



**Testimony of John Monaghan
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Hearing Before the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security
of the Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives**

**RE: Legislative Hearing on H.R. 1700, THE "COPS Improvement Act of 2007;"
H.R. 916, the "John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act of 2007;" and
H.R. 933, the "Witness Security and Protection Act of 2007."
April 24, 2007**

Chairman Scott, Ranking Member Forbes, Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for inviting me here to testify today.

As I'm sure we're all aware the FBI crime reports for the first half of 2006 show a nationwide increase in violent crime of 3.7 percent. In contrast, the City of New York has recorded a 3.1 percent decline in violent crime for that same period. In fact New York City's overall crime rate, which includes property crimes along with violent crimes, has declined 7.2% in that period.

When you realize that the New York City Police Department is roughly the same size as the United States Coast Guard and they police a city of over eight million and have kept crime down under the national average making New York the safest big city in America, you have to look at their innovations in management and technology.

But first, before we examine those innovations, I'd like to put to rest the notion that some overarching socioeconomic shift is responsible for this sustained decrease in crime. It's better policing. In his new book, "The Great American Crime Decline," Franklin Zimring at UC Berkeley's School of Law attests to the fact that better policing is the real explanation for New York City's success. In fact if there's any demographic-like shift in our society that may account, in part, for the overall brighter picture in crime trends nationwide, it's the evolution of the profession of policing itself. Thirty or more years ago, there were not many colleges or universities that offered classes or degrees in Police Science or Criminal Justice. Today, we'd be hard pressed to find an educational institution that doesn't offer such programs. Even the Criminal Justice Program at Harvard's Kennedy School is only 25 years old.

So, why is New York ahead of the curve? We all know that New York City was the birthplace of CompStat but that was just the beginning. CompStat was merely the first recognizable product of an internal management revolution that took place in the NYPD in the mid-nineties. Never before in the history of that department had mid-level managers been elevated directly to top management positions. Educational mandates were put in place for promotion to Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain. In fact, the man who designed the CompStat system, the late Jack Maple, was only a Lieutenant when he was promoted directly to Deputy Commissioner to implement the CompStat system citywide. In the wake of those changes the attitude and demographics of the entire police department changed. The CompStat era was ushered in by a younger, more educated generation. This all points to the first management innovation that underlies the NYPD's unprecedented success: a better-educated and highly motivated workforce. In order to perpetuate this particular innovation, we must continue to respect the profession by duly crediting it with the overall reduction in crime nationwide.

CompStat is the greatest innovation in policing in our generation. One issue you don't normally hear associated with CompStat however is funding. It's a relatively inexpensive idea. The CompStat process has evolved however and has found its limitations. It does achieve accountability of command level managers, directs deployment of resources with pinpoint accuracy and has become a clearinghouse for effective tactics. However, crime statistics by their nature tell of crimes that occurred in the past. In an effort to prevent crime before it occurs or address it while it's occurring, the New York City Police Department has created the Real Time Crime Center. This data warehouse combines cutting-edge technology with good old-fashioned police work.

Before the Crime Center opened, officers in the field used to record facts, bring them back to the station house and manually run them through whichever databases their experience told them were pertinent. This haphazard process that took days or even weeks, is now streamlined and can happen in moments.

In policing, the term rapid deployment has always meant lights and sirens. The Real Time Crime Center now rapidly deploys information at blinding speed. Staffed with about two dozen investigators the center processes inputs from the field and runs them through billions of records. Not only does it access information from 120 million New York City criminal complaints, arrests, and 911 calls, it immediately accesses five million parole and probation files from the State and more than 30 million national crime records. The reconciliation engine that runs the data is an emerging, sophisticated technology that understands the meaning and relationship of terms used in policing and so is not limited to the commands

input by the user. The system delivers information in context.

A few months after the center opened, Bronx detectives responded to the abduction of a four-year-old child perpetrated by a former babysitter who had been fired. Using the only information available, a New York State Identification number, the RTCC produced seven names with seven different addresses, three dates of birth and six social security numbers. Each one of these pieces of information produced additional names, addresses and some phone numbers. The RTCC quickly found the common denominator and the child was recovered in a timely fashion and the perpetrator arrested.

That same month detectives responding to a gunpoint robbery received only a generic clothing description along with the description of a tattoo on the gunman's neck. Using only the description of the tattoo, investigators in the RTCC identified a man with a similar tattoo who had been arrested numerous times in two different jurisdictions within New York State. The detectives received a photograph of the suspected gunman who was then positively identified by the victim through a photo array. This man's criminal records showed several addresses in two different boroughs within New York City. Good old-fashioned detective work combined with this new technology put that gunman in jail within a week.

The Real Time Crime Center was an \$11 million dollar investment funded mostly by the Mayor's Executive Budget with \$1.8 million coming from federal funds and \$1.3 million coming from the New York Police Foundation, an independent, non-profit organization. Most of America's ten largest cities have supporting, non-profit foundations that enhance their effectiveness by providing resources not covered in their city budgets. But again, with the second largest police department in the country being about one-tenth the size of the NYPD, it's difficult to compare resources. The New York Police Foundation, founded in 1971 has funded over 400 programs to the tune of \$70 million dollars.

Another innovation in policing New York City not funded by the government has to do with a recent rash of high-profile homicides related to some of the city's trendier nightclubs. The New York City Council just enacted a new law requiring nightclubs operating under certain conditions to install video surveillance equipment as a licensing requirement.

The list of technological advances being applied to policing in New York City goes on and on. From license plate scanning cameras deployed in radio cars to allowing 911 callers to transmit photos taken with their cell phones, policing in New York is keeping pace with technology and streamlining its management style with every new innovation.

All this technology however is just an electronic tiger without a dedicated workforce behind it. It has become a mantra of late in New York City that the government is being called upon 'to do more with less.' The dedicated men and women in law enforcement in New York City have answered that call. I thank you again for the opportunity to testify here today and I would be happy to answer any questions.