



The United States Conference of Mayors

1620 Eye Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006
Phone (202) 293-7330 • Fax (202) 293-2352
E-mail: info@usmayors.org URL: usmayors.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 15, 2007

Contact: Elena Temple
202-861-6719 (etemple@usmayors.org)
Ione Hess
202-861-6725 (ihess@usmayors.org)

THE NATION'S MAYORS APPLAUD PASSAGE OF COPS AMENDMENT

Urge Stronger Federal-Local Partnerships To Fight Crime

Washington, D.C. – The United States Conference of Mayors, led by President and Trenton, NJ Mayor Douglas H. Palmer, applauded passage of an amendment to provide \$110 million in COPS hiring grants in FY 2008.

Sponsored by Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (DE) and supported by Appropriations Subcommittee Chair Barbara Mikulski (MD), the amendment if signed into law would begin the restoration of the COPS hiring program -- which has received no funding in recent years.

Passage of the amendment is a major victory for the Conference of Mayors, which is calling for full restoration of law enforcement programs as part of the mayors' 10-Point Legislative Plan. Unveiled in January of this year, the Plan is the mayors' bi-partisan legislative agenda endorsed by the entire body of the organization (www.usmayors.org to view).

"I thank the Senate for supporting the nation's mayors and law enforcement in our ongoing efforts to reduce crime and create safer cities. I sincerely hope that the President will sign this bill when it reaches his desk," Conference President Trenton Mayor Douglas H. Palmer said following the Senate action.

The companion House bill for the U.S. Department of Justice contains \$100 million for COPS hiring grants, so it is expected that at least that much will be contained in the final bill sent to the President.

Prior to the Senate action, Mayor Palmer, along with USCM Criminal and Social Justice Committee Chair Rochester Mayor Robert Duffy, participated in a roundtable discussion on crime convened by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (NV) and Senator Debbie Stabenow, Chair of the Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee. Mayors Palmer and Duffy urged the many Senators who attended the meeting to increase funding for the COPS program, the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant, and anti-gang programs.

In the 1990s, mayors and police chiefs put extensive effort into increasing public safety and establishing a partnership with the federal government. As a result, many cities saw crime rates drop to historic lows. In recent years, however, those partnerships were dissolved and crime is now in the rise with gun violence becoming more and more prevalent.

"Mayors around the country have consistently worked with police chiefs to push for strong federal crime prevention and anti-gang measures. We must do everything we can to let Congress and the Administration know that cities cannot fight this battle by themselves," said Mayor Palmer.

###

Mayor Palmer is available for comment on this issue. Please call the USCM Office of Communications (numbers listed above) to arrange.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today, each represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the Mayor.