



STARTUP MANUAL

The John Birch Society
JBS.org

Startup Manual

Introduction

The purpose of this manual is to provide you with the guidance and necessary tools to effectively create a Support Your Local Police (SYLP) committee in your community.

In this manual, we will teach you how to create a committee, enlist sponsors, recruit members, procure documents and other vital information, and approach your local police officials.

Through this manual, you will learn how to work with your local law enforcement agencies in a cooperative manner that benefits the community and law abiding citizens.

Before you get started, there are four basic recommendations we encourage your SYLP Committee to follow, because through our long experience we have become convinced of their importance:

1. Contact your area JBS Staff Coordinator and tell him of your intentions to form a SYLP committee. The John Birch Society Headquarters will only recognize committees approved by Staff Coordinators.
2. Do not try to cover too large an area. If a member is unable to drive to your meetings easily or quickly then you can be sure that such will be true of others from that member's part of the community.
3. Make it known to every member and sponsor of your committee that this program was launched by The John Birch Society. The reason for this is in the event that a member or sponsor becomes curious as to the origins of the program and comes to learn that it is from The John Birch Society; if you have never told them such then they would feel as though you were neither forthcoming nor completely honest with them.
4. We strongly caution you not to be involved in local issues that are outside of the guidelines of your committee as set forth in the Statement of Principles of the Committee, which your committee should develop.
5. Above all, do not involve the committee with personalities. Personalities are people and people are not perfect, they are bound to fail or disappoint you and the members of the committee, discouraging progress. In order to avoid this, we highly encourage you not make the mistake of involving the committee with personalities or partisan politics.

These recommendations and the information you are about to read are based on the efforts of past individuals and groups that fought successfully to support their local police and keep them independent. It is our hope that you too will be successful!

Create a local committee

Let your JBS Section Leader or JBS Coordinator know of your interest and intention to create a SYLP committee. The approval of the JBS Coordinator will facilitate working with JBS

Headquarters on projects, literature, speakers, events, etc. The organized minority will always defeat the unorganized majority. It is this tactic that has proved most effective.

Once you have obtained the approval of the JBS Coordinator in the area, organize the core membership of people who will work with you to support your local police. Network through your JBS Section Leader to have a representative from each local JBS chapter incorporated in this group.

Organization is the key, it is essential to educating the majority and getting the ball rolling toward preventing efforts to nationalize your local police or stopping the creation of civilian review boards – perhaps both. There may be other initiatives dreamed up by the left in the future to hamstring local police that may seem innocuous at first but lead step by step toward national control.

Give your committee a name, preferably one that correlates to the local community and police department. An example of a possible committee name could be the Fairfield SYLP Committee or the Union County SYLP Committee.

Then, your JBS Coordinator will appoint your committee Chairman. This person will serve as the leader for your group and will be expected to act on its behalf when needed. He or she should be knowledgeable on current efforts to nationalize police and why that is bad. This person should also have or be able to establish good friendly relations with the local police or sheriff. He or she does not need to be an experienced organizer, although such experience does help; this person will learn and develop such skills through time and experience, but knowledge on why we should support local police and keep them independent will be key.

In addition to the Chairman of the committee, the committee senior staff should consist of a Vice Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer, Program Chairman, Publicity Chairman, and Membership Chairman. They should all be members of The John Birch Society. You can start with a smaller group of individuals but that means that one or two people will have to handle a greater load.

The leadership or founding members of the committee should develop a Statement of Principles (see Appendix A). This statement will serve as the guiding document of your committee and its activities, keeping it focused on the goal of supporting local police and preventing any attempts to nationalize them or hinder them through citizen review boards and the like.

When recruiting a new person to your committee, give them a job or position, make sure they have a friend on the committee and educate them more on both the problems and solutions associated with national police and why the police should be kept under local control. Your committee should consist of no more than 15-20 individuals.

