

To: Edna Louise Saffy

From: Marilyn DiGiacobbe

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THE WHITE HOUSE

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**PRESIDENT CLINTON IS MAKING OUR SCHOOLS SAFE,
WORKING TOGETHER TO FIGHT YOUTH VIOLENCE**

May 17, 1996

Megan's Law. On Friday, May 17, President Clinton signed Megan's Law, requiring every state in the country to tell communities when a dangerous sexual predator enters its midst. This signing builds on the President's 1994 Crime Bill, which gave states the power to provide such information to their communities. The Administration has also filed *amicus* briefs in courts across the country in defense of that right. On Friday afternoon, the President travelled to St. Louis, Missouri to speak to high school students about making our schools safer and ending juvenile violence and drug use.

Success in the fight against crime, for the safety of all Americans:

More police. President Clinton is ahead of schedule in putting 100,000 new police onto the streets and into our communities, with 43,000 already funded.

Fewer guns on the streets. The Brady Bill has already prevented over 60,000 fugitives, felons and other criminals from buying handguns.

Reversing the trend: violent crimes, murders and robberies are all down. Violent crime fell 4 percent last year, and murders dropped by 8 percent. *It was the fourth consecutive yearly decrease in reported crime*, after five years of increase before President Clinton took office.

President Clinton is working to make schools safer and drug-free.

- * We have strengthened and expanded the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act, an investment which provides school security, drug prevention and education programs.
- * President Clinton signed a directive enforcing "zero tolerance" for schools across the country -- you bring a gun to school, you don't come back for a year.
- * President Clinton has urged schools to adopt school uniform policies that promote discipline and respect, and have proven to lead to reduced crime and drug use at schools. The Department of Education has issued a guide to aid interested schools.

President Clinton has issued four principles in waging a full-scale assault against gang-related violent crime:

- 1) Use every available tool, such as racketeering statutes, carjacking penalties, etc.
- 2) Improve cooperative efforts among state, local and federal law enforcement agencies
- 3) Involve communities and community police in anti-gang efforts
- 4) Support effective early intervention programs that help keep young people out of gangs in the first place.

- * **A national gang tracking network.** President Clinton announced funding for the first step of a National Gang Tracking Network. This computerized network will provide federal, state, local and municipal law enforcement agencies with the ability to share and exchange gang information quickly and efficiently.

President Clinton's juvenile violence/ anti-drug use legislative package. In addition to taking executive action, President Clinton has sent legislative proposals to Congress to help stop the rise of youth violence and drug use, including:

- * Trying juvenile offenders as adults for violent and drug crimes
- * A new strategy to stop the spread of methamphetamine
- * Reinstating the ban on guns in schools
- * A \$75 million grant program for juvenile drug and gun courts
- * Increasing the penalties for drug dealers who sell drugs to children, or use children to sell drugs.