would defer -- she yields to
14 the junior Senator from Maryland, Barbara Mikulski.

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1 STATEMENT OF HON. BARBARA MIKULSKI, U S SENATOR FROM
2 MARYLAND

3 Senator Mikulski: Thank you, Mr Mayor I am going
4 to be as brief as I am short --

5 [Laughter.]

6 Senator Mikulski: -- and just say I welcome, very
7 enthusiastically, the Attorney General to visit our
8 community policing effort.

9 And I think the emphasis is on both words, "policing"
10 with the "community," this incredible partnership between
11 the citizens and the police department and the resources
12 within this community.

13 And I believe the President's Crime Bill really -- or
14 crime approach really meets the needs related to
15 prevention, policing and punishment, gun control, drug
16 control.

17 Those five elements, I believe, are the secret to
18 success. I believe we need to provide resources to the
19 local community so that Commissioner Frazier, working with
20 everyone in this may solve our problems.

21 I want the Attorney General to know and the mayor to
22 know that we cannot wait to pass this Crime Bill. There
23 are too many in Congress that are naysayers. Too often,
24 when all is said and done, more gets said than gets done.

25 We need to have a national outburst that says that

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1 Congress has to get off of its guidelines and start paying
2 special interest to the people, prevention, policing,
3 punishment, drug control, gun control.

4 Put it in the hands of the local community, and I
5 believe the force of the Lord and the force of the
6 Attorney General and our local police and mayor will be
7 with us.

8 Other than that, amen, and I am happy to be here.

9 [Laughter.]

10 [Applause.]

11 Mr Schmoke: Well, let me -- with the Lord and the
12 Attorney General on our side --

13 [Laughter.]

14 Mr. Schmoke: -- I mean, we should be in pretty good
15 shape.

16 Thank you, Senator.

17 And let me once again introduce the Attorney General,
18 Janet Reno.

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

3 Attorney General Reno: Well, now you know why I let
4 the Senator go first.

5 [Laughter.]

6 Attorney General Reno: This is my second visit to
7 Baltimore. And I continue to be encouraged each time I
8 come that people have come together.

9 Federal agencies are working together. They are
10 working with local law enforcement agencies. And you
11 really serve as a model for the rest of the nation in how
12 you have come together.

13 But it is so exciting. And you cannot fool me twice.
14 So to see it twice now, where the community comes together
15 with police, with the ministry, with great institutions
16 such as Johns Hopkins, it is a classic example of what we
17 need to be about.

18 I am even more convinced after watching what
19 community policing can do in this neighborhood that we
20 have got to get the Crime Bill passed, not with politics
21 but just with common sense, the bipartisan approach.

22 Republicans and Democrats all hate crime. And it is
23 time we got politics out of the issue and got common sense
24 into the issue, develop programs that punish the bad guys,
25 prevent crime wherever possible, give our youth a chance

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1 to grow in a strong, constructive way and, most of all,
2 let communities design programs that are best-suited for
3 communities in terms of what we do to prevent crime.

4 I am delighted to be here, Mayor.

5 I just really appreciate the opportunity to talk
6 firsthand with community police officers, with people in
7 the neighborhood who have generated the program.

8 Community policing is, in many respects, just good
9 old-fashioned policing. It is citizens trusting their
10 police officers, and police officers trusting their
11 citizens. It is people working together to determine what
12 is important in the community.

13 If a police officer rides by in a cruiser, you do not
14 know who is going to be the police officer the next time.
15 But if somebody is on a bike, if somebody is walking, if
16 somebody is there every day, it can really do so much to
17 rebuild the fabric of a community, so that our children,
18 their families, have a chance to grow.

19 When I see you reach out to other groups and the
20 schools, what you are doing and so many efforts and, most
21 of all, when I see your volunteers, you are an example for
22 all of the nation.

23 Government can do a lot. But government cannot do it
24 without the people.

25 And when the people say, "It is -- the buck stops

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1 with us. It is up to us. And we are going to do it,"
2 that is when the ingredient for change -- that is when
3 -- those are the ingredients for a positive future for a
4 community.

5 And thank you for setting such an example.

6 Mr. Schmoke: Thank you very much.

7 We are going to have just some brief comments from
8 our law enforcement officials and some of the volunteers
9 from Clay Court, volunteers for CURE and Operation PULSE.

10 And then, if time permits, yes, ma'am, we are going
11 to call on you.

12 [Laughter.]