Email

Compose an email to send to your friends, family and opinion leaders that live in your community informing them about the efforts and ramifications of nationalizing police and about the importance of keeping them under local control. When composing your message, it is helpful if possible to link it to a current event, such as news of a pertinent, recent overreach by the

federal government or corruption by federal law enforcement. This will help establish a picture of what would happen if their local police were nationalized.

As street violence escalates around the country at any given time and the news is heavy with accounts of the demonstrations, riots, etc. that will also supply the impetus for pulling people together for a SYLP committee.

Be sure to avoid using unfamiliar words in your email. Remember your target audience is anybody and everybody that will receive your email and you want them to be able to both read and understand it. Cite what you say; hyperlink to appropriate sources and websites to back up and prove that what your email says is correct. Have a friend or family member read through your message before you send it. Avoid grammatical and spelling errors. Send your email out. Ask others to forward it to their contacts.

Your email should read like an informative article; easy to read and understand.

Call small meeting of leaders

Now that your email has been sent and your committee formed, try to set up a meeting of community leaders or opinion molders – those that have influence over others in the community. Examples of opinion molders may include: community board supervisor, the president of your local PTA, a police officer or sheriff, local high school football coach, small business owners, professionals, pastors or other members of the local clergy, leaders of the local Boy Scouts, Eagle Scouts, Girl Scouts, or other service organizations.

These individuals are respected people in your community, and their support can prove valuable in garnering credibility in your efforts to educate others and support your local police and keeping them independent.

Your objective in calling for this meeting is to convince them of the threat posed by nationalizing police and why the police should be kept under local control and independent. Once they are convinced they can join and assist in your efforts to effectively organize against the implementation of such measures. Once you have assembled a handful of these individuals, you will want to do the following:

- Develop a list of steps toward supporting local police activities
- Engage leaders in approving/altering those steps
- Set up larger meetings to encourage involvement
- Enlist sponsors

Enlist sponsors

An impressive list of sponsors can be a real asset in garnering credibility and success for your committee. The worth of gathering sponsors cannot be overstated. A list of sponsors is, after the formation of your committee, the most important thing you can do. It establishes you as part of the community, not simply a few members of The John Birch Society. The number of sponsors you get will determine how much the local media will take you seriously and cover the work of your committee.

The role of sponsor is not to set the policy-procedures of the committee, rather they are here to lend you their support in the form of permitting your committee to use their name as sponsors of your committee on your email messages, letterheads, newsletters, press releases, and/ or other educational materials your committee produces.

Always keep your sponsors “in the loop” and in touch with your activities and successes. Allowing distance to come between you and your sponsors will mean they will drift away and this can possibly cause problems for you at some future point.

Engage your sponsors and seek their involvement in your committee’s monthly activities. Invite them to participate as a donor, assisting your committee to purchase and obtain resources and other needed materials. Ask them if your committee may put any free materials in their business or allow your committee to place one of its flyers or a SYLP window decal on their storefront window for others to see.

Do not become discouraged if a sponsor does not become active as you would like, in the form of donations or active participation. Just the permission alone to use their name will garner your committee the prestige and credibility needed to insure your committee’s success.

Here is an outline of steps to follow in enlisting sponsors:

1. Prepare a list of local businesses, key individuals in the community, and other good patriotic Americans you wish to enlist as sponsors. If need be, your local JBS Section Leader or Coordinator may be able to assist you with this step.
2. Identify members of your committee who already know the potential sponsors. These members should then be assigned the task of enlisting them as sponsors.
3. Send the form letter (see Appendix B), a copy of the sponsor’s Agreement Form (see Appendix C), the Statement of Principles, and the “To Protect and Serve” special report from THE NEW AMERICAN magazine, which includes the special “Support Your Local Police – And Keep Them Independent” article by Arthur R. Thompson, CEO of The John Birch Society, and the article “Protecting Rights: Loyal Americans Targeted by the SPLC,” written by William F. Jasper, which exposes the Southern Poverty Law Center.
4. A week after your letter and materials have been sent, call each of the prospective sponsors and request an appointment to discuss the program in greater detail. The purpose of this call is ONLY to secure an interview.
5. At the interview, discuss the principles and the programs of the SYLP committee. Tell the prospective sponsor how important his or her support will be. Also, ask him to serve on your committee as an endorser of your Statement of Principles.
6. Ask each sponsor to complete the Sponsor’s Agreement Form. This is not only for you and your committee’s protection; it will also guarantee that the name of your sponsor is not misused.

