

THE COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICY SERVICES (COPS) IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, thank you, Chairman CONYERS for holding today's very important Markup on H.R. 1139, the Community Oriented Policy Services (COPS) Improvement Act of 2009. The COPS program was designed to help bring about fundamental changes in policing by drawing officers closer to the citizens they protect. And, in scores of communities across the nation, the COPS program did just that.

The idea of community policing is to get away from the traditional "call and response" model, in which officers run from one emergency call to the next. It involves sending officers into the streets and into the neighborhoods to build relationships with residents, identify the sources of crime problems, and solve them before they get worse. The success of the COPS approach to policing is dependent upon the relationships built between the police and the members of the communities they serve.

Since 1995, COPS has awarded more than \$10 billion to advance community policing, including grants awarded to more than 13,300 state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to fund the hiring and redeployment of nearly 117,700 officers. In addition to funding law enforcement positions, the Office of Community Policing Services has been the catalyst for innovations in community policing and broad implementation of effective law enforcement strategy. Presently, departments that employ community policing serve 87 percent of American communities.

On March 16, 2009, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder announced that the Department of Justice will be accepting applications for \$1 billion in Recovery Act Funds for the COPS program. Approximately 5,500 law enforcement officer jobs will be created or saved in law enforcement agencies across the country through funding provided by the Department of Justice.

Recently, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, H.R. 1, included \$4 billion in Department of Justice grant funding to enhance state, local, and tribal law enforcement efforts, including the hiring of new police officers, to combat violence against women, and to fight against internet crimes against children.

Similar to Edward Byrne Justice Act Grant (JAG) awards, Recovery Act funds that are authorized for COPS can also be used to hire new officers or rehire recently laid off officers, fill unfunded vacancies and help prevent scheduled layoffs within law enforcement agencies.

COPS funds are allocated directly to the local level governments and law enforcement agencies and provide a three-year period of funding.

Specifically, H.R. 1139, the "COPS Improvements Act of 2009," reinvigorates the COPS program's ability to accomplish its critical mission by establishing three grant programs: (1) the Troops-to-Cops Program, (2) the Community Prosecutors Program, and (3)

the Technology Grants Program. The Troops-to-Cops Program would fund the hiring of former members of the Armed Forces to serve as law enforcement officers in community-oriented policing, particularly in communities adversely affected by recent military base closings.

The Community Prosecutors Program would authorize the Attorney General to make grants for additional community prosecuting programs that would, for example, assign prosecutors to pursue cases from specific geographic areas and to deal with localized violent crime, among other crimes.

The Technology Grants Program would authorize the Attorney General to make grants to develop and use new technologies to assist State and local law enforcement agencies reorient some of their efforts from reacting to crime to preventing crime.

The investment in COPS through the Recovery Act although crucial is a one-time investment limited to the purpose of hiring officers. The reauthorization of COPS is necessary for the program to continue past the investment of the Recovery Act. Reauthorization is also necessary so that the COPS program can include the innovative aspects of the program as explained above.

The Houston area has made great strides in reducing crime. I am confident that with programs like COPS Houston can better combat crime.

CRIME STATISTICS

According to Houston Police Department statistics:

VIOLENT CRIMES

Violent crimes in Houston increased less than 1 percent in 2008 compared with 2007. Homicides dropped by 16 percent.

The number of homicides dropped from 353 in 2007 to 295 last year.

Sexual assaults increased more than 8 percent from 2007.

Aggravated assaults increased at 9.1 percent.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Of the 1,092 additional aggravated assault cases in 2008, more than half were reports of domestic violence.

NONVIOLENT CRIMES

Nonviolent crimes declined more than 10 percent in 2008.

Property crimes dropped by more than 10 percent.

Auto thefts decreased last year, dropping more than 21 percent to 15,214, down from 19,465 in 2007.

While Houston has made great strides in combating crime, more must be done to ensure the safety of Houstonians in their communities and their respective neighborhoods. I believe that the COPS program will be of benefit to the people of the 18th Congressional District as well as other communities in Texas and in communities around the United States.

AMENDMENT

The COPS program was designed to help bring about fundamental changes in policing by drawing officers closer to the citizens they protect. And, in scores of communities across the nation, the COPS program did just that.

The idea of community policing is to get away from the traditional "call and response" model, in which officers run from one emergency call to the next. It involves sending officers into the streets and into the neighbor-

hoods to build relationships with residents, identify the sources of crime problems, and solve them before they get worse. The success of the COPS approach to policing is dependent upon the relationships built between the police and the members of the communities they serve.