13 Mr Schmoke: And we will have a brief discussion and
14 any comments from the audience. And then we will allow
15 the Attorney General to wrap things up. And we want to
16 give her something for being over here.

17 So let me call on the U S Attorney from -- for the
18 District of Maryland, Lyn Battaglia.

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1 STATEMENT OF LYN BATTAGLIA, U S. ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT
2 OF MARYLAND

3 Ms. Battaglia: Well, rather than repeating
4 everything that everyone else has been saying, this
5 morning we met with the law enforcement agencies not only
6 from the federal area, but also through the local area.

7 And I think it is important to recognize that the
8 power of the federal government is dependent upon the
9 information that we glean from community leaders, as well
10 as from law enforcement authorities such as the
11 Commissioner and his able staff at the police department.

12 So I am very encouraged with the work that we are
13 doing with them. And, of course, coming here today is
14 really a marked improvement for us in being involved with
15 the community.

16 So I appreciate your invitation to come today. Thank
17 you.

18 Mr. Schmoke: Thank you very much.

19 Commissioner Frazier.

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1 STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER THOMAS FRAZIER

2 Commissioner Frazier: Thank you.

3 My commitment when I came to Baltimore City a few
4 weeks ago was to implement a community-oriented policing
5 program.

6 And it was clear that there were some priorities
7 within that. The first one is to arrest offenders. The
8 second is to prevent crime. The third is to solve ongoing
9 problems. And that all rolls up into improving the
10 overall quality of life.

11 We very much appreciate the 40 officers that we got
12 as a result of federal support last year. The new
13 officers that we hope to get, as a result of the Crime
14 Bill, will enable us to do what we need to do, to work
15 with the community.

16 And I could not support the Attorney General more in
17 her efforts, and Senator Mikulski's efforts, to provide
18 that direct assistance to this community that we very
19 desperately need.

20 Mr. Schmoke: Thank you very much, Commissioner

21 And the commander for the Eastern District, the
22 district that we are in now and some of the programs that
23 we have seen, is Major Alvin Winkler.

24 And we thank you very much, Commander, for being here
25 today.

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1 STATEMENT OF MAJOR ALVIN WINKLER, COMMANDER FOR THE
2 EASTERN DISTRICT

3 Major Winkler: Thank you, sir.

4 We are real excited about the philosophy of community
5 policing, especially in East Baltimore. We have tried to
6 adopt that philosophy.

7 And several things have taken place that proves to us
8 that the words "community empowerment" is more than just
9 words.

10 It is something that actually works. It is something
11 that can suppress crime. It is something that can do
12 something about violence.

13 For instance, we forged a partnership with the
14 private sector, NHP Properties. And they allowed us to
15 utilize part of their townhouse, where they had their
16 management office, to open a community policing office
17 back in October.

18 And the exciting thing about this, when you talk
19 about community empowerment, is that we have the citizens,
20 the community people to actually be the ones to run their
21 own community policing office.

22 Many people think about substations and police being
23 there 24 hours. But we have citizens there who we took
24 through a series of classes and educated them as to how to
25 take complaints from citizens, how to channel those

1 complaints to the proper resources, what things are very
2 -- of necessity for police to come to right away, and
3 those things that should wait for the neighborhood service
4 officer.

5 Also, we talked about confidentiality, and all of
6 those things, that when you are dealing with the public,
7 you must have a degree of confidentiality that their
8 business would not go out to everyone else. That way, you
9 would have more people coming in. And we think that that
10 is very successful.

11 We really believe that it shows real empowerment for
12 the community, in that they are taking charge of their own
13 neighborhood. And they have some say in their own
14 neighborhood.

15 We are also excited about the CURE organization and
16 PULSE, because those organizations have developed the
17 citizens on patrol.

18 We have come up with neighborhood block watches, and
19 most of the blocks in this East Baltimore Midway
20 community.

21 And we now have people that are interacting with the
22 police more than ever. We see that we have more people
23 coming to community meetings, where they meet with the
24 police officers.

25 And the information that we are receiving from

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1 citizens is more solid. It is more direct to the things
2 that we really need to know in order to do the things we
3 need to do.

4 Also, when you talk about community empowerment, we
5 noticed that the more the citizens get involved, the more
6 they handle the small things that everyone seems to depend
7 on police officers for, it allows the officer more time to
8 deal with the violent offenders and those things that law
9 enforcement should be involved in.

