

Frankenberg

5-6-74 memo

Mrs Reibman was at Commission

hearing and a woman spoke on

behalf of Easton project



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION

JJ-E

REGIONAL OFFICE  
970 Market Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

TELEPHONE  
215-597-9449

October 10, 1972

Mr. E. Drexel Godfrey, Jr.  
Executive Director  
Governor's Justice Commission  
Department of Justice  
P. O. Box 1167  
Federal Square Station  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108

RECEIVED  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
OCT 19 1972  
GOVERNOR'S JUSTICE  
COMMISSION  
REFERRED

Dear Drexel:

Enclosed is a Grant Adjustment Notice which documents our approval of your September 27, 1972 request to amend Pennsylvania's 1971 Comprehensive Plan for the Improvement of Criminal Justice.

At this time, I also want to provide you an insight into the substance of our review and approval of your request. Review and approval of any request to amend a comprehensive state plan is primarily addressed to the supporting rationale provided at the "program" level. In reviewing this rationale, we are principally concerned with identifying and evaluating the justification supporting the request. We are not normally interested in the specific details of individual projects affected by the request. Consequently, our approval of any amendment request is, in effect, an approval of the general rationale provided in support of the request and should not be interpreted as an approval of any projects referenced in the request.

The above explanation is important in connection with your amendment request of September 27th. Our basis for approving this request is the general rationale which you provided for increasing or decreasing each program area. Our approval does not amount to a specific approval of the Easton and Wright Township projects or the two projects you suggested would be funded under program i-1. In fact, if our review had been concerned with the specific details of the projects you referenced, we would have requested additional data before making a final decision.

Referred  
Received  
OCT 19 1972  
Governor's Justice Commission  
Department of Operations

Mr. E. Drexel Godfrey, Jr., Executive Director  
October 10, 1972

Page Two

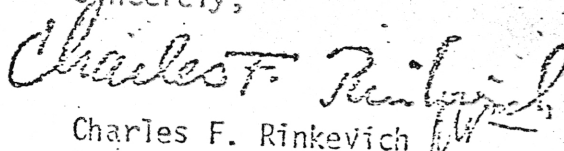
The project information provided in your justification was cursory and raised questions such as:

1. Do the Easton and Wright Township projects really effect substantial consolidation? Are there firm commitments, contracts or plans evidencing the suggested consolidation?
2. In connection with program i-1, does the project involving the unit to uphold the civil rights of minority groups really have an impact on crime reduction or the criminal justice system? Does this project satisfy the objectives of the program description?

Responsibility for insuring that projects satisfy program requirements and objectives rests with the Governor's Justice Commission.

Indeed, we urge that you carefully examine the projects mentioned above to insure their compatability with your plan, as amended, and the objectives of the Safe Streets Program.

Sincerely,



Charles F. Rinkevich  
Regional Administrator

E.

Governor's Justice Commission - 2  
May 17, 1974

City of Easton

Subgrant No. NE-104-71A/72A

*255T for  
J. R. Malley*

Amount of Federal Funds

1971 - \$300,000

1972 - \$228,094

Award Date - September 11, 1972

This was a project for the construction and equipment of a new office building for the Police Department of the City of Easton, Pennsylvania.

A check of this file reflects that subsequent to the awarding date to the grantee on September 11, 1972, a memorandum was prepared by KARL W. BOYES, Director of Operations, to E. DREXEL GODFREY, Executive Director (copy attached). This memorandum refers to the awarding of this contract and states it is Boyes' belief that it is imperative that the applicant(s) be notified immediately that although approved for funding by the Commission, actual funding cannot be forthcoming until a funding level amendment approving a change in the revised funding levels for the 1971 Comprehensive Plan is made by LEAA. Boyes comments this will require a rather massive shift of funds from other program categories to program category d-4.



