Page 2B - THE CHARLOTTE POST - Thursday, January 20, 1963 **Grant To Reduce Fear Of Crime In Neighborhoods**

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) has awarded the Police Foundation \$1,830,534 to conduct an 18-month experiment designed to reduce the fear

of crime in inner-city neighborhoods, preserve commercial vitality in these areas, and, possibly, have an effect on the crime rate itself.

Attorney General Will-iam French Smith announced the award today with James K. Stewart, NLJ Director, in a cere-mony at the Newark, NJ City Hall. Also in atten-City Hall. Also in atten-dance were New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean, Newark Mayor Kenneth Gibson, Newark Police Director Hubert Williams, and Police Foundation Pre-sident Patrick V. Murphy. The experimental pro-

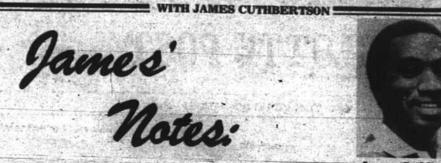
The experimental pro-grams will be undertaken simultaneously in Néwark and another city to be named later.

Attorney General Smith said the Justice Depart-ment will be watching the pilot programs carefully. Stewart said the experi-ments will focus on condi-

ments will focus on condi-tions in, some neighbor-hoods that generate fear among the residents and provide an environment in hich crime thrives.

"In the next few months," Stewart said, "Newark Police Depart-ment officials, and Police Foundation researchers will be enlisting the help of the business com and private citizens in formulating strategies to reduce citizens fear of : crime. These strategies should be developed by June or July and then given actual testing for 12 months." ifγ

Stewart, a former Oak-land, California, police of-ficial, said that "as every police officer knows, the lear of crime contributes the officer knows, the same strategies on the business life of the neigh-



greatly to a host of urban ills: the deterioration of neighborhoods, the drying up of commercial activities, and a fortress men-tality among citizens that leads to abandonment of city streets by the law-abiders."

Stewart said the experi-ments will test the premise that a neighborhood whose character is within the concharacter is within the con-trol of the people who live there is generally a safer neighborhood. "The overall effort," Stewart said, "is based on the belief that a commun-

the bener that a commun-ity's fear of crime may itself be a major factor in the health and future of the city. The debilitating apprehension about crime weakens the fabric of an

weakens the fabric of an urban neighborhood's social and economic life. "Police departments which work closely with representatives of the local neighborhoods and which expand their concern for crime incidents to also in-clude order problems can reduce unwarranted <u>citizen fear and encourage</u> people to reclaim their streets and communities."

The central purpose of the experiments will be to test strategies for reducing fear of crime in a set of representative and sta-

A corollary objective will be to test the effect of the

To test these general theories the study will examine several related questions:

can united efforts by the -can united efforts by the police and community re-duce disorderly behavior in public spaces and so re-verse an atmosphere that suggests nobody cares about such behavior? -will amelioration of these factors have a direct offact on reducing fear of

these factors have a direct effect on reducing fear of crime and perceptions of a neighborhood as unsafe? -will the reduction of fear of crime have a direct effect on reducing serious crime itself, on the premise that a neighborhood that is not fearful may attract less crime? crime

-will a reduction in

ities demoralized by fear. If they are truly to keep the peace, police must work in tandem with citizens and all branches of local government that contribute to the health of the community.

.Heman R. Clark, secre-

s Cuthbert

tary of the North Carolina Department of Crime Con-trol and Public Safety, anrounced that preliminary figures show that the State Highway Patrol made more than 50,000 DUI ar-rests in 1982 while traffic fatalities dropped by 199 when compared to 1981.

"This is the second lar-est drop in traffic fatalities from one year to the next since 1943 when the speed limit was 35 miles per hour, gas and tires rationed and there were other restrictions as a result of World War II," said Clark.

"The largest decline was in 1974 when traffic fatali-ties were 307 less than the previous year. The 55 miles per hour speed limit went into effect in 1974 because of the gas crisis," he added

Clark credited the decline in part to the anti-drunk driving campaign spearheaded by Governor Jim Hunt and his Task Force on Drunken Driving.

The AAA-Carolina Motor Club is introducing a new alcohol education program-aimed at elementary

Carolinas. Called "Starting Early," the instruction program looks at the drinking issue from a child's perspective. It contains seven teaching modules, one for each grade level from kindergarten through the sixth grade. The program is cur rently available to all schools and commu groups, according to the

motor club. The curriculum was developed by Dr. James Mal-fetti at Columbia Univers-

ity. The "Starting Early" curriculum, according to the motor club, will help young people be better prepared for dealing with alcohol-related situations because

students will -gain knowledge about how alcohol influences the mind and body.

-receive encouragement to explore attitudes about alcohol consumption.

-plan and act out ways, under adult supervision, to cope with, or avoid, situations where alcohol is involved.

A pilot project aimed at promoting racial and eth-nic understanding among bigh school students in this ethnically diverse area will be launched next September, it was announced by the Miami Chapter of the American Jewish Committee and the Cuban National Planning Council, the co-sponsors of the program.

The project, "Hands Across the Campus," is modeled on a program developed in 1981 by AJC's Los Angeles Chapt Read The Post

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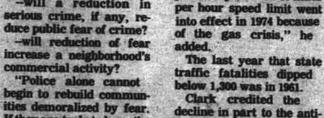
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