10 Now, we have with us Ms Mazel Thorton, who is the
11 president of the Clay Court Apartments Residents' Council.
12 And she is also our strong volunteer that keeps our
13 citizens together, and to do the scheduling and all for
14 our Clay Courts office.

15 Ms. Thorton .

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1 STATEMENT OF MAZEL THORTON, PRESIDENT OF CLAY COURT
2 APARTMENTS RESIDENTS' COUNCIL

3 Ms. Thorton: Yes. And I am here to represent Clay
4 Courts. And since we have had the community policing on
5 our property, there has been a drastic decline in crime in
6 our area.

7 And we feel that it would be more efficient if we
8 could extend the hours, and that with that extension of
9 the hours we could employ some of our residents right
10 there at Clay Court.

11 Major Winkler: What are your current hours, Ms
12 Thorton?

13 Ms. Thorton: Our current hours of operation are from
14 12:00 in the afternoon to 4:00 in the evening. And we
15 would like to have it extended to 12:00 midnight.

16 And with that, that would enable us to employ some
17 residents right there in our community.

18 Major Winkler: When Ms. Thorton talks about a
19 drastic reduction in crime, I want to point out that it is
20 drastic for the citizens that live there.

21 But we watched the statistics over the last four
22 months as compared to the previous four months. And we
23 noticed that we had 13 less violent crimes to occur in the
24 neighborhood around Clay Courts.

25 But the amazing statistic that really jumped out to

1 me was. There were almost 800 fewer calls for service.
2 Now, we are not talking about the calls that deal with the
3 crime that is recorded, but fewer calls for service, in
4 that our officers were not getting as many calls for the
5 small things, trash, sanitation, vacant houses, because
6 the office was there, allowing the citizens to come in to
7 give those complaints so that the neighborhood service
8 officer could it.

9 Therefore, that post officer who is patrolling does
10 have more time to deal with crime.

11 And from our CURE organization, we are proud to have
12 the president, the Reverend Marshall Prentice of the Zion
13 Baptist Church.

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1 STATEMENT OF REVEREND MARSHALL PRENTICE, PRESIDENT, CURE

2 Reverend Prentice: Thank you, Mr Winkler, Mayor
3 Schmoke, to Senator Mikulski, to Commissioner Frazier, and
4 the each and every one, but especially a special thanks to
5 the Attorney General for coming today.

6 We welcome you into our beautiful city. We are
7 delighted to say that our excitement with this community
8 policing comes from the fact that the involvement of
9 community is just what it is. It is the community.

10 In the old African adage, it takes a village to raise
11 a child. We all must work together.

12 In 1988, we had a concern about some of the crimes
13 that were so prevalent in our community. And somewhere,
14 we decided to go out on Mother's Day, the churches, that
15 we would leave our pulpits.

16 And we came out and put over close to maybe 3,000 to
17 5,000 people on the corner, not as a demonstration but
18 really as a purpose of statement to have an event that
19 would begin a process.

20 And out of that process came Clergy United for the
21 Renewal in East Baltimore. And we had a concern about the
22 whole community changing, talking about community, but not
23 just in the sense of a visual.

24 We needed lives changed. We needed not a dress-up
25 event. We needed a process that would develop lives. And

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1 we looked at it and said that we had to reach everyone.

2 So we believe that the clergy had to be a united
3 voice. We dropped our denominational differences. And we
4 had a common thread. And that common thread, first, is
5 Christ in our lives, and then our commitment of God to be
6 that voice and to come together.

7 And for what? For the safety of our people. Many
8 people here think that CURE is just Clergy United for
9 Renewal. For us, it is our God.

10 And as a result of that, he says, "Okay Prayer is
11 powerful. But now the action of prayer is wonderful."

12 So we began to move and started. What we looked at
13 -- and working together with our police department, we
14 looked at words like "partnership," "collaborative
15 efforts," and "networking."

16 We had concerns around education, around training,
17 around development. And when I say that, I am talking
18 about the entire community.

19 So what we did was we understood that we could not
20 have, at this point, a number of police officers out in
21 the community because of where the monies are and the way
22 things are.

23 But we live there, and things had to be done. So we
24 had initiatives like Sanctuary Beyond the Walls, the
25 Burning Light, Stand Out and Stare, where the community,

1 the churches and the people got out and began to be a
2 deterrent to a crime element that was visible in our
3 community.

4 We did not want to be held hostage. So we came out
5 to take ownership. And in taking ownership, we began to
6 look at other initiatives that had to develop.

