

COPS Office 30th Anniversary Event Video Transcript

Katherine McQuay – Senior Advisor, Communications

(00:04):

The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 introduced an innovative, unique office to the country, specifically to advance community policing and reduce crime in state, local, tribal and territorial communities. The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, better known as the COPS Office, became the first component of the U.S. Department of Justice dedicated solely to serving the needs of law enforcement, to reduce crime and maintain public safety.

Toni Morgan-Wheeler – Policy Analyst, Training and Partner Engagement Division

(00:35):

The COPS Office initial goal was simple: to put 100,000 more officers on the streets, and in so doing, to reduce crime. In addition, the office promised to offer training, technical assistance, and other resources to help support law enforcement agencies across the country and engage the community.

Deborah Spence – Assistant Director, Training and Partner Engagement Division

(00:53):

Within five years, the COPS Office fulfilled its initial pledge by awarding federal funds to support the hiring of 100,000 new officers, deputies, and troopers. To date, the COPS Office has been appropriated more than 20 billion dollars to advance community policing, including grants awarded to more than 13,000 state, local, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies to fund the hiring and redeployment of approximately 138,000 officers.

Camisha Amaker – Policy Analyst, Training and Partner Engagement Division

(01:19):

Not only does the COPS Office fund the hiring and rehiring of law enforcement professionals through direct programs like the COPS Hiring Program, but it also funds a number of other initiatives, including training, technical assistance, publications, and other resources to advance the practice of community policing and strengthening our community's public safety.

Valerie Ikechukwu – Assistant Director, Management Services Division

(01:44):

Through the years, the COPS Office has become the go-to resource for law enforcement agencies across the country and continues to listen to the field and provide the resources needed to reduce crime and build trust between law enforcement and the communities served. It is the only component in the DOJ that has policing in its name, which reinforces its stature in the department as a vital component responsible for the law enforcement portfolio.

Ebonyque Taylor – Social Science Analyst, Research and Training Assistance Division

(02:13):

Community policing has never been more important than it is today, as it supports public safety by encouraging all stakeholders to work together. It is those efforts that strengthen our nation's ability to maintaining safe and thriving communities.

Hugh T. Clements, Jr. – COPS Office Director

(02:27):

While we have accomplished a tremendous amount, there is much work that remains, and the COPS Office is excited to continue to play a critical role for law enforcement. With the tremendous support of our law enforcement stakeholders as well as our congressional support, the COPS Office continues to serve the needs of law enforcement across the country. Supporting law enforcement is our mission. We are proud of the ways we have done that and excited about what we will accomplish in the years to come. The important integral word is trust, building that foundation with partnerships and relationships in the community, all in the efforts of solving problems in our communities. There are problems in communities all across the country, and there're nuances in each community throughout this country, but it is up to the local police departments and police officers to solve problems for the people they serve.

Joseph Brann – Former COPS Office Director 1994–1999

(03:21):

I think the thing that sticks with me most of all is- was the staff. People who were just absolutely dedicated, highly professional, dedicated, responsive. The notion of customer service was paramount. What I can say is now even 30 years later, I still hear from our colleagues out there in the law enforcement community who acknowledge the work, the benefits that they derive from the COPS funding and the interactions they had with staff.

You have done a phenomenal job. Your, your accomplishments have just been tremendous across the country, and it's greatly appreciated.

Carl Peed – Former COPS Office Director 2001–2009

(03:57):

I think my best memories are twofold. I had an incredible group of employees to work with here. The other thing that was good about my tenure here was I had the continuity of leadership with great deputies that stayed my entire tenure. They were very important in providing any success that I might take credit for. And the COPS Office, because of our ability to award grants and bring people together to solve issues, we were able to bring people together to try to solve those problems throughout the country.

Bernard Melekian – Former COPS Office Director 2009–2013

(04:27):

We continually reemphasize the three principles of community policing: building relationships, solving problems, and bringing about cultural change. And I'm honored to have been part of it, and I'm honored

to have been, to have the opportunity to work, with the dedicated staff of the COPS Office. It was my honor to spend nearly four years working with the dedicated men and women of the COPS Office and the Department of Justice as a whole. It was my privilege to be there, and I wish you all the best of luck going forward, and again, congratulations on 30 years.

Ronald L. Davis – Former COPS Office Director 2013–2018

(04:59):

I remember working in the COPS Office, the first thing that stood out to me during my time there was just their tremendous capacity, professionalism, creativity, of the men and women that make up the office. The impact for 30 years is immeasurable. It is outstanding, and I look forward to you to continue to keep up the outstanding work and to help this field keep achieving higher and higher levels of community policing, community engagement, and professional law enforcement, so thank you for that and thank you ahead of time for what you're going to do for the next 30 years.

Phil Keith – Former COPS Office Director 2018–2021

(05:27):

The accomplishments that we achieved in the COPS Office is certainly a continuation of great practices, on doing research and working with the field. We funded more than 13,000 law enforcement agencies. And when you think about that, 13 out of 18,000, that's a, that's a high percentage of agencies that we have helped over the years. It's been a great ride, great 30 years, and COPS Office has done so much to change the face of law enforcement in this country, and it'll continue to do so.

Hugh T. Clements, Jr. – COPS Office Director

(05:59)

So for 30 years, 30 strong years, the COPS Office has been dedicated to advancing community policing to state, local, territorial, and tribal organizations throughout the country.

But it will always be interactions between the human element. It will always be about relationships, interactions, partnerships in solving problems in our communities and building those relationships and trust. Trust will continue to be the key word and the key portion of the work done by policing in our communities, and building those strong foundations to get the work done. And it's important work, it's an important mission that police officers play in their communities.

COPS Office Staff and Former Directors

(06:44)

Congratulations.

TRT: 07:01