



**STATEMENT OF BOSTON MAYOR THOMAS MENINO,
PRESIDENT, U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS,
ON PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL TO RESTRUCTURE HOMELAND SECURITY**

June 6, 2002

“The nation’s mayors were briefed earlier today by Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge on the Administration’s plan to restructure homeland security efforts. Based on the information we were provided, we support the President’s proposal.

“In our *National Action Plan for Safety and Security in America’s Cities*, which we released last October, we expressed our concern about the multiplicity of federal agencies involved in homeland security and specifically called for the creation of a Cabinet-level Office of Homeland Security with budget authority. Today’s proposal is responsive to our recommendations and we applaud it.

“We believe this new plan will help improve coordination and cooperation. We hope it will also improve intelligence information sharing. We will continue to work with the Administration and Congress to bring much needed federal resources directly to cities and our first responders. Resources are needed sooner rather than later, as cities, on the frontlines of homeland security, continue to ramp up their prevention and emergency response efforts.

“We look forward to continuing our close partnership with Governor Ridge and are pleased that he and FEMA Director Joe Allbaugh will be meeting with mayors in Madison at our Annual Meeting on June 17.”

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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 city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. The primary roles of the Conference of Mayors are to promote the development of effective national urban/suburban policy; strengthen federal-city relationships; ensure that federal policy meets urban needs; provide mayors with leadership and management tools; and create a forum in which mayors can share ideas and information. For more information, please visit www.usmayors.org.

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