7. Be sure to ask each new sponsor for further support, in enlisting additional sponsors (likely names), purchasing materials (money), distributing literature, arranging DVD showings, setting up presentations, and recruiting members (involvement).

Prospective sponsors can sometimes be enlisted without first securing an appointment, but because both local circumstances and the schedules of the prospective sponsors may vary, we highly recommend that as a general rule you contact and secure an appointment with the local businessman and professional on your list.

Contact and secure an appointment by calling the prospective sponsors. As stated before, the purpose of your call is only to secure an interview, so keep your conversation brief and straight to the point. Once an appointment time, date and location is confirmed thank the individual over the phone and hang up. You will have plenty of time to pitch your proposals to the prospective sponsors in person, at the time of the interview.

Remember, the attack on the autonomy of our local police is an attack that should concern every good patriotic American. You can be certain that your prospect will be proud to be a part of your committee and its endeavors once they understand what is at stake, what is happening, what can be done, and what your committee intends to do. Accordingly, in all of your contacts – over the phone and in person – be confident and positive about your efforts.

Meeting with prospective sponsor

When calling on prospective sponsors we suggest meeting in teams of two. Be sure that the both of you dress appropriately in a suit or business professional. This will help you and your committee's cause to be taken seriously and respected. It is important to go into these meetings with a confident and positive attitude. Remember that these issues are vitally important to everyone and that almost every law-abiding citizen will share your committee's concern over the threat facing our local police.

During the meeting discuss the following points in approximately the same sequence as listed:

1. Describe the current problems our police face.
2. Stress that these problems will continue to only get worse unless good Americans do something about them.
3. Review the principles of your Support Your Local Police committee, emphasizing the need for a local police force, free of outside control, that has the support of the community.
4. Point out that your committee is part of a nationwide movement to address these issues across the country, which has been successful in the past.

5. Describe the organization and activities of your committee: officers, other sponsors, members, working on DVD or in-person PowerPoint presentations, email and letter writing campaigns, literature distribution, speaking engagements, and so on.
6. Mention the sponsors you have already enlisted. At this point, hand your prospective sponsor a copy of the Sponsor's Agreement Form with the expectation that he will sign it.
7. Once the prospect has signed the form invite him or her to attend your committee's next meeting.

Always write your materials and press releases with your sponsors in mind. Keep them in the loop. Educate them constantly on Support Your Local Police subjects *only*, at least until you can get to meet and know them more individually allowing you to delve into other concerns.

Formulate strategy for the larger numbers

When your committee holds its meetings to foster involvement, you will want to develop a strategy for them to utilize to present the nationalization of local police and keep them under local control. Make a presentation or PowerPoint demonstration highlighting the problem associated with nationalized police and why they should support their local police and keep them independent. Use the JBS Support Your Local Police DVD for a general overview on the subject.

Bring, show or give any materials that you can spare on why to support local police and beware of national police. Your strategy should also include a list of steps toward achieving aims that keep your police local and independent. As part of your strategy, you will want to develop a list of activities, such as, (if you have not already done so) creating a SYLP committee, enlisting sponsors, and then producing educational materials.

Develop plans to doorbell, host events, and enlist other organizations in your sphere of influence. As you develop constituent pressure, approach city or county officials with the proposition of stopping the acceptance of federal assistance. The other side of the coin is that local cities will have to take on responsibility for necessary functions currently provided for by the federal government.

Produce educational materials

Obtain materials that will enhance your ability to inform both members and non-members of your committee about the problem at hand. In addition to this manual, The John Birch Society has produced an array of materials (i.e. articles, booklets, pamphlets, petitions and a DVD) for this very purpose. You can obtain these materials online at www.JBS.org, over the phone at 1-800-342-6491, or by mail-in catalog (please see back of this booklet for more information).

