

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, D.C., November 30, 1967.

HON. ABRAHAM J. MULTER,
Chairman, Subcommittee 2, Committee on the District of Columbia,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. MULTER: On November 9, 1967 Assistant Corporation Counsel Thomas F. Moyer and Deputy Police Chief Jerry V. Wilson testified before your subcommittee on H.R. 13203, a bill "To amend the District of Columbia Police and Firemen's Salary Act of 1958 to abolish the rank of detective in the Metropolitan Police Force, and to promote persons with such rank to the rank of detective sergeant." They presented the position of the District Government as set forth in my letter of November 8, 1967 to the Honorable John L. McMillan, and made a part of the hearing record. In that latter, I opposed the bill on the grounds (1) that there is no basis to automatically promote to the rank of detective sergeant all of the detectives in the Metropolitan Police force, as provided by the bill, and (2) that such automatic promotions would compound the present imbalance of supervisor-subordinate ratio in the Criminal Investigation Division.

At the hearing you asked Assistant Corporation Counsel Moyer and Deputy Chief Wilson if the District's position would be different if the bill were amended to provide for smaller increases in compensation for the detectives upon their automatic promotion to the rank of detective sergeant. The total estimated annual cost of the increases provided by the bill, as presently written, is \$75,000. If the bill were amended to provide for the smaller increases, the estimated cost would be \$31,000. I attach a chart indicating the breakdown of the increases under the present bill and those if the bill were amended to provide for such smaller increases.

However, a smaller increase in the compensation of the detectives upon their automatic promotion to the rank of detective sergeant would not obviate the primary objections of the District Government to this bill; i.e., that there is no basis for this automatic promotion, by legislation, of detectives to a higher grade, and such promotions would compound the present imbalance of supervisor-subordinate ratio in the Criminal Investigation Division. I therefore reiterate my opposition to the enactment of the bill, regardless of whether it be amended as has been proposed.

As the District witnesses testified during the hearing, the Police Department does not propose to reduce any of the existing detectives in rank, compensation, or status, nor does it propose to establish another grade of criminal investigator which would be equal in rank or compensation to the existing grade of detective. The Chief's policy, quoted in my letter of November 8, 1967, includes extending the opportunity to the existing detective force to take an examination for detective sergeant in 1969.

The Chief of Police and I are informed that during the hearing you expressed the view that the District should continue the detective sergeant examinations as long as the incumbents remain in the grade of detectives. As Deputy Chief Wilson testified during the hearing, the 1969 cutoff for detective sergeant examinations was established with the assumption that by the time those registers are exhausted in 1971, few if any of the incumbent detectives will still be in that grade. However, this cutoff decision would be subject to review based on the number of incumbents actually remaining in the detective grade in 1971. Should the Subcommittee, as an alternative to H.R. 13203, recommend that the optional opportunity for promotion to detective sergeant be continued in promotional examinations so long as any incumbent remains in the grade of detective, the Chief of Police and I would have no objection to adopting such a policy.

Sincerely yours,

WALTER E. WASHINGTON,
Commissioner of the District of Columbia.