Because the success of the COPS approach to policing is dependent upon the relationships built between the police and the members of the community it served, I am offering an amendment.

H.R. 1139 requires that the Attorney General shall provide for a scientific study of the effectiveness of the programs, projects, and activities funded under this Act in reducing crime. The study is to be completed within four years of enactment of this bill.

My amendment specifically requires that:

"Such study shall include identified best practices for community policing that have demonstrated results in building and strengthening the relationships between police departments and the communities such departments serve."

The requirement that the study identify "best practices" in community policing is important because the enumeration of these best practices will serve as an unequivocal benchmark by which the successes of the COPS program can be measured.

These "best practices" would establish bright line rules to analyze community policing and the derogation of which will require retooling and adjustment of the community policing measures involved. Moreover, the Attorney General is in the best position to complete this study and certainly is in the best position to determine what constitutes "good" community policing. My amendment would support and strengthen the development of good community policing methods. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment in its entirety.

TRIBUTE TO THE DISTINGUISHED
FLYING CROSS SOCIETY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a group of individuals whose dedication and contributions to the military community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated military community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. The Distinguished Flying Cross Society (DFCS) is such a group and I wholeheartedly support their efforts to build a National Distinguished Flying Cross Memorial at the March Field Air Museum (MFAM). This monument will "perpetuate the memory of those persons who have been and those who will receive the Distinguished Flying Cross."

I am honored to represent Air Force Village West (AFVW), a "Continuing Care Retirement community" (CCRC) that is home to and also provides medical care for over 680 retired military officers, their wives and widows. All the Services are represented among the residents: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Public Health Service and NOAA.

Eighty residents of the Village, who were flyers in their active duty days, organized the Inland Empire Chapter of the Distinguished Flying Cross Society which is the primary sponsor of the memorial. These members were awarded this prestigious medal under the Act which provided the award "to any person while serving in any capacity with the Air Corps of the Army of the United States, including the National Guard and the Organized Reserves, or with the United States Navy since the 6th day of April 1917 has distinguished, or who, after the approval of this Act, distinguishes himself by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight." Among recipients are the 1st recipient of the medal Captain Charles L. Lindbergh, former President George H. W. Bush, former South Dakota Governor Joe Foss, Brig Gen. Jimmy Doolittle and the founder/organizer of the Air Force Village West retirement home, General Curtis Le May.

The memorial is a cooperative effort between the Air Force Village West Chapter, the March Field Air Museum, and the new DFCS Chapter. MFAM is located at March Air Reserve Base (MARB) which hosts the C-17As of the 792nd Air Mobility Wing (AMW) in addition to KC-135s, and C-130s. The Air National Guard also has a detachment of F-16s. The Memorial will be available to thousands of visitors each year and while viewing the static display at MFAM, visitors will be frequently treated to an operational air unit providing support to our troops in Iraq. Every year, MFAM has a front row seat to the MARB air show, which frequently features the Air Force Thunderbirds. It is a fitting place to honor the many aviators who have distinguished themselves by deeds performed in aerial flight. The monument will be topped by a model of the Loening OA-1A amphibian aircraft, which was flown on the Pan-American Goodwill Flight of 1926. The ten aviators who flew this mission were the first recipients of the Distinguished Flying Certificate from President Calvin Coolidge.

Madam Speaker, it is truly an honor to represent Air Force Village West, the Distinguished Flying Cross Society and to lend my support to the efforts to build a National Distinguished Flying Cross Memorial at the March Field Air Museum.

TRIBUTE TO MIRAH HOROWITZ

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise to share a story about my constituent, Mirah Horowitz. I have known Mirah since she was 5 years old and have watched her grow from a gregarious young girl into a dedicated public servant. She served as a Clerk on the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals; as a Clerk in the United States Supreme Court; and as a key staffer for both Senators KERRY and MENENDEZ.

Now she has found a way to serve the public by helping find dogs for families who want them. Dog rescue is often viewed through the lens of saving the lives of dogs, but this is not the only thing Mirah sees in her work . . . she is helping to enhance families and bring joy to them.

I commend Mirah on her role in founding K-9 Lifesavers and for providing the organization with the leadership it needs to become a successful endeavor.