These materials will educate you and others on the details and origins of plans to co-opt local police by either nationalizing them or creating civilian review boards. These materials should also remind the reader of the virtues of keeping the police local and independent. As good as these materials are, they are not specific to your community. This is where some ingenuity and creativity on the part of your committee comes in. Within the means of your committee's budget,

make your own materials customized to the specific situation your town or city faces with the regard to federal subsidies to and subsequent controls over your local law enforcement agency or reporting on the good work done by your local police. *The name of The John Birch Society should not appear on your literature unless the literature has been produced by The John Birch Society, or unless you receive permission from The John Birch Society.*

Assign someone, or two, to research and investigate the current status of federal grants and aid to your local police along with the rules and regulations attached to that aid. This research can range from visiting your local police precinct to going on the Internet to your police department's website.

Find out how much assistance, equipment or financial aid, comes from outside or federal sources. What are the requirements associated with receiving that assistance? How much say or control does the federal government have over the affairs of your local police department? To what extent is the federal government cooperating and coordinating with your local police? What are the involved federal agencies, the NSA, FBI, CIA, Department of Justice, Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, etc.?

Once you find the answers to these questions, put them to good use; let others know by creating your own material such as your own booklet, pamphlets, flyers and/or newsletters. The purpose of your committee's materials will be to identify any of the above mentioned possibilities, identifying the issue as a local problem. Ask them to attend your meetings. Procure every piece of material you can from your local police or law enforcement agency – they will be a goldmine of information. What you will be asking for is public information – or should be.

At some point, you will likely want to use a letterhead. This should contain the name of your committee in a legible and professional font as well as the SYLP logo. Such a letterhead will prove helpful especially if your campaign develops into a protracted fight. Your letterhead should include the name of your key committee members and sponsors. This will help generate credibility for your committee in the community.

Upon receiving your letterhead with listed sponsors people will become impressed and more likely to join your cause. Your committee may also find it helpful to produce additional documentation for opinion molders. If possible, list your officers and sponsors on these documents making sure that all information is accurate.

As stated before, opinion molders are those individuals that have influence over others in the community. Examples of opinion molders can include elected officials, assemblymen, U.S. Congressmen, community board supervisors, county commissioners, county judges, and local law enforcement personnel such as a police officer or sheriff. Other opinion molders may include the president of your local school PTA, local high school football coach, small business owners, professionals, pastors or other members of the local clergy, the leaders of the local Boy Scouts, Eagle Scouts, Girl Scouts, or other service organizations.

Successful committees do not list all sponsors due to the space available. You may wish to state that they are only a partial list of sponsors. Two techniques used are:

1. Drop the public listing of the opinion molder with the least amount of influence to make room for a new sponsor with more influence.
2. Start listing sponsors on the reverse side of the letterhead in a 50% grey ink so that they do not interfere with ghosting on the front.

The JBS materials will complement those of your own, by giving you information on the dangers of nationalized police and the virtues of a police force that is local and independent. Your committee's materials will provide the additional specifics, such as any local instances of the federal government trying to usurp your local police or recent news of good work your local police have done in your community.

As discussed earlier, organize teams of two people to knock on doors in residential neighborhoods, handing out your literature and respectfully telling others about the problem. As you doorbell, ask if you can place a SYLP bumper sticker on their car. The lower left-hand corner of the rear window is a good place.

You could also use the JBS materials, and other first-hand sources that you are able to obtain, to not only educate each other, but also to educate local police officials.

Create local support

There are a number of things you can do to broaden your support and build your committee. Always think in terms of reaching out to new people and new layers of support – particularly opinion molders and local police officials, which will be discussed further ahead in this manual.

