



United States
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

Accounting and Information
Management Division

B-281604

December 16, 1998

The Honorable Charles H. Taylor
Chairman, Subcommittee on the
District of Columbia
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives

Subject: District of Columbia: Chronology of Events Related to the
Metropolitan Police Department's Use of \$15 Million Appropriation

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Your office requested that we provide a chronology of events related to the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department's use of the \$15 million appropriation discussed in our November report.¹

To respond to your request, enclosure I provides a chronology of events from the inception of the appropriation through June 16, 1998, when the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority approved the Chief of Police's request to reprogram residual funds from completed and suspended projects.

We requested written comments on a draft of this letter from the Chief of Police and the Chairperson of the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority. The Chief of Police and the Authority agreed with the facts presented in the letter and provided us with technical suggestions, which we have incorporated as appropriate in this letter. Their comments are reprinted in enclosures II and III, respectively.

We are sending copies of this letter to the Ranking Minority Member of your Subcommittee and the Chairmen and Ranking Minority Members of the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia, Senate Committee on Appropriations; the Subcommittees on Commerce, Justice, State, and the

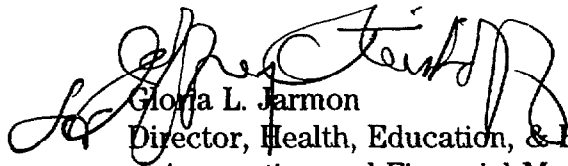
¹District of Columbia: Metropolitan Police Department's Use of \$15 Million Appropriation (GAO/AIMD-99-21, November 13, 1998).

B-281604

Judiciary, Senate and House Committees on Appropriations; Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring and the District of Columbia, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs; and Subcommittee on the District of Columbia, House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight. We are also sending copies to the Chairperson of the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department, the District Inspector General, and the Auditor of the District of Columbia. Copies will be made available to others upon request.

If you have any questions, please contact me on (202) 512-4476 or Hodge Herry, Assistant Director, on (202) 512-9469.

Sincerely yours,



Gloria L. Jarmon
Director, Health, Education, & Human Services
Accounting and Financial Management Issues

Enclosures

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS RELATED TO THE USE OF \$15 MILLION APPROPRIATION

- April 26, 1996 The Congress enacted Public Law 104-134, which earmarked \$15 million for the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) for law enforcement purposes.
- May 29, 1996 The former Chief of Police submitted a spending proposal to the House Committee on Appropriations. This plan was initially based on the results of a series of workshops held to identify and recommend solutions to critical problems confronting the District's police department.
- June 4, 1996 The District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority (Authority) established an escrow account on behalf of MPD with the \$15 million.
- June 6, 1996 The former Chief of Police submitted a copy of the spending proposal to the Senate Committee on Appropriations.
- August 7, 1996 After a review of the spending proposal and consultation with the Committee on the Judiciary, a revised spending proposal was submitted. This revised proposal removed line items for radar units, bomb disposal equipment, and the restoration of pay. Instead, it funded the renovation of prisoner holding facilities in the patrol district stations and revised departmental directives, both of which were needed to meet Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) standards.
- August 30, 1996 A revised spending plan was submitted to the House Committee on Appropriations. This revised plan allocated moneys to complete the installation of the Washington Area Criminal Information and Intelligence System (WACIIS).
- September 4, 1996 MPD consulted with the relevant congressional committees. The chairmen of the committees did not object to the allocation of the \$15 million shown in the revised spending plan.

ENCLOSURE 1

ENCLOSURE 1

September 11, 1996 MPD's Director of the Office of Finance and Budget (now the Office of the Chief Financial Officer of MPD) resigned.

September 30, 1996 MPD's Budget and Finance Division assigned funding codes in the District's financial management system (FMS), and established budget documents for spending the funds beginning October 1, 1996 (fiscal year 1997).

October 2, 1996 The former Chief of Police sent a copy of the adopted revised spending allocation to the Chairman of the Authority.

December 2, 1996 MPD submitted to the Authority for approval its first set of contracts totaling about \$745,000 for lockers, shredders, printers, and cameras.

December 9, 1996 The former Chief of Police hired a new chief financial officer (CFO) who subsequently established a "congressional project implementation team" to focus attention on procurement related to the \$15 million appropriation.

