

PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT SWEARING-IN  
CEREMONY  
SEPTEMBER 16, 1994

ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO:

TALKING POINTS

Today, we are witnessing the beginning of this Administration's commitment to the American people to put more police officers back on our streets to stem the tide of violence in this country.

I want to congratulate Mayor Williams and Chief Garrett for their fine work in Phoenix. They are truly committed to making neighborhood policing work in this city. I am so glad that we could be a helpful partner in their efforts.

The City of Phoenix is able to swear these officers in today because the President's successful Jobs Bill from last year included \$150 million dollars for a program to help communities hire more police officers.

Every place I travelled around the country since that program began nearly the first question I get from local officials is when will they get their new officers. This is hardly the reaction of communities that don't want Federal help to hire more officers.

Indeed, the response from around the country was overwhelming. The Department of Justice received in excess of 2700 applications from communities around the country to help hire 2023 officers.

It was a very competitive process because so many jurisdictions across this country presented such a compelling need for more officers and such good plans for deploying them to work in partnership with their communities to prevent and reduce crime. Because of this overwhelming response, we were only able to fund 1 out of every 10 applicants .

Now that the Crime Bill has passed -- thankfully due to the hard work of members of Congress such as Senator DeConcini and Representative Coppersmith -- we can go back to those deserved communities and provide the community policing funding that they need. In fact, as the President announced at the signing of the Crime Bill earlier this week, the Department of Justice will begin awarding Crime Bill

policing grants to communities in the first week of October.

I want to thank Mayor Williams and Chief Garrett for permitting me to be here today to partake in the beginning of our effort to win back our streets.