While we reiterate the following points throughout the manual, these are some outreach techniques you should consider:

1. Outreach to other organizations; approach new or older established organizations, public community centers or professional private clubs. By reaching out to these groups and perhaps even being given the opportunity to speak to them, either with an in-person presentation, DVD showing or just allowing you to pass out literature, you will be broadening additional support for your committee and its goals.
2. Organize door-to-door knocking and doorbelling in the community. Approach each door in teams of no more than two people. You do not want to intimidate the person at the door with a large crowd at their doorstep nor do you want a person going alone. Of the two, at least one should be able to articulate the problem and answer questions. Dress business casual, comfortable but still professional and presentable. Be cordial and respectful of other's opinion. Avoid arguments, if the person seems uninterested or argumentative kindly move on and go to the next door. In other words, do not waste your time. If you have very capable people, two person teams can work both sides of the street in sight of one another; they will not need to approach each door together. It is best to first work the neighborhood where most of the opinion molders live.

3. Reach out to the general public. Organize public forums to host speakers or DVD showings to those that are not yet aware of the problem. The purpose is not to educate “the choir” but rather those still uninformed. Your goal is to create local support, which requires reaching out and educating the public. When outreaching to the general public produce flyers or advertisements in your local community newspaper informing the reader with the time, date and location of your meeting. Be mindful of your target audience. Make sure your flyer or ad has a brief message addressing this as a local issue, avoid over the top statements warning of Nazi-style national police taking over the community – such accusations hurt your cause more than help it. Try to hold your meeting at a location that is easy for the general public to get to and that will both attract and retain opinion molders.
4. Continue doorbelling with public and private events. Doorbell in the vicinity of where a speaker or DVD showing will take place. Likewise, a SYLP member can host a DVD showing in his or her home and the neighborhood can be doorbelled to attract a good audience.

Network with other organizations

Identify what organizations are in your community and reach out to them. These groups may range from more established organizations, such as the local Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis Club, Lions Club, Rotary Club or newer groups like Tea Party groups, Oath Keepers, and 912 groups.

Find out what other organizations your SYLP members belong to and ask them to carry the SYLP message to those groups. If not, send an ambassador or member from your committee to attend one of their meetings. Be cordial and respectful. At the conclusion of their meeting or event make a pointed effort to reach out and speak to the leaders of the organization. Get to know them, tell them who you are and the name of your committee. Most of these organizations have a program chairman or group president. You will have to work through them. Ask them if you could speak, give a PowerPoint presentation or DVD showing related to Support Your Local Police.

If given the opportunity to address the group, pass out JBS literature and materials such as the Support Your Local Police booklet, the tri-fold pamphlet, and SYLP DVD. Also, pass out literature and material produced by your committee. If possible, see if you can get the organization to agree on passing a resolution to the local government opposing nationalizing your local police and supporting them as a local and independent department.

In addition to the many members of these groups that you would be educating, you might also come across community leaders or local police officials present at one or several of these organizations. These other organizations and its members may well become valuable allies in your committee’s effort to support local police and keep them independent. Keep in contact with these groups and make opportunities to bring them on board with the efforts of your committee.

Approaching your local police

As you recruit sponsors and members for your Support Your Local Police committee, the most frequent question you will be asked is “what is your relationship with the police?” or “how does the local police department feel about your committee?,” after all the stated purpose and mission of your committee is, as the program is titled, Support Your Local Police. The only way you can avoid replying, “none” or “I don’t know,” is by actually finding the answer by approaching your local police or sheriff. This is something you will want to do right away, perhaps even before you enlist sponsors.

The local police are not your enemy. Your committee is not here to attack them, blame them for violating the Constitution or your civil liberties because they are enforcing a measure of the Patriot Act or conducting a joint Federal and State anti-terror drill. Those are federal issues, which the local police in some cases may have already have little to no say if they are to continue receiving their additional Homeland Security funds, new equipment and weaponry.

You and your committee are there to teach and help your local police officials understand the dangers of a national police force and how accepting aid and assistance from the federal government leads to the loss of their control over their own police force. Your objective and that of your committee is to convince local police officials that their police forces should be kept local and independent. Reach out to your local police commissioner or county sheriff.

