

Thiemann, Robyn (ODAG)

From: Thiemann, Robyn (ODAG)
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2018 11:14 AM
To: Williams, Beth A (OLP); Champoux, Mark (OLP)
Cc: Terwilliger, Zachary (ODAG); Hur, Robert (ODAG)
Subject: School Safety materials
Attachments: Obama Admin post-Newtown plan.pdf; Obama Admin post-Newtown Executive Actions.pdf; Obama Admin Progress Report.pdf; Report to POTUS on Va Tech Tragedy.pdf.docx; Secret Service Safe Schools Initiative.wpd.docx; Rack Up - DOJ implementation (10-5) (BJA, NICS, BJS).doc; Hearing prep - DOJ Response to VATech(mlb).doc; Publication Guide for OAG.wpd.docx; List of Publications and Courses - school shooting - final.wpd.docx

Beth, Mark –

Please see attached for some documents relevant to the school safety issue. There are two separate sets of materials:

(1) Documents describing the efforts undertaken by the last Administration after the Newtown tragedy. Most relevant to your task, these materials describe efforts in the area of school safety and mental health. You can also find archived information here: <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/node/193271>

(2) Documents from the Bush era, when we pulled together a joint DOJ-Ed-HHS report post VA Tech. These materials also address school safety and mental health. NOTE that my computer was unable to access pdfs from this era, so I had to convert documents to word. As a result, some are not pretty. I am sending a variety of documents from this era, including status reports on implementation, lists of publications, descriptions of programs, etc., in case you determine that similar efforts are worthwhile now.

I don't know if there are many concrete ideas in these reports that have not been acted upon, but I think you'll find that the foundational concepts are the same now as they were then. One thing I'd like to raise: post-Newtown, one of the things that we found was severely lacking was mental health support for the victims' families, particularly with respect to psychiatrists that could medically help address some of the immediate trauma. I know this is not in the Department's lane, but I'd be happy to share my thoughts in case it is useful in conversations with HHS, for example.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance.
RT

Robyn L. Thiemann
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Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)

From: Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA)
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2019 4:15 PM
To: Jerusalem, Sheila (OJP)
Subject: RE: Media Request for Comment, NIJ Funding for Smart Gun Development

Concur! Thanks Sheila

From: Jerusalem, Sheila (OJP) <Sheila.Jerusalem@ojp.usdoj.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2019 3:57 PM
To: Hornbuckle, Wyn (OPA) <whornbuckle@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: FW: Media Request for Comment, NIJ Funding for Smart Gun Development

Hi Wyn – I have a request regarding Smart Gun funding (NIJ). As you may know, very little is occurring with Smart Guns at this time. Since much of his questions regard funding, I recommend holding this one until our funding issues are resolved before responding to the topic. The inquiry may also take a policy turn. Thoughts? Concur? sj

From: Brian Freskos [<mailto:bfreskos@thetrace.org>]
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2019 1:24 PM
To: Jerusalem, Sheila (OJP) <Sheila.Jerusalem@ojp.usdoj.gov>
Subject: Media Request for Comment, NIJ Funding for Smart Gun Development

Hi Ms. Jerusalem,

My name is Brian Freskos and I'm a reporter with The Trace. I'm working on article about the development of guns outfitted with safety features such as fingerprint sensors and RFID tags that prevent anybody other than authorized users from firing them, otherwise known as smart guns, and I was hoping to obtain comment from NIJ on one aspect of this issue:

A 2016 report from the departments of Justice, Homeland Security, and Defense noted that since the mid-1990s, NIJ had given more than \$11 million in grants to support this technology. The same report noted that as part a federal government effort to work with private industry to identify research and development gaps between between existing smart gun technology and law enforcement specifications, NIJ had committed to considering additional smart gun-related research projects, supported with funds available in FY 2017 and beyond.

However, when I looked through NIJ's project solicitations and awards for 2017 and 2018, I didn't find any smart gun-related projects. Several sources have told me that government funding for smart gun-related projects has dried up, and they suspect that this is because smart guns remain extraordinarily controversial. With this in mind, I came up with the following questions that I was hoping NIJ would address:

Did NIJ solicit or award any smart gun-related projects in 2017 or 2018? If yes, would you please point me to the relevant project. If no, would you please explain why? Has the controversy around smart guns factored into NIJ's decision-making here?

Does NIJ plan on soliciting smart gun-related projects in the future, and if so, when, and what

will NIJ be seeking to accomplish with the project or projects?

My deadline for comment is end of day on Monday. However, please let me know if more time is needed and I will try and persuade my editors. I can be reached by phone at (b) (6)
(b) (6)

Thank you for all that you and NIJ do!

Brian

Brian Freskos

[The Trace](#)

Cell: (b) (6)

On Twitter [@BrianFreskos](#)