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INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Inspector General

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November 15, 2010

Chief Matthew A. Cummings
Newton Police Department
1321 Washington Street
Newton, MA 02465

Dear Chief Cummings:

As you know, the Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General (OIG) reviewed the Newton Police Department's (NPD) June 2009 receipt of a \$59,907 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

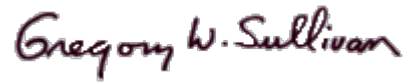
The OIG is reviewing ARRA-related grants to identify potential vulnerabilities to fraud, waste, and abuse and other risks that could negatively impact the accountability, transparency, and anti-fraud mandates contained in the statutory language and interpretive guidance of ARRA. This review should not be construed as an investigation of the program or a comprehensive programmatic review. The OIG intends these reviews to assist recipients of ARRA funding to identify and address risks.

According to the NPD's grant application, with its grant funds the NPD is paying portions of salaries, and is also purchasing ammunition, targets, battle dress uniforms, body armor, and the services of a tactical team evaluator. At the time of the OIG review, the NPD had not yet begun the procurement process for these supplies. NPD staff indicated that the department intended to use either a statewide contract or the procurement practices outlined in M.G.L. Ch. 30B (Chapter 30B), the state's Uniform Procurement Act, to purchase the supplies. One area to verify is that the NPD has delegated authority to conduct its own procurements from Newton's Chief Procurement Officer. This has been an issue for other police departments using ARRA Byrne Grant funding.

Helpful and practical free guidance and training can be found on the OIG website. Step-by-step procurement information is available in an OIG manual, *Municipal, County, District, and Local Authority Procurement of Supplies, Services, and Real Property* (the Chapter 30B manual), available at <http://www.mass.gov/ig/igpubl.htm>. In addition, an introductory Online Bidding Basics training course is available on the OIG's website at http://www.mass.gov/ig/mcppo/bb_online.htm.

In conclusion, the OIG review of the NPD's ARRA-funded Byrne Grant found that while the relevant goods and services had not yet been purchased, the planned purchases complied with federal and state requirements. I appreciate your cooperation in this review of ARRA funding. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions or concerns you may have regarding this review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Gregory W. Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gregory Sullivan
Inspector General

cc: Newton Mayor Setti Warren