Approach them as a friend with information they may not be aware of. Their addition to your cause will prove a valuable victory in both the short and long run. And they will likely join your cause seeing as it is one supportive of them.

As in the case of prospective sponsors, call or go in person to the local police precinct to make an appointment to meet with your local police official and inform him or her you are organizing a Support Your Local Police committee in the community. Hand the police official your Statement of Principles and some literature, including the “To Protect and Serve” special report from THE NEW AMERICAN magazine, which includes the special “Support Your Local Police – And Keep Them Independent” article by Arthur R. Thompson, CEO of The John Birch Society, and the article “Protecting Rights: Loyal Americans Targeted by the SPLC,” written by William F. Jasper, which exposes the Southern Poverty Law Center. Inform the official about the activities of your committee.

When meeting with your local police chief, commissioner or county sheriff, recognize that since The John Birch Society and its founder Robert Welch first wrote about the need to support local police, in 1963, almost 50 years has passed by. In that time, a lot of what was known then about the Communist threat to local police has been lost or forgotten. Since the early 1970s, U.S. local police departments no longer have their own independent intelligence departments to keep tabs on or investigate the activities of revolutionary leftist and other subversive organizations.

Unless you are in a major metropolitan area, and even there this may still be unknown information to the police commissioner, your local police may not be aware of the current anti-police activities of the activist Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL) and the Revolutionary

Communist Party (RCP). Both of these subversive parties run campaigns and sponsor demonstrations to “Stop Racist Police Brutality,” annually on October 22.

For those in metropolitan areas, where massive street mobs composed of communists, socialists, anarchists and other radicals, such as where “Occupy Wall Street” protests are prevalent, you can download a PDF copy of the 1961 U.S. Senate Internal Security Subcommittee (SISS) special report, “A Communist Plot Against The Free World Police.” This PDF is available for download on the JBS Support Your Local Police webpage. Although dated, this SISS report provides timeless valuable information about the tactics used by communists and other radicals to circumvent police crowd handling methods.

Your local police department might also not be able to differentiate actual reports of domestic terror and crime from those of the leftist propaganda “intelligence reports” from the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). The SPLC’s reports are filled with vicious attacks on conservative political organizations, conservative minority leaders, and Christian churches and leaders (i.e. bishops, pastors, priests, and other clergy members), labeling them to be hate groups or promoters of violence. Because of this, we encourage you to bring the “To Protect and Serve” special report from THE NEW AMERICAN magazine. Talk to your police official and inform him or her of the problem, helping them understand what they may not be aware of.

When meeting with officials you will receive one of three possible responses: (1) full support for your efforts; (2) a non-committal attitude; or (3) outright opposition. Here are some considerations for each category:

1. Full Support.

Be thankful you have a police chief or sheriff who is squarely on your side. Discuss your problem in detail with him, ask the chief for suggestions, and explain various ways he or she can help. Can you use that person’s name in promoting the work of the committee? Will the chief give you a statement to use in a press release or your other materials? Would he or she be able to lend themselves or find you a speaker for one of your committee meetings or other committee activities?

In the past, police chiefs have arranged video or DVD showings for the members of the force, and opinion molders in the community, helped distribute literature to policemen, and informed Support Your Local Police committees of important local situations where SYLP members could be of assistance. Before you leave, remind the chief that there will be considerable opposition to this program and a great deal of pressure may be exerted to defeat it. Assure the chief that the committee will not be swayed and will continue its full support of the local police force.

2. Non-Committal.

Because a police chief is asked to endorse so many programs and support so many projects, he may be unwilling to say anything about your committee. Tell the chief that other SYLP committees have shown films to law enforcement officers and gave help in arranging programs, distributing literature, and recruiting members. Leave plenty of

literature with him and say that you will call back in another few days, after he has a chance to read over the materials.