December 11, 1996 The Authority hired the consulting firm of Booz-Allen & Hamilton to conduct a management review of MPD.

February 5, 1997 The Authority expressed concern about the slow pace of procurement associated with the \$15 million grant in a letter to the former Chief of Police. On February 14, 1997, the former Chief of Police responded with a status report and a plan to complete procurement.

February 27, 1997 The Authority gave the former Chief of Police personnel and procurement authority.

April 1, 1997 MPD received 500 bulletproof vests under a contract awarded in January 1997.

April 30, 1997 A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between MPD and the General Services Administration (GSA) was signed by the former Chief of Police, the District's CFO, the Mayor, and the Deputy Administrator of GSA. The MOU established conditions under which GSA could procure supplies and nonpersonal services on behalf of MPD.

ENCLOSURE 1

ENCLOSURE 1

May 8, 1997 A solicitation for the automated reporting system project was canceled pending the rewrite of the specifications/statement of work. This was based on Booz-Allen & Hamilton recommendations to change the scope of the project.

May 14, 1997 MPD received 130 computer workstations in addition to 9 workstations delivered on May 12, 1997, to complete the contract for computers.

July 9, 1997 MPD received 130 Honda motorcycles, completing the total order of 160 awarded in April 1997.

July 10, 1997 MPD received 12 Harley Davidson motorcycles. The contract with the vendor had been approved by the Authority on April 12, 1997.

July 30, 1997 MPD received 150 patrol vehicles with equipment.

August 1, 1997 MPD received 400 additional vests funded from the \$142,000 left over after acquiring the communication console.

August 20, 1997 MPD received 34 printers for the Information Systems department. The contract had been awarded in July 1997.

September 30, 1997 The District hired a firm to perform an inventory and assist the District in developing inventory controls and warehousing procedures.

September 30, 1997 The implementation of the automated fingerprinting information system, awarded on June 23, 1997, was completed.

September 30, 1997 The MPD's CFO resigned and was replaced with an interim CFO.

October 21, 1997 Installation of the communication console was completed. The equipment had been purchased in March 1997, but installation was delayed due to electrical problems in the building.

November 21, 1997 MPD received 16 laptops and printers for the network. The contract had been awarded on August 21, 1997.

ENCLOSURE 1

ENCLOSURE 1

November 25, 1997	The former Chief of Police resigned and an interim Chief of Police was appointed.
January 4, 1998	The MOU was amended to extend the services of GSA to handle information technology (IT) projects through June 30, 1998.
April 1, 1998	MPD's interim CFO was replaced with a permanent CFO.
April 21, 1998	A new Chief of Police was appointed.
May 11, 1998	The Authority approved the contract issued through GSA to the vendor for automated reports. (GSA is the contracting agent and administrator of IT projects).
May 15, 1998	A comprehensive review of the GSA survey report on renovation of holding cells was conducted and a report with recommendations was submitted to MPD's Chief of Staff.
June 16, 1998	Residual funds of \$277,966 from completed and deferred projects were reprogrammed to purchase 187 mountain bikes and associated equipment.

COMMENTS FROM THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

DEC 10 1998

Mr. Gene L. Dodaro
Assistant Comptroller General
General Accounting Office
441 G Street, N.W., Suite 5061
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

This letter is in response to your letter dated December 2, 1998, requesting written comments on the chronology of events that you are providing in your report to the Chairman, Subcommittee on the District of Columbia, Subcommittee on Appropriations House of Representatives.

While your chronology does not list every transaction that took place including all contract awards and drawdown information, I believe your intention is to provide reasons for the delay in spending the grant funds. On September 2, 1998, the Chief Financial Officer provided a similar chronology to identify factors that caused delays in spending to include:

1. a late authorization to start spending due to changes in the spending plan;
2. lack of clarity as to how to proceed, since this grant did not conform to regular procedures; and
3. changes in management personnel and direction including changes in the Office of the Chief Financial Officer of the Metropolitan Police Department.