The file contains a letter, dated September 27, 1972, to CHARLES RINKEVICH, Region III Administrator, LEAA, 928 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107, from E. DREXEL GODFREY, Executive Director, Governor's Justice Commission. ( Copy of letter attached to this memorandum. )

This letter sets forth a request to amend Pennsylvania's 1971 Comprehensive Plan and allocation of Federal support for specific program categories of the annual action program. The letter, on Page 7, requests a prompt reply to this amendment since two projects included in the request from Easton and Wright Township are based on bids which can be held only to October 5, 1972.

With reference to the above correspondence, THOMAS BERARD, Director of Administration, advised that this is not an uncommon request to have LEAA amend the Comprehensive Plan due to the constant readjusting of the different types of funding in the various field regions where they have not expended their funds. In order to keep from returning allotted funds by LEAA, adjustments are made with the approval of the LEAA staff.



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May 17, 1974

The file reflects a letter from Charles F. Rinkevich, Regional Administrator, LEAA, to E. Drexel Godfrey, dated October 10, 1972 (copy attached), which approved the request to amend Pennsylvania's 1971 Comprehensive Plan for the Improvement of Criminal Justice. The third paragraph on Page 1 of this letter states:

Our basis for approving this request is the general rationale which you provided for increasing or decreasing each program area. Our approval does not amount to a specific approval of the Easton and Wright Township projects or the two projects you suggested would be funded under program i-1. In fact, if our review had been concerned with the specific details of the projects you referenced, we would have requested additional data before making a final decision.

The project information provided in your justification was cursory and raised questions such as:

1. Do the Easton and Wright Township projects really effect substantial consolidation? Are there firm commitments, contracts or plans evidencing the suggested consolidation?
2. In connection with program i-1, does the project involving the unit to uphold the civil rights of minority groups really have an impact on crime reduction or the criminal justice system? Does this project satisfy the objectives of the program description?

Responsibility for insuring that projects satisfy program requirements and objectives rests with the Governor's Justice Commission.

Indeed, we urge that you carefully examine the projects mentioned above to insure their compatability with your plan, as amended, and the objectives of the Safe Streets Program.

The file also contains a letter to FRED L. ASTON, Mayor of Easton, Pennsylvania, dated October 3, 1972, from E. Drexel Godfrey, advising that, on October 2, 1972, the Governor's Justice Commission awarded the following subgrant:

Project: "Implementation of Easton's Comprehensive Plan for Law Enforcement" in the amount of \$228,094.  
( The first grant was for \$300,000.)

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May 17, 1974

The file was very carefully checked relative to any information available which might reflect any unusual activities in connection with this particular grant inasmuch as it is the type of grant referred to as "bricks and mortar," which is the explanation used in funding construction-type projects. Under the rules for such a grant to be awarded, it must be shown that the grantee will be able to render services of a consolidation type for the various police agencies in a particular area, according to THOMAS BERARD, Director of Administration.

The file contains a memorandum, date believed to be August 21, 1972, showing the staff comments concerning this project:

Although the staff appreciates the applicant's need to erect a new police facility to house its police operations, we concur with the recommendation of disapproval set forth by the Northeast Regional Planning Council. The 1971 Comprehensive Plan supports the awarding of federal dollars for construction purposes only if the construction indicates some multi-jurisdictional consolidation effort. Also, staff wishes to advise the Commission that this project has not been identified within the revised 1971 input for the 1971 Comprehensive Plan. Therefore, no money is available to support the implementation of this program.

Inasmuch as this project does not meet the specifications of the Comprehensive Plan, staff recommends project disapproval.

A request was made for a copy of the minutes of the hearing concerning the Easton grant held by the executive staff. A xerocopy of the remarks made at this hearing were obtained and are attached to this memorandum as an exhibit. The remarks include comments of various officials and State Senator Jeanette REIBMAN and resulted in the project being approved by the executive staff of the Justice Commission.

The file then shows a memorandum—similar to the one dated August 21, 1972—in which the staff recommended approval of this application and shows that the executive staff strongly concurs in recommending approval of this augmentation. It is noted that an "x" has been placed in the box to "Disapprove" by the Regional Council (Recommendation). (Copy of this memorandum is attached as an exhibit.)