7 We told you earlier about our other programs and our
8 health care, heart, body and soul, where we opened up
9 three prevention centers.

10 And in those centers, we are doing illness
11 prevention, where our people can be trained, the community
12 people, to go out and educate others, because we take the
13 Scriptures literally where it says our people are
14 destroyed for the lack of knowledge.

15 And as a result of that, the community began to see
16 that we are not just talking lip service. We are
17 providing service; and in working with Major Winkler,
18 working with our mayor, and working with Johns Hopkins
19 health system, working with other community organizations,
20 of taking control, real control.

21 And I want to say that again, community partnership,
22 not someone telling us, but the community directing and
23 working in partnership, networking, and in this event,
24 making change real and relevant to the lives of the
25 people, giving hope back to a hopeless community, and

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1 began to work even more effectively on doing what we call
2 reconstruction in homes, reconstruction of lives, and
3 reconstruction of just the material sense of education, of
4 mentorship, of development.

5 And then, we believed that as a result of that, we
6 could do more. And as a result of that, another ministry
7 came into existence called PULSE.

8 And I believe we are going to yield to that.

9 Major Winkler: Right.

10 Reverend Prentice: All right.

11 Major Winkler: Yes. We do have with us the director
12 of Operation PULSE, which is a derivative from our CURE
13 organization, working in conjunction with the Johns
14 Hopkins health system.

15 And that is Mr. Samuel Redd.

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1 STATEMENT OF SAMUEL REDD, DIRECTOR, PULSE

2 Mr. Redd: Good afternoon. People United to Live in
3 a Safe Environment is exactly what we -- what you see with
4 our volunteers here this morning in their uniforms.
5 (Indicating)

6 Unfortunately, in the area we are in, I cannot give
7 you great statistics of crime being reduced in the area.
8 We see criminal activity throughout Green Mount Avenue and
9 22nd Street, throughout the neighborhood, constantly,
10 every day.

11 Unfortunately, several months ago, we had a crime
12 prevention fair with the police and community people on
13 the street, and had a stabbing right at the end of the
14 corner while that was going on.

15 But what I can tell you is there is a great
16 enthusiasm among the citizens in the community to be able
17 to take back their neighborhoods.

18 These people live, work, and worship in the community
19 right here. They have lived here practically all of their
20 lives, some of them have.

21 And the importance of having the police department
22 come in and remove the criminal element from their
23 neighborhoods, to clean their neighborhoods up -- PULSE is
24 there to train those people to be able to hold on and
25 seize their neighborhood once the police department has

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1 come in.

2 The NSO is the neighborhood service officers that we
3 have working with our organization. I cannot say enough
4 about them or the volunteers.

5 These guys are great. They are out there working.
6 And they are not running down the street, handling 911
7 calls. They are making sure children go to school. They
8 are making sure that if a neighbor, a citizen in the
9 neighborhood has a problem, what that problem is.

10 And all of those problems could lead to crime, and
11 grime, making sure that the alleys are clean in the
12 neighborhood.

13 Major Winkler and these NSOs and the sergeant around
14 this neighborhood work great with these citizens around
15 here. And what you see is very important. You see a
16 trust in the police department and the citizens.

17 They are not -- the police -- the neighbors are not
18 worried that, "If I talk to this police officer, then I am
19 going to be considered a rat or somebody to turn in
20 people. I am now working with the police department to
21 take back what I own and what belongs to me."

22 And we have some of our volunteers here. You will
23 see them throughout this with their uniforms on. And they
24 are bright, with their hats and their jackets, ready to
25 work.

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1 Mayor Schmoke: One of the things we did not talk
2 about or touch on yet -- you mentioned it in your or in
3 some of your comments -- was the whole business about drug
4 treatment.

5 As you saw, riding up Green Mount, we have a terrible
6 problem with the street-level dealing and a number of
7 addicts. But we have -- we estimate in our city of
8 750,000 people that we have 48,000 heroin and/or cocaine
9 addicts, 48,000 hard-core addicts.

10 We only have 5,300 drug treatment slots available on
11 any given day. One of the things that we hope will occur
12 as this Crime Bill is passed and in conjunction with the
13 recently announced drug control strategy that the
14 President and Dr. Brown and yourself announced, is that
15 that will increase the number of slots available for
16 treatment, because we are absolutely convinced, after
17 following this public health model that Reverend Prentice
18 and Reverend Tuggle were talking about, that if we had all
19 of this community policing effort and then the
20 neighborhood revitalization effort and a strong effort on
21 drug treatment and prevention, that we would have a
22 dramatic effect on levels of crime in our community.

