

Request for Proposal - Local Law Enforcement Police Protection

House Resolution 167 requires the Local Government Commission's Task Force on Local Law Enforcement "to conduct an investigation and prepare a report to the General Assembly concerning alternative means by which law enforcement and police protection are being or may be provided to municipalities." The investigation and subsequent report issued by the Task Force is to consider respective cost, availability, and efficiency by which law enforcement and police protection **are being or may be provided to municipalities.**

The Local Law Enforcement Task Force is currently gathering background information on the statutory authority and training requirements for various entities that are believed to possess police powers. In addition, cost associated with providing state police protection for municipalities regardless of the existence of local departments is also being accumulated. This data will enable the Task Force to examine the capabilities of offering police protection from unconventional sources such as constables, deputy sheriffs, enforcement officers of the Fish & Boat Commission and the Game Commission, probation officers, etc.

However, the keys to establishing a **need** for providing protection in areas now served by the state police are: (1) cost; (2) acceptance by the taxpayers; and (3) ability of the Commonwealth to provide incentives and assistance. In addition, it appears to be the desire to the Task Force to study the future needs of existing police departments in protecting local residents.

It is likely that an effort to determine a needs assessment will contemplate an empirical study that will utilize cross-sectional and multivariate analyses. Costs will be measured for both municipalities that have police departments and those that do not. For the former, projected future expenditures for existing police departments in terms of increased labor costs, purchase of newer technology, training expenses, and other identified variables should be measured. For the latter, in addition to these factors, establishment costs in relation to creating a police department by individual municipalities or through a regional or county approach to law enforcement should be examined. The study will be segmented by population groupings of municipalities, as well as comparing the relative wealth of communities to support such a service. In addition, the research design should include the sampling of residents throughout the population groupings and on a statewide basis (by regions of the Commonwealth) to measure the acceptability of levying increased taxes at the local level to support police services.

After projected costs are determined and levels of taxpayer support are measured, the efficiency of local police service delivery must be ascertained. Efficiency, for the purpose of this study, would be defined as providing police protection (in both municipalities with police departments and those without) to the most acceptable coverage area at the lowest projected cost, utilizing traditional and nontraditional means to provide such protection. Measurements of these variables can then be compared with data provided by the State Police on costs incurred by them in providing local police protection services.

November 19, 1997.

To: Michael Gasbarre
Asst. Director, Local Government Commission

From: Rosemary L. Gido, Ph.D.

RE: Proposal

Attached is a very preliminary proposal - the best I could pull together. Sgt. Benedict of the PA State Police just received our data request on his desk today. He is sending me a 40-50 page data summary which he prepared for the Task Force. I will review it this weekend and Mr. McNabb and I will be prepared to offer a preliminary assessment of some of the data issues at the meeting. Our goal will be to listen and try to move toward a better understanding of the appropriate methodology so that we can submit a more definitive proposal following the meeting.

**A Research Proposal Discussion for
Local Government Commission, House Resolution 167 Study
November 25, 1997**

Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Criminology Department
G-1 McElhaney Hall
Indiana PA 15705

Contact Person: Mr. Mark McNabb, Department Chair
(412) 357-2720

Study Coordinating Committee: Mr. Mark McNabb, Mr. Law Claus, Esq.
Dr. Paul McAuley, Dr. Rosemary Gido

Proposed Title: House Resolution 167: Assessing the Costs, Availability and
Efficiency of Alternative Models of Law Enforcement and
Police Protection in Pennsylvania

Proposed Study Duration: January - December 1998

Proposed Research Schedule, Tasks, and Costs:

January-May 1998 - Preliminary data review, development of - University Contribution
research design and methodology (Dr. Gido and Advanced
Policy Class)

June-August 1998 - Data Collection - \$30,000*
Prin. Investigator
Faculty Consultant
Student Research Asst.

Aug.-Decem. 1998 - Data Analysis and Report Preparation - \$10,000
Prin. Investigator
Student Research Asst.

*does not include
travel or other
expenses-methodology
yet undefined

Meeting Objectives: To more clearly define Task Force Research Questions
Offer data feedback based on preliminary review,
and suggest appropriate research design methodology.

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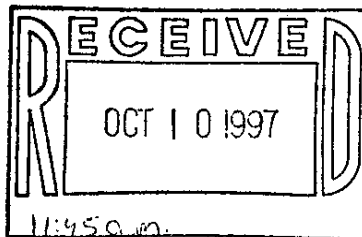
House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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ON COUNTIES
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POLICY

October 9, 1997

Mr. Michael P. Gasbarre
Assistant Director
Local Government Commission
Senate Box 203078
Main Capitol Building



Dear Mike:

Relative to the Sept. 24 HR 167 Task Force meeting and the suggestion that members submit questions to be researched by IUP or the DCED, I am particularly interested in the following points:

1. What percentage of municipal budgets are allocated to law enforcement? (I believe this question is to be addressed in the report requested of DCED and mentioned in point 6 of Sen Robbins' memorandum dated 26 September)
2. The relative wealth of municipalities that maintain police forces as measured by some comparable standard such as per capita income, household income, etc.
3. Comparisons of crime rates among communities that maintain police departments and those that do not have a police force.
4. The rates and types or severity of crime that determine whether a community should have police coverage or should increase police coverage and what determines those decisions.
5. An examination of the entire municipal pension system and the desirability of establishing a statewide municipal employees pension program similar to the School Employees Retirement Fund.

Thank you for your attention to this request, and please contact me if you have need of any further elaboration. I look forward to seeing you again at the next meeting of the Task Force if not before then.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Tangretti".

Thomas A. Tangretti
State Representative
57th Legislative Distric

TAT/jb