

ROUGH TRANSCRIPT

Attorney General Lynch's Visit to Chase Elementary School

May 19, 2015

ATTORNEY GENERAL LYNCH: The first stop in what I am calling a Community Policing Tour. We are looking to highlight work being done in the community by community leaders, educators and law enforcement alike – to really take the principals from the 21st Century Program and adopt them. What's important about Cincinnati is that their work really predates all of that. This is a city, like so many cities that had challenges but decided to come out of it a better and stronger place and decided to focus on community strength, community empowerment and really building that positive relationship between the police department and the community starting with schools and starting with children.

So this program is one of the ones we consider to be a leader in the efforts to bring policing to the 21st century. And really it's from people who were here, who saw the need, and created this on their own – so we are trying to highlight those positive interactions also.

QUESTIONER: What you saw in there obviously was about more than the game Jeopardy.

LYNCH: Surely, surely

QUESTIONER: Especially when you saw how many wanted to be a police officer. But how did you see what you saw in the third grade? What are your thoughts on that?

LYNCH: Well, what I saw were children being engaged, children learning, children finding that learning can be fun, children learning about senses – about the world around them -- at an age where, I think educators will tell you, it is really crucial that we not lose our children and they not fall out of the educational system and that they develop that love for learning. But I also saw children who were aware of the larger community around them and had a very good sense of what law enforcement does – law enforcement at its best because they are seeing law enforcement at best. So in their interactions in the future they will have that context into which to put them as well as law enforcement will have those interactions into which to put them.

QUESTIONER: How important is that positive interaction between police and the community outside of the law enforcement responsibilities they have?

LYNCH: Police have so many responsibilities that go so far beyond law enforcement. I think the kids actually recognize that when they talked about how police officers make a difference and how they're peacemakers because often times the police are the only things of government that many of our communities see. So they really are entrusted with carrying a lot of messages with them. And it's important that those messages be taught in the schools and children understand that and also that people have an understanding on what government can and can't do for them. You know every city is going to have its issues. Every city is going to have its challenges. Every city is going to have its problems. This is not to say that there's going to be a perfect place. But there are places that are working on creating that positive context so that when

things do happen, people understand the perspectives of all the various sides of the debate. And Cincinnati is one of those places.

QUESTIONER: I was just going to say that grant money is available for...what do we need Chief? Body cameras.

LYNCH: Well we recently just announced a \$20 million grant program for body cameras. Law enforcement agencies can apply for this money in this year for 2015. And we're hoping that many jurisdictions do. We're also looking to work with our local law enforcement partners on the best way to use body cameras because the police who are on the ground, who are sharing with us the issues that have to be worked out together, for example like how to store the information and how to best record things to protect citizens and also preserve privacy. So we look at local law enforcement as very much a partner in that exercise.

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