23 So we sent the President a note about the possibility
24 of getting -- focusing in on our city to try to, at least,
25 get about 10,000 additional treatment slots for Baltimore.

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1 in order to demonstrate clearly to the country that
2 treatment does work. Good treatment programs are
3 available.

4 And the one thing that you will not find here is that
5 people are saying, you know, "Not in my back yard."

6 I mean, folks are just strangled by drugs now. And
7 people are willing to work with us to locate treatment
8 facilities in appropriate places.

9 And I think that that is -- that is the sense that I
10 get, that if we had that treatment along with all of these
11 other great things, that you would really see a dramatic
12 reduction in crime.

13 Attorney General Reno: I was going to address that
14 point with Mr. Redd, because when you look at what police
15 have to do, it does not do any good for the police
16 officers to arrest somebody, see them sent to jail, and
17 have them come back to the community without treatment,
18 without job training, and without the programs necessary
19 to make a difference.

20 The Crime Bill includes provision for drug courts who
21 can focus on these offenders and start breaking that cycle
22 of drug abuse and the crime that goes with it.

23 I have seen that program work in Dade County
24 firsthand. It has been evaluated. It can make a
25 difference.

1 And we have got to get that Crime Bill passed so we
2 can get monies to places like Baltimore that can make a
3 difference.

4 This past Monday, I was in New York looking at the
5 after-care program of a boot camp, rather than just
6 picking an offender up off of the street.

7 If Commissioner Frazier's community police officers
8 arrest somebody for a crime and he gets sent to prison, it
9 does no good to bring him back to East Baltimore without
10 job training and placement.

11 It does no good to bring him back to the streets
12 without a support system with the ministers, with everyone
13 else, with a job developer.

14 There is so much that we can do if we use common
15 sense and hold people accountable. Let them know that
16 they are going to be punished, that they are going to be
17 arrested.

18 But the Crime Bill provides a good balance, in that
19 it focuses on both sides. Part of that whole initiative
20 is the whole treatment orientation.

21 Mayor Schmoke: Yes.

22 Attorney General Reno: And Director Brown has done a
23 remarkable job of focusing on the hard-core offender, the
24 person who is most at risk, and designing programs through
25 his initiative that, I think can make a significant

1 difference.

2 Mayor Schmoke: Yes.

3 And, Ms Farmer, you are also over at the Clay
4 Courts.

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1 STATEMENT OF SHIRLEY FARMER, SECRETARY, CLAY COURT

2 APARTMENTS

3 Ms. Farmer: Yes. I am the secretary from Clay
4 Courts community. I think Clay Courts -- the community
5 policing have done a wonderful job.

6 But also, I agree with Ms Thorton that we need to
7 extend the hours longer, because it seems like the crimes
8 have been mostly at night. Okay. There have been a lot
9 of crimes happening now around our community.

10 And also, I think that we need some funds for more
11 lighting, because it is really dark around there. And the
12 children are scared to come out. And also the grown-ups
13 are scared to come out.

14 Another thing, I think that we need to put up some
15 doors around our apartment where -- because a lot of our
16 mailboxes have been broken into. And people's mail has
17 been gotten -- is missing.

18 Another thing, I think we need funds for -- to help
19 the parents that are not working to fill out applications,
20 to learn how to fill out applications, to learn how to
21 write resumes, get jobs.

22 Mayor Schmoke: Do they get that kind of service at
23 your office that you set up?

24 Ms. Farmer: They --

25 Mayor Schmoke: I mean, are they coming in to ask for

1 those kinds of services?

2 Ms. Farmer: They are coming in. Yes, they are.

3 Mayor Schmoke: Okay. Great.

4 Ms. Farmer: Yes.

5 Mayor Schmoke: Ms. Daniel, do you want to comment on
6 Hopkins' role here?

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1 STATEMENT OF COLENE DANIEL, THE JOHNS HOPKINS HEALTH
2 SYSTEM

3 Ms. Daniel: As members of the community -- and we
4 truly believe that -- Hopkins believes that we also have
5 to focus on what we do best .

6 Our mission says that we are to give health care in
7 East Baltimore. In addition to that, many of our
8 employees who work in the medical center live in East
9 Baltimore.

