City of Cambridge

The Public Safety Committee conducted a public hearing on Wednesday, September 28, 1994 beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Sullivan Chamber, City Hall.

Councillor Michael A. Sullivan, Chair of the above referenced committee, convened the hearing and stated that the purpose of this date's proceedings was three-fold: 1) to review the recent crime statistics; 2) status report on the community policing initiative; and 3) implications of the Federal Crime Bill and State Legislation vis a vis funding mechanism. Present at the hearing were: City Manager Robert W. Healy, Police Commissioner Perry L. Anderson, Jr., Superintendent Walter L. Boyle, Deputy Superintendents Michael D. Giacoppa and David J. DeGou, Police Planner Raymond T. Santilli, Officer Frederic Riley, Jr. and Deputy City Clerk John E. Flynn.

To begin the discussion Councillor Sullivan recognized the City Manager for a summary of the implications of the Federal Crime Bill on the City of Cambridge.

The City Manager noted that the federal legislation is a multi-faceted one, spread over a series of years. He stated that it calls for the addition of 100,000 police officers throughout the country or 2,000 officers per state. He further rated that 50% of the policing monies is allocated for those cities with a population of 150,000 or more. He also cautioned that the legislation is not to be all and end all with the financing piece for localities to be as follows:

YEAR	LOCAL PERCENTAGE
1	25%
2	50%
3	75%
4	100%

The City Manager suggested that for discussion purposes the Committee should assume six additional police officers would be added to the ranks due to the crime bill. He further stated that at present the Justice Department has not completed all the new regulations or designed the new forms that will better assist cities and towns in competing for various programmatic monies authorized by this legislation.

He also noted that various city departments such as Human Services, Police, Hospital and Community Development have been successful in the past in securing federal dollars and he feels that they will be successful again in the future.

Councillor Sullivan inquired of the City Manager if the City was actively pursuing state community policing funds such as the Safe Seniors Corridors to augment the city's initiative.

The City Manager again responded in the affirmative noting that the Cambridge Housing Authority is interested in working with the City.

Councillor Sullivan then inquired if the city would be competing for monies contained in the Governor and Attorney General's community policing initiative.

The City Manager again responded in the affirmative noting that the City will actively compete.

Commissioner Anderson further stated that the Cambridge Police Department will be actively exploring partnership with other governmental agencies and that the department will actively compete for federal and state community policing funds.

The City Manager also noted that Commissioner Anderson was invited and present at the White House signing ceremony.

Councillor Sullivan then inquired of the status of the department's communication applications and capabilities.

The City Manager in response stated that the City is currently proceeding with the enhanced 911 and Computer Assisted Dispatch System. The Police Commissioner in a follow-up stated that the City has increased its technology in a very short period of time.

At this time Councillor Sullivan steered the discussion to the next agenda item - status report on the Community Policing Initiative.

Commissioner Anderson stated that at present that the department feels very good about its efforts in this area. He noted that grant funded positions have allowed for an augmentation of staff.

Mr. Santilli stated that the department has begun to identify and compete for various grants both public and private in this initiative. He stated that a goal of $400,000 for FY 95 has been established and to date $410,000 had been awarded to allow for a two-pronged community policing program. (A breakdown is as follows: $140,000 - continuation of initiatives in Areas 4 thru 7 and $240,000 for neighborhoods 8 thru 13.)

At this time Officer Riley provided with a historical synopsis and FY95 continuation and designation of the departments Community Policing Budget. (A copy is attached)

Councillor Sullivan inquired if the department has initiated a selective enforcement program with regards to truck traffic.

In response, the Commissioner stated that the Department has focused attention on this area and that enforcement is being done on River Street and in Central Square it will be continued.

Mr. Santilli stated the department will be purchasing two additional motorcycles for use by the night shift in this effort.

Councillor Sullivan inquired of the target date for the placement and establishment of the North Cambridge Substation.

The Commissioner stated that the department is actively looking for a location and pursuing grant funding for this substation.

Councillor Sullivan then steered the discussion to the final agenda item - review of the crime statistics.

Commissioner Anderson stated that a review of the statistics shows that offenses for rape and robbery had increased significant for the period.

Deputy Superintendent Giacoppo stated that of the reported 25 rapes that 22 were classified as sexual assault with 20 under case identification and 2 unsolved.

Councillor Sullivan inquired if any of the 22 assaults were DSS cases.

In response Deputy Superintendent Giacoppo stated 4-5 cases were DSS, 2 were child and 10 were date rapes. He stated that there was no pattern type rapists and that they appear to be isolated cases and occurred throughout the City.

Councillor Sullivan then inquired of the composition of the robbery statistics.

Deputy Superintendent Giacoppo in response stated that there were very few commercial cases and mostly they were street incidents. He called robbery a crime of speed and stealth were few are planned and many are injury free.

Deputy Superintendent DeGou added that robberies where victims know their assailant is on the rise as well as bicycle and drug related thefts.

Councillor Sullivan inquired if the Bike Unit was having an effect in this area.

Commissioner Anderson responded in the affirmative noting the officers high visibility.

In concluding the hearing the Chair requested the department to review its categorization of rape and thanked those who attended.