The changes that are needed to the chronology are listed below.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| June 4, 1996 | Please note that the date the escrow account was established by the D.C. Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority (DCFRMMA) must be verified by the DCFRMMMA. |
| December 9, 1996 | The new Chief Financial Officer hired on this date did not establish a "congressional project implementation team" on December 9, 1996, but a few weeks after the beginning of 1997. Please insert "Later" before the second sentence so that it reads:
<i>Later, the new CFO established a "congressional project implementation team" to focus attention on procurement related to the \$15 million appropriation.</i> |

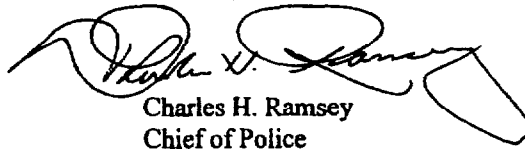
P.O. Box 1606, Washington, D.C. 20013-1606

-2-

- July 9, 1997 The 160 motorcycles are manufactured by Honda. Please insert "Honda" so that the sentence reads: *MPD received 130 Honda motorcycles completing the total order of 160 awarded in April 1997.*
- July 10, 1997 The 12 motorcycles are manufactured by Harley Davidson. Please insert "Harley Davidson" so that the sentence reads: *MPD received 12 Harley Davidson motorcycles.*
- September 30, 1997 Valuation Resource Management (VRM) was hired to perform the physical inventory and assisted the District Government in developing inventory controls and warehousing procedures. Please insert "assist the District in developing" so that the sentence reads: *The District hired a firm to perform an inventory and assist the District in developing inventory controls and warehousing procedures.*
- April 1, 1998 In addition to the CFO of MPD resigning on April 1, 1998, the hire of a new CFO of MPD was effective also on April 1, 1998.

Should you have any additional questions regarding this matter, please feel free to call me on (202) 727-4218.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Ramsey
Chief of Police

Enclosure

COMMENTS FROM THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY

District of Columbia Financial Responsibility
and Management Assistance Authority
Washington, D.C.

December 11, 1998

Mr. Gene Dodaro
General Accounting Office
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

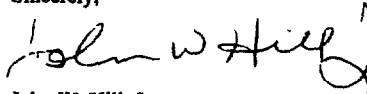
This is in response to the request of the General Accounting Office ("GAO") for the comments of the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority ("Authority") regarding the draft chronological list of events related to the expenditures made by the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department ("MPD") under a \$15 million federal appropriation.

The Authority notes that the chronology covers activities that are not directly related to the spending of the \$15 million federal grant. In addition, the chronology should note that all contracts were approved by the Authority, instead of just noting the Authority's approval of some contracts that are listed.

Finally, the chronology does not accurately cite the period when the MPD was recruiting a Chief Financial Officer. The Acting CFO for MPD did not resign on April 1, 1998. The individual that served as the Acting CFO served as the Interim CFO until a permanent CFO could be identified.

We appreciate that opportunity to provide comments on this report. If you have questions, please contact my office at (202) 504-3401.

Sincerely,



John W. Hill, Jr.
Executive Director

(916270)

Ordering Information

The first copy of each GAO report and testimony is free. Additional copies are \$2 each. Orders should be sent to the following address, accompanied by a check or money order made out to the Superintendent of Documents, when necessary. VISA and MasterCard credit cards are accepted, also. Orders for 100 or more copies to be mailed to a single address are discounted 25 percent.

Orders by mail:

**U.S. General Accounting Office
P.O. Box 37050
Washington, DC 20013**

or visit:

**Room 1100
700 4th St. NW (corner of 4th and G Sts. NW)
U.S. General Accounting Office
Washington, DC**

**Orders may also be placed by calling (202) 512-6000
or by using fax number (202) 512-6061, or TDD (202) 512-2537.**

Each day, GAO issues a list of newly available reports and testimony. To receive facsimile copies of the daily list or any list from the past 30 days, please call (202) 512-6000 using a touchtone phone. A recorded menu will provide information on how to obtain these lists.

For information on how to access GAO reports on the INTERNET, send an e-mail message with "info" in the body to:

info@www.gao.gov

or visit GAO's World Wide Web Home Page at:

http://www.gao.gov

**United States
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548-0001**

<p>Bulk Rate Postage & Fees Paid GAO Permit No. G100</p>

**Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300**

Address Correction Requested