10 And they also told us about the problems with crime
11 and having to get their children to school safely. We
12 felt that it was necessary to give or to lend our support
13 both in funds, as well as in education and training, which
14 we do.

15 We train the community service officers. We provide
16 health care, counseling. We are looking at crime
17 prevention, counseling for children. And we are also
18 looking at school-based programs.

19 We decided that we had to do what we do best, which
20 is health care. And in doing that, we then became the
21 base and substance to do that, both with our principals in
22 the school districts.

23 We work very closely with the police officers. I
24 think Major Winkler and I are always in contact. And that
25 is how we decided to be part of this whole partnership

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1 operation.

2 Mayor Schmoke: Well, let me, just for a moment,
3 introduce Monique Williams who is a student in our
4 Garrison Middle School.

5 We have been working hard on a safe school initiative
6 throughout our schools to make sure that -- we have to
7 have a safe environment in order to have a good
8 educational environment. So we had a poster contest as a
9 part of this initiative.

10 And, I guess -- Monique, do you want to talk about
11 it?

12 [Pause.]

13 Mayor Schmoke: I will hold the mike.
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1 STATEMENT OF MONIQUE WILLIAMS, STUDENT, GARRISON MIDDLE
2 SCHOOL

3 Ms. Williams: Okay. It was a picture about gun
4 violence and two races uniting.

5 Mayor Schmoke: Did you win this?

6 Ms. Williams: Yes.

7 Mayor Schmoke: And you were the winner.

8 Ms. Williams: Yes.

9 Mayor Schmoke: And we would like to give you one of
10 these and get you to autograph one that we could take back
11 to the school. (Indicating)

12 Attorney General Reno: Look at this, everybody.
13 (Indicating)

14 [Applause.]

15 Attorney General Reno: Monique, thank you so very
16 much.

17 [Pause.]

18 Attorney General Reno: Should I just autograph it
19 for Monique?

20 Mayor Schmoke: Yes. It is to Monique. Right.

21 Attorney General Reno: Okay.

22 Mayor Schmoke: Yes.

23 Attorney General Reno: All right.

24 [Pause.]

25 Attorney General Reno: And what is your last name,

1 Monique?

2 Ms. Williams: Williams.

3 Attorney General Reno: Okay.

4 [Pause.]

5 Attorney General Reno: Thank you very, very much.

6 Ms. Williams: You are welcome.

7 Attorney General Reno: This is wonderful.

8 (Indicating)

9 Mayor Schmoke: And I wanted to also give an
10 opportunity to -- our city councilman for this district,
11 Carl Stokes, had a few comments also on this matter.

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1 STATEMENT OF CARL STOKES, CITY COUNCILMAN

2 Mr. Stokes: Hi. Good afternoon.

3 Thank you for coming, Senator. How are you?

4 Senator Mikulski: Fine.

5 Mr. Stokes: I just wanted to come and just say that
6 when we talk about the partnerships, I do not see the
7 judiciary here this afternoon.

8 And that is something that the community has been
9 very upset about, to be quite honest and quite frank.
10 When our prosecutors and our police do a great job, most
11 of the time in terms of the criminal element out here,
12 there are decisions that are being made for the community
13 outside of the community about who should come back and
14 how often they should return to our communities.

15 When the police oftentimes remove folks after the
16 community, after the citizens have said over and over
17 again, "Here are the bad guys. Here are the people that
18 are causing all of the problems in our community. Take
19 them out of our community," and then someone makes a
20 decision, "Well, either there is no room in the jail," or
21 "They are not so violent. They are not so" -- and they
22 send folks back out.

23 It becomes very frustrating, not only for the police
24 department but also for the community.

25 And not only that, but it becomes a matter of fear

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1 for the citizens, because they, time and again, will call
2 myself or the Commander and say, "Here are the bad guys
3 I will risk telling you who they are. Take them out of
4 the community."

5 They go out of the community for half a day. And
6 they are back in the community that night.

7 And they are saying to Mrs Smith, "I know you told
8 on me."

9 That is a major problem also. So we need some
10 assistance with that side of it. Yet, we do want to help
11 our brothers and sisters who are sick.

12 But we also need to take those folks out of our
13 community who are causing the problems, and not be told
14 constantly that, "These people are not quite that bad."