Every dog that is rescued ends up in a loving home with a family that would otherwise be incomplete. In these tough economic times, families need a source of comfort, their children need a source of joy, and just about everyone can use a bit of loyalty and companionship.

Mirah is one of the founding partners and Executive Director of K-9 Lifesavers, an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) headquartered in Virginia. K-9 Lifesavers is a unique dog rescue. It is dedicated to rescuing dogs who face certain euthanasia in high kill shelters across the Eastern seaboard. Unlike most rescues, K-9 Lifesavers does not turn away dogs that need special medical care before they can be adopted, like heartworm positive dogs or dogs with orthopedic problems. Instead, K-9 raises the money needed to be sure the dogs are healthy on their way to adoptive homes.

How proud I am of Mirah Horowitz and all her extraordinary accomplishments. K-9 Lifesavers bears her indelible marks of compassion and caring, and we are all grateful for her leadership.

CELEBRATING DR. JAMES
DUMPSON'S 100 YEARS AND HIS
IMPRESSIVE RECORD OF PUBLIC
SERVICE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. James Dumpson, a preeminent social activist of outstanding character and a transformative life's work, who turns one hundred years of age on April 5, 2009. This public servant of notable and illustrious record—who in 1959 became the only African American Commissioner of Welfare in the country—is a quiet hero of our movement for Civil Rights and racial equality. He is a gentle man of forceful voice and conviction, agitating on behalf of children, the elderly, and the impoverished in New York for 60 years, his country for 80 years—and we are all the better for it. A modern-day Renaissance man, Dr. Dumpson's long-distinguished activism touches the fields of health, education, social justice, and academia. He is a familiar, popular, and pioneering leader in New York and in the African American community; an icon who worked tirelessly on behalf of others.

He earned a teaching certificate in 1932 from the Chaney Normal School, a B.A. degree from Temple University in 1934, an M.A. degree from Fordham University, and his Ph.D.—when he was henceforth known as "Dr. D."—from the University of Dacca in Ghana. Dumpson has throughout his life served as a teacher to others, teaching elementary school for two years as a young man, and later, beginning as a Visiting Associate Professor at Fordham University in 1957 and returning a decade later as Dean of the Graduate School of Social Work, with the faculty rank of professor. He served as a United Nations Advisor and Chief of Training in Social Welfare to the government of Pakistan in

1953, returning to Pakistan in 1971 as a consultant and receiving a fellowship there in 1977 through the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to Pakistan.

He cemented his trailblazing status by becoming Commissioner of Welfare for New York City in 1959, the only African American and social worker to serve in that post in the country. He wielded his talents and skill to assist Presidents Kennedy and Johnson as an advisor, serving on various advisory commissions, including the Parents Commission on Narcotics and Drug Abuse. He did not retire until the spritely age of 97, channeling his vigor and youthful spirit as New York City's Health Service Administrator and Chairman of the Health and Hospitals Corporation beginning in 1990, and teaching at Fordham University up until 2006.

May this Congress today note, applaud, and send its gratitude for the contributions of Dr. Dumpson, and send him warm birthday wishes.

IN MEMORY OF GURNIE C.
GUNTER, COLONEL

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with sadness that I inform the House of the death of Gurnie C. Gunter, Colonel, United States Army (Ret.) of Kansas City, Missouri.

Col. Gunter was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and graduated from Lincoln University with a B.S. Degree in Biology. In addition to his B.S. degree, Col. Gunter received both a bachelor's and master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Illinois, a master's degree in military science from the Command and General Staff College, a master's degree in business administration management from Shippensburg University, as well as graduating from the United States Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, PA.

In 1955, Col. Gunter was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. While in service, Col. Gunter served in a variety of command and staff positions including engineer instructor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and retiring as a member of the U.S. Army of Engineer Corps in 1984.

Outside of the military, Col. Gunter was an active participant in the community. He was a member of the Lincoln University board of curators, chairman of the board of the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, member of the board of the Heartland Presbyterian Center, vice president of the Swope Ridge Geriatric Center, moderator of Heartland Presbytery, chapter president of the Greater Kansas City American Red Cross, chairman of the Linwood-downtown YMCA, president of the Ivanhoe Club, chairman of the Kansas City Area Employer Support of Guard and Reserves, past president of the Midwesterners Club of Kansas City, and active member of the Presbyterian Church USA.

For his outstanding military and civic work, Col. Gunter has been honored with numerous awards, which include the Association of Metropolitan Sewer Districts Distinguished Performance Award, the American Society of Civil