On your return visit, he will probably be a firm supporter of your program, although he may feel that a “hands off” policy is necessary. Accept whatever assistance he can render to you and your committee. At this point, you will be able to say to your committee, “The Chief of Police is fully aware of what we are doing, although he obviously can’t endorse us publically.”

3. Opposed.

In some communities, metropolitan areas, and other large cities, local politicians (including some who wear a police commissioner’s uniform) will strongly oppose your efforts to combat subversion and defeat federal controls. *If your police commissioner disapproves of your efforts, it is all the more reason that you and your committee proceed.* A suggestion of your comment to the commissioner should be:

“Chief, I’m sorry to hear that you feel that way, but we intend to proceed anyway. The principles involved here are far too important to ignore. (Mention specific objection). We do not want our local police to directed from Washington, and that’s what subsidies and federal grants equate to.”

If a prospective sponsor or member wants information about the attitude of your unsympathetic chief or commissioner, you might say:

“Oh, he’s completely opposed to our efforts. This is one reason that our program is so vital. If we let him, he’ll have us completely under the control of the federal government.”

Having the chief of police, police commissioner, or county sheriff as an ally can prove invaluable to your committee and its cause. Such an ally can provide you with useful information that you would not be aware of until it is too late, such as newly imposed federal guidelines and regulations, new joint coordination projects with the federal government, information on how their autonomy has been eroded by the federal government, etc.

In addition, with such “friends in the force,” you may be able to recruit them as a member or invite them to attend your meetings and committee functions as a guest speaker.

A word of caution

As you build up influence in your community you may come under attack from the other side in a manner most people have never experienced. They will send someone in to join your ranks and try to neutralize your efforts. They will always approach you as an enthusiastic friend. The best defense against this tactic is to never do anything that is immoral or unethical. Continually remind your members at public events of this.

Additionally, be wary of possible agent provocateurs or saboteurs that may pose as a small government enthusiast or supporter of local police, whose main objective is to hijack or destroy

the organization from within. For this reason we make it a requirement that a JBS Coordinator approve your committee and its leadership, composed of JBS members. If any of your members do not act like ladies and gentlemen, ask them to leave your committee.

Commitment

You will discover that this will not be an easy task, depending on the community or area your committee is in you may encounter strong opposition, mainly from those on the left – who already view the local police and law enforcement as their enemy. In some areas, such as large metropolitan areas, federal control of the local police may already be highly entrenched, but regardless of the local situation it is imperative that you and your committee remained committed to the goal of supporting the local police and keeping them independent.

A strong minority within newly activated liberty-oriented organizations also have negative feelings about police due to the enforcement of federal regulations and laws. These people must be made to understand the consequences of the alternatives to local law enforcement: anarchy or national police. They likewise must understand that if we support our local police it will be much easier to root out local corruption as compared to national corruption.

If you and the members of the committee do not wish to have their children and grandchildren living in a dictatorial society, where the police serve the national government rather than the people of the community, than it is up to you and your committee to do something about it. The future autonomy of your local police and liberty of the local citizenry may depend on what your committee does or does not do. We at The John Birch Society wish you the best of luck and will help as best we can.

APPENDIX A

Support Your Local Police Committee Statement of Principles

We believe that the first and most solemn responsibility of all public officials is to protect the lives and property of the citizens of this community. Our local police, who have been entrusted with this fundamental obligation, have fulfilled their duties admirably, justly earning a reputation as "the thin blue line" protecting the law-abiding citizen from the lawbreaker.

We are extremely concerned about recent developments in this country which have imposed new and dangerous burdens on our local police. Harassment and outright attacks against the police, in many instances organized and controlled by subversives, criminals, and illegal aliens, have increased alarmingly. Court decisions have placed unreasonable restrictions on the forces of law and order, while freeing many criminals from prison and imposing only the mildest of sentences on others. And far too many politicians have bowed to the disruptive tactics and outright threats of organized pressure groups.

