

472 Main Street, Acton, MA 01720  
978-264-9630 (FAX)

814 (8)

**TOWN OF ACTON**

**Fax**

NOTE TO BOS -  
MS. MOLINA CONFIRMED THE  
EXTENSION VERBALLY. WE HAVE  
UNTIL 8/11 TO REPLY.

To: MS. KAREN MOLINA From: DON P. JOHNSON  
Fax: (202) 514-9407 Pages: 2 including cover  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 7/22/03  
Re: COPS GRANT # MA00901 CC: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Urgent     For Review     Please Comment     Please Reply     Please Recycle

DEAR MS. MOLINA:  
ATTACHED IS THE LETTER YOU SUGGESTED  
REGARDING THE TOWN OF ACTON'S REQUEST  
FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME FOR ACCEPTANCE  
OF THE SUBJECT GRANT. I SINCERELY HOPE  
YOU ARE ABLE TO APPROVE THIS REQUEST. WE  
ARE ANXIOUS TO ACCEPT THE GRANT BUT REALIZE  
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS  
UNDER WHICH WE WOULD ACCEPT. THIS EXTENSION  
WOULD ALLOW US TO FULLY EXPLORE THE OPTIONS  
THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO US IN THIS REGARD.

REGARDS,  
Don P. Johnson

**TOWN OF ACTON  
INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION  
TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE**

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**DATE:** July 22, 2003

**TO:** Karen Molina

**FROM:** Don P. Johnson

**SUBJECT:** COPS in Schools Grant #MA00901

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Dear Ms. Molina:

This is to confirm our conversation of this afternoon and my request, on behalf of the Town of Acton, for an extension of the time for the Town to accept the subject grant. The Town of Acton is most interested in this opportunity to place two police officers in our school system. We are equally concerned, however, with our ability to comply with the terms and conditions of the grant. Specifically, we are concerned that the maintenance of effort provisions may cause severe budgetary problems over the next several years.

As I explained in our telephone conversation, the State of Massachusetts is experiencing extraordinary economic and budgetary issues. Those issues are manifesting themselves at the local level in the form of severe reductions in the level of State revenue-sharing with communities. As the Town of Acton considers the maintenance of effort provisions of the grant, we are aware of the budgetary issues noted above and we are greatly concerned that we will have significant problems if we are to hold the Police Department "harmless" over the life of the grant and must then take the expected budget cuts totally from our smaller, more vulnerable departments. In an effort to find a reasonable solution that will allow us to accept the grant, we have asked our School Committee to consider helping the municipality with the budgetary constraints the grant would impose. (The school system consumes more than 70% of the Town's revenues.) Unfortunately, due to the summer schedule, our School Committee is not able to meet until August 7 to consider this question.

My request is for sufficient additional time to have the School Committee meet and consider this matter before we must commit to an acceptance or rejection of the grant. If you could allow us until Monday, August 11, we would have adequate time to ascertain the results of the School Committee's deliberations, place their actions in context and determine whether we can accept the terms and conditions of this most generous offer.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,



Don P. Johnson,  
Town Manager