The hearing adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

For the Committee

Councillor Michael A. Sullivan

Councillor Michael A. Sullivan
Chair

Cambridge Police Department
Community Policing Budget
F.Y. 1995

Historical Synopsis:

Last year, the Police Department made a first year application to the Executive Office of Public Safety for grant funding under the Community Policing Program. Our target for initial funding was the four neighborhoods of Central Square (4,5,6, and 7). We received funding in the amount of $140,240. Under the first year of funding, the department was able to achieve the following goals:

- Training of department personnel in the "philosophy" of Community Oriented Policing. Officers from Baltimore County, MD conducted a four day seminar for selected Cambridge Officers. In addition, all officers were required to attend a four hour introductory training conducted by Community Research Associates of Nashville, TN. CRA is a nationally recognized training organization who's services were obtained through the Bureau of Justice Assistance, a branch of the National Institute of Justice. The trainings were conducted by police personnel from departments across the country which have embraced the tenets of Community Oriented Policing. Community members and city agency heads were also invited to attended similar trainings conducted by CRA.

- Creation of a Leadership Council made up of representatives from community groups, city officials, clergy, and business people from across the city. They will meet on a regular basis to discuss issues of concern and formulate a vision for the future direction of the department.

- Hired a Neighborhoods of Central Square Coordinator (Vicky Boulrice) to work as a liaison between the Police Department and community groups. Ms. Boulrice was hired with grant funds and is actively working to establish the Leadership Council and make contacts with the community.

- Assigned officers to walking routes in areas identified as "hot spots" based upon calls for service and community concerns. Extra coverage was assigned to the Hoyt Field/Western Ave. area, Linnear Park/Russell Field, and Columbia Terrace on a regular basis. Other locations were staffed as needed.

- Obtained a personal computer and printer using grant funds to facilitate mailings and to create databases for the Community Policing Unit.
- We are currently designing a format for conducting validated surveys of public perceptions of police service. Surveys will be employed as yardsticks of public satisfaction with the Police Department.

Continuation Funding - FY 1995 Budget

Our request for continuation funding expands the scope of the department's efforts to include all seven neighborhoods which make up the eastern half of the city (neighborhoods 1 through 7). Continuation funding was level at $140,240. Planned budget expenditures include the following:

- Training: $20,000 is budgeted to provide for continued training of department personnel. Two planned trainings include "Supervising in a Community Policing Environment" and a site visit to Baltimore County, MD to see that department's program first hand.
- Personnel: $33,000 is budgeted for three part-time positions. In addition to the existing Neighborhoods of Central Square Coordinator, we propose to add an Elderly Assistance Coordinator to work with the Housing Authority and a Youth Outreach worker to be assigned to Positive Edge or similar effort.
- Overtime: $62,500 is budgeted for training, community meetings and events, and for patrol and/or investigative overtime in response to neighborhood concerns.
- Supplies & Operating Expenses: $10,000 is budgeted for advertising community events, printing expenses, block parties or other related expenses.
- Communication Equipment: $2,500 is budgeted for monthly expenses for pagers, cellular phones and interpelative services.
- Equipment: $12,000 is budgeted for additional computer equipment, including p.c.s, printers, and software.

Designated Cities Funding - FY 1995

In addition to continuation funding, a pool of funds was set aside by the legislature for competition between 17 "Designated" cities and towns. The department was awarded $240,603 from this program. Expenditures under this aspect of the Community Policing budget would provide for department wide improvements such as computerization and training, and a larger pool of overtime funds to expand COP efforts to all neighborhoods of the city. The budget would break down as follows:

- Training: $25,000 is budgeted to provide training to department personnel in computer operation. In addition, specific, specialized COP training opportunities which are identified during the year will be utilized.

- Overtime: $100,000 is budgeted for overtime for training, community meetings and events, directed problem oriented patrols, and narcotics investigations.

- Supplies & Operating Expenses: $7,353 is budgeted for advertising community events, printing, postage, block parties and related expenses.

- Communication Equipment: $1,500 is budgeted for pagers, cellular phones, and interpelative services.

- Equipment: $30,000 is budgeted for computer hardware and software for department wide applications including Front Desk, Traffic, Investigations, Property/Evidence, and other applications identified which will enhance the department's ability to gather, analyze, and disseminate information to officers and the public.
- $34,000 is budgeted for surveillance equipment for use by Vice/Narcotics and Investigations personnel.
- $20,000 is budgeted for the purchase and equipping of one marked vehicle for use by the Community Policing Unit.
- $17,950 is budgeted to replace the educational robot used in the schools for presentations to school children.

- Other: $4,800 is budgeted for six department personnel to attend the "East Coast Conference on Community Policing". This annual conference is an important opportunity to meet with other practitioners of COP to trade information and gain insights into what programs are working across the country.

S-561

Committee Report #2

A communication was received from Hohn E.Flynn,
Deputy City Clerk transmitting a report from
Councillor Michael Sullivan, Chair of the
Public Safety Committee for a public hearing
held on September 28, 1994 for the purpose
of reviewing the recent crime statistics, status report and
on the community policing initiative and implications
of the Federal Crime Bill and State LEgislation
vis a vis funding mechanism.

In City COuncil December 12, 1994

Report accepted.