

Spring 1995



U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

JOHN OLVER



## Fighting Crime in our Cities and Neighborhoods

Dear Friend:

Fear of crime reaches all corners of Massachusetts. We all know that crime is no longer just a city problem, but one that also troubles families in our small and rural Berkshire towns. I supported last year's sweeping crime bill because it included preventative measures to stop crime before it starts and mandated tough punishment for those who commit crimes. As a direct result of that legislation, additional community police officers have been hired in Pittsfield, North Adams and Williamstown. Recently awarded grants will allow even more Berkshire towns to hire cops. I also amended the bill to aid victims of domestic violence.

I am sending this newsletter to update you on what Congress is doing about crime and what the impact has been locally. And, I am writing to urge you to get involved.

We have to be both smart and tough to win the fight against crime. But most importantly, we all have to work together.

*John*



*Congressman Olver joins the Pittsfield Police Department bike patrol to get a first-hand look at a community policing grant at work.*

## Anti-Crime Questionnaire

Some in Congress want to repeal or reverse several crime-fighting measures included in last year's crime bill. Please take a moment to indicate your opinion on these important issues:

1. Would you support repeal of the ban on the manufacture of certain assault-style weapons?

Yes  No

2. Would more funds for an additional police officer make your neighborhood a lot safer, a little safer, or have no impact?

a lot safer  a little safer  no impact

3. Do you believe that funds for additional police should be included in a block grant that states may use for other municipal needs or kept as direct aid to cities and towns?

direct aid  block grant

4. Some believe that federal policy should emphasize tougher punishment such as longer prison sentences. Others support more prevention measures to stop crime before it starts. Do you think Federal anti-crime policy should emphasize more punishment, more prevention or a combination?

more punishment  more prevention  combination

Please complete the questionnaire, fold, seal, stamp and mail.

Please print your return address:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please  
Place  
Stamp  
Here

U.S. Representative John Olver  
1027 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

## Let's Hear What Our Police Chiefs Say About How Community Policing Funds Will Help In Their Communities

*"We'd like to have another officer, and I don't think we'll ever get another chance ( like this grant ) to expand the school's DARE program and boost the evening shift..."*

-Lee Police Chief Ronald Glidden

*"This will allow us to intensify what we're doing with our community policing. Its another set of eyes and ears out on the street."*

-Dalton Police Chief Daniel D. Filiauit

I want to make sure that our communities have every possible advantage when competing for federal funds. Earlier this year, I brought experts from the Department of Justice to a forum in Massachusetts so that police chiefs, Mayors, and others could learn how to apply for the next round of community policing funds called COPS MORE. Applications were due in March and grant awards should be made in July.

### Forum Offers Aid On Problem Of Domestic Violence

The scourge of domestic violence continues to plague our communities. I added an amendment to the 1994 Crime Bill to provide funding for court advocates to ensure that victims of domestic violence get the protection they need. Earlier this year, I brought expert federal officials from the Department of Justice to a forum in my district to help local officials and others learn how they could access federal funds made available under the Violence Against Women Act. This Act funds a range of programs including ones for anti-stalking and educating college students about rape and violence prevention.

#### We're Here To Help!

My Berkshire County office in Pittsfield is ready to help you get the service you need from the federal government. Cindy Lynch, Debra Sondrini and Richard Delmasto can help you solve problems, locate information or simply talk to you about your opinions. Please drop by, call or write:

**Congressman John Olver**  
 Conte Federal Building  
 78 Center Street Pittsfield, MA 01201  
 (413) 442-0946

### More Cops On The Street In Berkshire County

As a result of the 1994 Crime Bill, eight Berkshire County communities won grants to beef up the number of cops they have on the beat. I worked closely with these cities and towns to get over a million dollars to pay the salaries of officers to be deployed in community policing efforts. Community policing works because it gets cops into the neighborhoods providing another set of eyes and ears that give citizens a greater sense of security.

#### Recent Grant Awards for Berkshire Police Depts.

• Dalton	\$ 75,000
• Egremont	\$ 74,475
• Lee	\$ 64,721
• Lenox	\$ 75,000
• North Adams	\$ 70,220
• Pittsfield	\$ 150,000
• Sheffield	\$ 73,350
• Williamstown	\$ 75,000

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Congress of the United States  
 House of Representatives  
 Washington, DC 20515

Official Business



*John W. Olver*

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