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bq report

buy quiet
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a supplement to
the NIGP Letter
Service Bulletin

No. 7/8/9

July/August/September 1981

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West Virginia Claims First Scholarship

The State of West Virginia, Purchasing Division, has earned a \$1500 professional development scholarship as a result of its active participation in the Buy Quiet Program.

As an article in the January 1981 "bq report" pointed out, NIGP is awarding a total of \$10,000 in professional development scholarships to the first ten governmental units to submit documentation that they have earned twelve or more points based on a scoring system established by the Institute. The first four governments to accumulate twelve points are to earn \$1500 scholarships; the next four, \$750 scholarships; and, the next two, \$500 scholarships. The scholarships, which are awarded in the form of "credit", can be used to waive NIGP seminar and annual conference fees and to defray the travel and subsistence costs associated with participation in either the seminars or the annual conference.

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Neighborhood Organizations Can Benefit from "Buy Quiet" Programs Started by Local Governments

FOR YOUR INFORMATION... lest you get the idea that NIGP and NLC are the only organizations "pushing" the Buy Quiet Program, we have reprinted below, in its entirety, an article scheduled to appear in an upcoming newsletter of the National Association of Neighborhoods (NAN). NAN, founded in 1975, is an association of urban and rural organizations and coalitions working to strengthen neighborhood rights and responsibilities.

Editor's Note

Neighborhood organizations can do much to bring about quiet in their neighborhoods. One action is getting involved in city, county or state "Buy Quiet" programs. Buy Quiet programs are established when cities start buying quieter models of products and equipment and start specifying quiet in their contracted services. As many governments are discovering, quieter products are

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available that do not necessarily cost more.

When you think about it, city owned, operated, or contracted products and services often contribute greatly to the noise we're in. Garbage trucks and construction equipment are two examples. If quieter products are available that cost no more, why shouldn't they be purchased instead? Your neighborhood has a "right" to quiet. Perhaps your neighborhood organization may wish to contact the city and find out if they're "buying quiet."

Getting the city to "buy quiet" will not solve all the noise problems in your neighborhood, but it can begin the process through which your neighborhood can work with your local government to quiet things down. This is because by its nature "Buy Quiet" has important "educational" benefits. Once governments have tried "buy quiet," local officials are usually much more interested in and sensitive to community noise problems.

In this time of tight budget constraints on all neighborhood organizations and on all governments, why, you might ask, would governments be motivated to "buy quiet" in the first place. Because it is in their interest to do so. Here is something they can do now to show you the public that they are beginning to be sensitive in solving noise problems and will cost very little -- perhaps nothing extra! Some cities, such as Brookline, MA, therefore, have even sought out neighborhood residents to demonstrate quiet equipment to them.

Buy Quiet not only is good "PR" for governments, it is "good business" because it:

- costs little or nothing extra; Quieter products of all types are available at competitive prices. Many governments have discovered this.

- requires little additional effort; Information needed to Buy Quiet has been developed and is available through the

National Institute of Governmental Purchasing. It is easily incorporated in city purchasing practices.

- usually saves energy and money. Quieter products tend to be better engineered. Consequently, they are usually more energy efficient, require less repairs, and last longer.

The many organizations working cooperatively to promote "buy quiet" include the National League of Cities, an organization of local elected city officials, and the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP), an organization of governmental purchasing agencies and officials. NAN strongly supports it and later this year will be sponsoring a series of workshops featuring Buy Quiet.

Buy Quiet programs have already been established in such major cities as New York City, St. Paul, MN, New Orleans, LA, and Austin, TX. These and dozens of other governments are buying quieter models of such products as chainsaws, garbage trucks, lawnmowers, and tractors. As more and more governments begin to "buy quiet," product noise levels of many products will begin to come down and neighborhoods will be quieter.

Because "Buy Quiet" works to the benefit of everyone - the city, the neighborhood and the manufacturer - it is something that people will want to talk about. Thus, it can be an excellent vehicle for fostering closer communication between the neighborhood and the city on noise and on other matters. In addition, some of these quieter products may be the consumer type which you or your neighborhood organization may wish to consider purchasing. Therefore, even if your city has established a Buy Quiet program, you may want to find out what is going on. If your city has not established a program, perhaps you can "make it happen".

For brochures and further information on Buy Quiet contact: NIGP, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202