



# The United States Conference of Mayors

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## U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS PRESIDENT MIAMI MAYOR MANNY DIAZ STANDS WITH VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT THROUGH NATIONAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Conference of Mayors President Miami Mayor Manny Diaz joined Vice President Joe Biden and Miami Police Chief John Timoney for a press announcement today on Local Law Enforcement Investments in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that directly impact cities and metropolitan areas in every region in the country.

The event was held at the Miami Police Department to highlight a federal investment of more than \$4 billion through the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, which allows states and local governments to support a broad range of activities related to crime prevention, as well as assists police departments with equipment and technology upgrades.

Mayor Diaz said, “This couldn’t come at a more crucial time. Declining municipal budgets have forced many cities to reduce their police force when public safety is more important than ever. These JAG funds will allow city and local governments to hire new officers, rehire those recently laid off due to budget cuts, and eliminate layoffs that were expected.”

“Government’s most important role is to make our streets and neighborhoods safe for our children and our families. So, the nation’s mayors are encouraged by this announcement of investments in the area of public safety – a priority that has been at the top of the Conference of Mayors’ agenda for the last 75 years,” Diaz concluded.

Last summer mayors and police chiefs from across the country met in Philadelphia to develop a public safety agenda for the next president of the United States. Senator Biden joined the mayors’ call to revive the COPS program and the Byrne JAG grants.

The nation’s mayors have stressed that investing in MainStreet metropolitan economies, which comprise 90% of our gross domestic product and drive the national economy, is the most direct path to creating jobs and stimulating the business that can begin to reverse the current economic downturn.

Americans are increasingly living in our nation’s cities and metropolitan areas, which account for 83 percent of the country’s population, and the nation’s future prosperity is very much dependent on the health of cities and metro-areas.

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