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ACQUISITIONS

EVALUATION OF PUBLIC INTEREST
LAW CENTER OF PHILADELPHIA

DS-76-C-4A-9-767

FINAL REPORT

Submitted to
The Governor's Justice Commission

June 30, 1978

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GOVERNOR'S JUSTICE COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
BOX 1167, HARRISBURG, PENNA. 17108

Milton J. Shapp
Governor

October 2, 1978

Thomas J. Brennan
Executive Director
(717) 787-2040
Panet 447-2040

Gerald Gornish
Attorney General

NCJR

National Criminal Justice Reference Service
Attention: Acquisition Librarian
Box 6000
Rockville, Maryland 20850

OCT 6 1978

ACQUISITIONS

Gentlemen: -

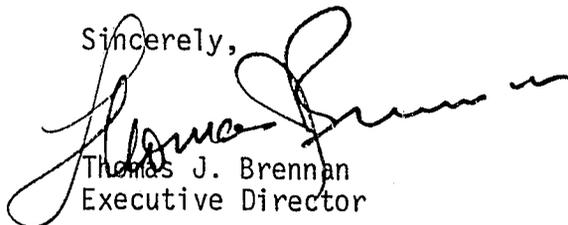
As requested, enclosed please find the Final Reports for the following Law Enforcement Assistance Administration funded projects from Pennsylvania:

- DS-76-C-9E-0202 - Warrendale Comprehensive Resources Model
- DS-77-C-007-0502 - Juvenile Justice Center Advocate Training Program
- DS-75-C-2A-9-712 - Constable Evaluation Project
- DS-76-C-4A-9-767 - Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia
- DS-74-C-F3-9-553 - Gaudenzia
- PH-76-C-5C-5-550 - Juvenile Aid Division Daylight Crime Project
- PH-75-C-5C-5-434 - Computer-Assisted Dispatching System
- SW-345-74 - Tri-City Impact Program
- 76-DF-03-0025/
76-ED-03-0021 - Philadelphia Standards and Goals Exemplary Project
- PH-77-C-012-0407 - Unified Pretrial Services Project
- SC-77-C-002-0664 - Southcentral Criminal Justice Projects Evaluation
- DS-75-C-8C-9-651 - Gannondale School for Girls
- - Allegheny County Status Offender Research Project
- - An Evaluation of the Pre-Release Programs of the State Correctional Institution at Pittsburgh

National Criminal Justice Reference Service
October 2, 1978
Page 2

If you require further assistance in this matter, please contact
Ms. Christine Fossett of the Evaluation and Monitoring Division (717) 787-1420.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Brennan", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name and title.

Thomas J. Brennan
Executive Director

Enclosures

The evaluators are in receipt of both PILCOP's response to the evaluation and the fourth-year grant narrative, and would offer the following remarks concerning each of these documents:

A. Response to Evaluation

At the meeting held in May with representatives of the Governor's Justice Commission and PILCOP, the evaluators responded to the three areas of the evaluation with which PILCOP took exception. To briefly reiterate the substance of those remarks:

- 1- The evaluators did not independently investigate the cases that were referred to the police, but simply reviewed police files of those cases. Any statements given by the police regarding the work of the Police Project were reported exactly as they were given to the assigned evaluator and, in the Refunding Report, are clearly labeled as being the opinions of the police.

The evaluators' characterizing of some cases as "trivial in the extreme" was based not upon the extent of the complainant's injuries, but rather upon the basis for liability in each case. In the opinion of the assigned evaluator, several cases did not establish a sufficient causal connection between the complainant's admittedly serious injuries and the alleged misconduct of one or more police officers.

- 2- The statements of the City Solicitor's staff that are included in the Refunding Report do not necessarily represent the opinions of the evaluators. In particular, the figures offered by that office concerning case outcomes are clearly labeled as being the opinions of that office. For example, on page 70 of the Refunding Report, the following appears: "Those interviewed claim to have lost only about 3 trials in 35-40 cases...." (emphasis added).
- 3- The use of the term "in line" with reference to a comparison of current police procedures in Philadelphia with those in other large cities was not meant as a synonym for "good" or "approved" or any other term connoting a value judgment on the part of the evaluators. It was the evaluators' intention

to point out that, whereas previous Philadelphia Police procedures for handling citizen complaints of alleged police abuse did not offer, on paper, the citizen safeguards available in other large cities, the recently adopted procedures are similar to those in other cities. In other sections of the Refunding Report, the evaluators encourage PILCOP and other groups to continue with their critical review of police procedures, and to offer amendments to the proposed Citizens' Ordinance and make recommendations to the police.

Overall, we are pleased at PILCOP's response to the evaluation and its agreement with most of the conclusions therein, as well as with its stated intention to implement the recommendations of that evaluation.

B. Grant Narrative

In its response to the Refunding Report, PILCOP agrees to the evaluators' recommendations and states that they are incorporated within its new grant. In reviewing the new grant, the evaluators find that although PILCOP reiterates its intention to follow these recommendations, the method by which they are to be implemented is never fully spelled out. The discussion regarding implementation in section 5-II-6 is too brief, and might profitably have included items such as:

- at what point a researcher will be hired
- what projects PILCOP intends to pursue in the coming grant year
- a timetable for training people in the community to screen and process police abuse complaints
- the methods and a timetable for appointing persons within PILCOP to coordinate efforts regarding information management, community work, and research

We are in agreement with the general direction taken by PILCOP in its grant narrative. However, the evaluators disagree with PILCOP's statement that "it is not possible to establish a work schedule embracing stages and phases leading to a timetable that would have any validity." Although we are not suggesting a revision of the grant narrative, we do feel that PILCOP should be prepared to address these issues more specifically before the various parties that will be

reviewing this grant application. If a more precise implementation is not articulated, PILCOP should be prepared for some legitimate hard-line questioning.

The evaluators are prepared to present any and all findings from this evaluation before the Governor's Justice Commission in Harrisburg.

END