It is for these reasons that we have organized this *Support Your Local Police* Committee. We urge all responsible citizens in this community to work with us to:

- ❖ Support our local police in the performance of their duties;
- ❖ Oppose all harassment or interference with law enforcement personnel as they carry out their assigned tasks;
- ❖ Reject any "civilian review boards" or other outside "supervision" of our police;
- ❖ Prohibit the creation of any national police force, or any other centralized authority, which would replace or control our local police;
- ❖ Oppose any and all efforts to subsidize, regionalize, or federalize our local police, since any loss of their independence from outside controls will inevitably lead to a loss of our protection and safety as well;
- ❖ Accept our responsibilities to our local police, to defend them against unjust attacks, make them proud and secure in their vital profession, and to offer them our support in word and deed wherever possible.

We pledge to inaugurate a community-wide program to *support our local police and keep them independent*. We will work to create more understanding of the problems and threats our police face. We will remind our fellow citizens that our police have earned our help and need it now.

APPENDIX B

Form Letter For Prospective Sponsors

Do not prepare any stationery for this mailing; use plain white paper with a member's address. You should not print any stationery until you have enlisted your Sponsors. Then include their names on your letterhead.

Dear _____

With precarious financial markets, high unemployment, a continuously devaluing dollar, an ever-increasing national debt burden, revolutionary leftists taking to the streets in Wall Street and other metropolitan hubs throughout the country, turmoil in Greece and Rome, and with the rise of big government at home and tyranny abroad, the future of our free republic remains uncertain while the certainty of fear engulfs society.

This is not the plot summary of the next big blockbuster Hollywood production, but rather a synopsis of the current state of affairs. With civil disturbances increasing across the country, local law enforcement is perceived as either being unable to contain the unrest or as an instigator of it. Such a crisis of confidence leads to an increase in calls for civilian review boards and the nationalization of local police.

The result is greater government and less liberty. Our police are under attack now. They need and deserve the help of every law-abiding citizen, lest we lose the autonomy of our local law enforcement to the whims of Washington. To achieve this, we are forming a local Support Your Local Police Committee. Through literature distribution, DVD showings, local discussion groups, and other projects, we are going to give our police the help they have earned.

The support and endorsement of prominent citizens in town will guarantee the success of our Support Your Local Police Committee. We would be proud to have you join us in this effort.

Enclosed is a draft of our Statement of Principles, as well as a sample of the literature we will distribute. To some, the above seems a remote danger; however, recent street demonstrations reveal otherwise. In another few days, one of our members will contact you to discuss our program in more detail.

We hope you will support us in this crucial effort. Thank you very much for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

(Signed)

Chairman

APPENDIX C

SPONSOR'S AGREEMENT

I agree to endorse the principles and program of this Support Your Local Police Committee. I understand that this is an ad hoc committee formed to give moral support to our police and to promote better understanding of the job they do for us. I am aware that a letterhead in the name of the Committee will be prepared, to include my name and the names of other reputable citizens of this area as endorsers of this program.

The activities of this Committee will be ONLY:

1. To remind appropriate public officials of their first and most solemn responsibility – to protect the lives and property of the individuals in this area as representatives of the local electorate.
2. To promote and encourage wide support for our local police, to create more understanding of the problems and threats faced by our police, and to remind our fellow citizens that our local police must not be hamstrung in the performance of their duties if they are to remain capable and reliable barrier between the criminal and the law-abiding citizen.
3. To remind all that local police cannot remain local if they are regulated or controlled by federal agencies. Federal controls diminish the ability of local citizens through their elected officials to be responsible for local law enforcement.
4. To inform our fellow citizens on these issues and to stimulate responsible activities through the distribution of literature, the formation of discussion groups, and the sponsorship of educational meetings.

It is my understanding that the Committee will provide literature and educational materials (books, pamphlets, films, and so on) in support of its principles from various reputable sources.

I am aware that the nationwide Support Your Local Police Committee movement was initially undertaken at the suggestion of The John Birch Society, which still lends its wholehearted support. My endorsement of this local Committee, however, is an unqualified endorsement of this program alone and does not necessarily represent an endorsement of any other organization or program.

Signature

Address