15 So I wanted to make that statement. Thank you.

16 Attorney General Reno: Let me --

17 Mr Stokes: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

18 Attorney General Reno: Let me tell you what we did,
19 because we had a similar experience like that at home.
20 And with a community policing initiative, working with
21 ministers in the community, community leaders, health care
22 leaders and, interestingly enough, another institution of
23 higher education, Miami Dade Community College.

24 People said, "We will go with the police to the
25 courts to let the Court know what this person has done to

1 our community."

2 And it did not take long -- when the police officer
3 went up to the juvenile court or to the adult court and
4 the ministers were with them, and they said, "Look. We
5 are not being too harsh. This is what this person has
6 done to our community," then the judges began to
7 understand who was really the problem.

8 And it was just exciting to see this partnership, the
9 partnership that we are talking about, represented by
10 these. (Indicating)

11 I just think this poster is wonderful, Monique.
12 (Indicating) I thank you very much.

13 I think we can really make a difference. But we have
14 got to reach out and include people. And you have done it
15 here.

16 But I would like to share some information. And I
17 think it is so important, because we owe Monique and the
18 young people of Baltimore and of America a very special
19 effort.

20 Much of violence involves the neighborhood, the
21 street. I saw a little girl recently who had been the
22 victim of a drive-by shooting. And she was sitting on her
23 sofa in her living room. She was a very brave little
24 girl. And she was going to be okay.

25 I have prosecuted people like that at home. We can

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1 do so much if we work together to understand that many of
2 these shootings arise between acquaintances.

3 They arise, not out of a felony, but out of an
4 alcohol-involved situation. They involve disputes between
5 friends. And people start fussing at each other. But
6 most of all, they involve guns.

7 And we have got to teach the children of America, and
8 all of us, that we can resolve our disputes without guns.
9 We have got to get guns out of the community, out of the
10 hands of people who do not belong to have them.

11 And I think Monique has sent the best message of all
12 We have got to work together to do this.

13 [Applause.]

14 Mayor Schmoke: We want to take any questions from
15 the press and --

16 Attorney General Reno: Well, could I --

17 Mayor Schmoke: Yes. I am sorry.

18 Attorney General Reno: Before the press --

19 Mayor Schmoke: Yes.

20 Attorney General Reno: That is not quite right. We
21 have community --

22 Mayor Schmoke: I was looking.

23 [Laughter.]

24 Mayor Schmoke. I saw the councilman raise his hand.

25 [Laughter.]

1 Mayor Schmoke: Come on. Have a seat. (Indicating)

2 Do you want to identify yourself? I will take this

3 down so it does not confuse you. (Indicating)

4 [Laughter.]

5 Mayor Schmoke: Okay.

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1 STATEMENT OF SYLVIA FORD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EAST

2 BALTIMORE MIDWAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

3 Ms. Ford: Good afternoon.

4 My name is Sylvia Ford. And I am the executive
5 director of East Baltimore Midway Community Development
6 Corporation.

7 First of all, I would like to welcome all of the
8 distinguished guests to our community, which is known as
9 East Baltimore Midway Barkley.

10 You have gotten to see the community as it exists.
11 You have seen the problems that we have faced, that we are
12 faced with on a day-to-day basis. They will not go away.

13 We are glad that we have the partnerships with PULSE,
14 CURE, and with the Eastern District Police Department.

15 We would like to say that any support, any efforts
16 that you can bring into our community to assist with the
17 problems that we are having with the children -- we look
18 at -- the approach that we need to take from the
19 community's perspective is providing something for the
20 children to do when they get out of school, extending the
21 hours at our recreation centers, making the children more
22 comfortable with the police department.

23 We have programs where the police officers work with
24 our children. But we feel that it needs to be extended,
25 because the trust needs to start with the children in day.

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1 care, in elementary school, and going beyond, because a
2 lot of times that could be a deterrent when they realize
3 that the police officers are just as human as they are.

4 I would like -- and once again, I would like to
5 welcome you to our community. And please, provide us with
6 any assistance that you can.

7 Attorney General Reno: I think this is, again, an
8 example of why it is so important that we stop talking
9 about it and just get that bill passed, because it is that
10 community policing initiative where you have enough police
11 officers so that they can be real people, real people to
12 adults, real people to children.

13 That begins the trust again that is so important.

14 And I thank you for underscoring that.

15 Ms. Ford: Thank you.

16 Mayor Schmoke: Great.

17 Ms. Mosley, would you also like to comment?
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1 STATEMENT OF JESSIE MOSLEY, PRESIDENT, EAST BALTIMORE

2 MIDWAY BARKLEY COMMUNITY

3 Ms. Mosley: Good afternoon.

4 My name is Jessie Mosley. I am president of the East
5 Baltimore Midway Barkley Community. And we welcome
6 everybody here today. And we hope that when you come back
7 again things will have changed.

