



STATE OF NEW YORK  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER  
ALBANY 12224

MARIO M. CUOMO  
GOVERNOR

November 22, 1989

Dear Ben:

Greetings and warmest regards to you and all your family, friends and colleagues who are gathered at this testimonial to honor you on the occasion of your retirement from the Office of Police Commissioner of the City of New York.

Few individuals have had the kind of impact on our criminal justice system that you have had. Few have served in times as troubled and demanding. Fewer still have served with such devotion, distinction, courage and imagination. Through hard work and dedication, you rose steadily and deservedly through the ranks of one of the world's premier law enforcement organizations. You went on to serve the City and State criminal justice systems in a variety of capacities with great energy and skill.

Your long experience as a police officer and law enforcement administrator and your great love for the law enforcement profession have found expression in many important initiatives undertaken throughout your career. You have consistently shown a willingness to adopt new ideas and an ability to make them work. At the same time, the practical and sober thinking of the seasoned street cop was always the bottom line. You brought to the New York City Police Department such progressive and community oriented programs as community policing, while at the same time presiding over the implementation of such hard-hitting and effective street-level enforcement initiatives as Operation Pressure Point and the Tactical Narcotics Teams.

You have broken much new ground in a profession that has a history of being resistant to change. You have, in fact, paved the way for a new generation of law enforcement professionals -- a generation better trained and educated, more effective, more representative of the community and more responsive to the community's needs.

On behalf of the people of the State of New York, I thank you for your good and faithful service and I wish you every success and happiness in all of your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Mario M. Cuomo", written over a light blue circular stamp.

Honorable Benjamin Ward  
Commissioner  
New York City Police Department  
New York, New York 10038