From the material available in the file, it is not possible to determine that there was any unusual influence exerted in obtaining the approval of this award.

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May 17, 1974

It is noted that the file did not reflect a copy of a memorandum which was made available to the staff, dated September 5, 1972, by Karl W. Boyes to E. Drexel Godfrey, in which he set forth questions and objections that he had previously discussed with Godfrey relative to the Easton grant.

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It is recalled that when testimony was taken at a hearing held on January 25, 1974 by the Committee to Investigate the Administration of Justice, RICHARD L. THORNBURG testified relative to the fact that approximately \$2 million in projects awarded to the Allegheny Regional Council had been recalled by the Governor's Justice Commission and subsequently \$2 million in funds was awarded over in the Easton, Pennsylvania area, apparently for the Easton jail project.

While discussing the Easton award with THOMAS BERARD, a general discussion was had as to whether or not the Governor's Justice Commission, on occasion, would request various regional councils to refund money that had been allotted to them and then use these funds in other regions or, more specifically, on awards allotted by the Justice Commission executive staff.

Berard advised that each region was allotted a certain amount of funds in the various categories for different type projects. A regular check was maintained with the regions to determine the extent to which they were making use of their funds prior to the deadline date, at which time the funds would have to be returned to LEAA. He advised that if commitments had not been made for various projects, such notification would be made to the region that their funds were being reduced in order to make proper use of them in other channels throughout the state.

Berard was then questioned specifically relative to the testimony of Thornburg before this Committee relative to the \$2 million amount as set forth above. Berard immediately became somewhat incensed and stated that he felt it was only a matter of time that this matter of Thornburg and the Allegheny County Regional Council would come up. He stated that Thornburg was full of - - - - and that he could prove it without any problem.

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May 17, 1974

Berard then produced a book containing financial reports for all of the regions. He also produced a report, dated April 30, 1974 (copy attached). This report shows that the Allegheny County region - with regard to 1972 Action Monies - was allotted \$4,310,169. As of April 30, 1974, this region had committed to various projects that were underway \$3,318,187, which left a total of \$991,982 that had not been committed for some particular project. Berard said this amount was recalled to the Governor's Justice Commission headquarters for proper use. Subsequently, as reflected on the April 30, 1974 report, other awards were made in the amount of \$441,051, leaving approximately \$550,000 that was left in the Allegheny County region.

Berard advised that there was no way that Thornburg could possibly substantiate that \$2 million in various award projects had been taken away from the Allegheny County region and he would defy him to do so.

Mr. Berard explained the recalling of funds and utilizing them for other purposes by referring to a resolution that was authored by WILLIAM SENNETT and was made to the Chairman and Members of the Supervisory Board of the Governor's Justice Commission on February 4, 1972. The resolution dealt with the "Time Limit for Sub-awarding Regional Allocation of Action Funds" - copy attached.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

MEMORANDUM

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By Dale S. Thompson

Date May 29, 1974

FILE: Governor's Justice Commission

Mrs. MADELINE MATHIAS, Easton Express, 233 McCartney Street, Easton, Pennsylvania, telephone No. 215:258-7171, was telephonically contacted on May 29 and furnished the following information.

At the recent meeting in Harrisburg concerning the Governor's Justice Commission, LEAA and press relations, she questioned the role of newspapers in reporting sensational criminal acts as contrasted to reporting in depth stories about awards by LEAA and similar "more important matters." In this discussion, she used the LEAA award of approximately \$1 million to Easton for the construction of a new police department building there. She thought an expenditure of this much money for a population of 30,000 was poor judgment and did not meet the priorities of the original program to combat crime in the streets.

She said she had not really investigated this case behind the scenes and there might have been some undue pressures, however, she is not aware of anything crooked in connection with the award or expenditure. She thought an expenditure of \$1/2 million would have been more prudent and that such "gold plating," as contained in the present building, was not appropriate. She said the building has a lot of bulletproof glass in it, TV monitors of people coming into the building, and similar things. She believes the entire cost was about \$980,000, of which the greater portion was federal funds.