8 First of all, I would like to thank Samuel Redd for
9 the program for IM-PULSE, PULSE for the men, IM-PULSE for
10 the women.

11 [Laughter.]

12 Ms. Mosley: So we are volunteers who try to do what
13 we can as block watchers. And we look out for our
14 neighbors and our kids. We try to keep them off of the
15 corners.

16 But best of all, what we do is we go out and we ask
17 the Lord to just save us, keep us. And we will try to do
18 the best we can.

19 We have with us Mr. Ernest Graham. And he is the
20 person who will tell you about PULSE.

21 Thank you very much.

22 Mayor Schmoke: Thank you.

23 [Applause.]

24 Mayor Schmoke: All right. We have one more, and
25 then you can -- then you can wrap it up.

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1 STATEMENT OF GLORIA GREEN, EAST SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD
2 ASSOCIATION

3 Ms. Green: Good evening.

4 My name is Gloria Green. I am from the East Side
5 Neighborhood Association. I am the co-chairperson of the
6 Eastern District.

7 I would like to say welcome. Commissioner, welcome.

8 Commissioner Frazier: Thank you.

9 Ms. Green: I would like to say one thing that Mr
10 Stokes was saying. Our policemen are working their butts
11 off. But once they put the people in the -- you know, put
12 them in jail or lock-up or whatever, they are back on the
13 street.

14 And I had an incident like that in my community. One
15 of the policemen locked up a drug pusher. And within 24
16 hours, he was back on the street. This is disturbing,
17 very disturbing.

18 The young man walked up to the policeman and told
19 him, "Ha, you thought you were doing something. You can't
20 do nothing with me."

21 That really tells the police that, "Look, I am
22 getting tired of this. There is nothing I can do. You
23 have to do it."

24 Now, we are asking for help. Federal people, please
25 give us some money to get some more policemen. We need

1 some more policemen on the street. We need policemen
2 today, not tomorrow.

3 Attorney General Reno: We also need, to go with the
4 policemen, other provisions that are in that Crime Bill,
5 the provision for taking the drug dealer who is also the
6 drug abuser and getting him treatment so that you break
7 that cycle.

8 Ms. Green: Yes.

9 Attorney General Reno: We need to be able to build
10 more prisons. I do not care how you cut it. There are
11 those people that need to be put away and kept away. We
12 have got to ensure certainty of punishment.

13 And it is people like you just described who thumb
14 their noses at police that are breaking the system down.
15 If they learn that we mean what we say, we are going to be
16 able to do a lot more in terms of crime prevention.

17 I think the Crime Bill is a balanced approach. I
18 think it provides both aspects. It is not going to be the
19 only answer. It will not solve all of your problems.
20 I am not here to promise you that.

21 But I think it can be essential in terms of building
22 a partnership with local law enforcement so that
23 prosecutors work together, police work together, teachers
24 and police and community activists and citizens work
25 together.

1 And the greatest single ingredient is the fact that
2 you all are willing to stand up and be counted in taking
3 your community back. That is going to be the ultimate
4 answer.

5 Mayor Schmoke: Mr. Graham.

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1 STATEMENT OF ERNEST GRAHAM, PULSE

2 Mr. Graham: Yes. As a -- I want to welcome
3 everybody, too.

4 As a PULSE volunteer in the community, it makes me
5 feel real proud to go out in the community and inform
6 people in the community of things that we, as PULSE
7 volunteers, are doing.

8 Any problems that we can help with, we are more than
9 glad to do that. And I think it has made a difference.

10 That is what I wanted to say.

11 Mayor Schmoke: Great. I am told that we have got to
12 wrap it up and --

13 Attorney General Reno: Well, does anybody have any
14 other questions?

15 [Laughter.]

16 Attorney General Reno: Because I do not like to come
17 to communities and do all of the talking.

18 [Laughter.]

19 Attorney General Reno: Okay. Thank you all.

20 Mayor Schmoke: Good.

21 Attorney General Reno: Thank you very much.

22 Mayor Schmoke: Thank you all very much for being
23 here today. Great.

24 [Applause.]

25 (Whereupon, at 1:20 p m , the round-table discussion

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1 was concluded.)

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