



NEWS

The United States Conference of Mayors

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 19, 2003

MAYOR O'MALLEY APPOINTED CHAIR OF HOMELAND SECURITY TASK FORCE AT U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

Will Lead Live Homeland Security Webcast – Friday, 1:00 p.m. at www.usmayors.org

Washington, DC – Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley was appointed Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Mayors' new Homeland Security Task Force today. The task force will focus on securing direct first responder funding and ensuring that any new program is administered to the benefit of cities.

“Mayor O'Malley is widely recognized as a national leader on the issue of homeland security,” said Boston Mayor and Conference President Thomas M. Menino, who made the appointment. “I am confident he will be highly effective in helping to lead our continued, aggressive efforts to obtain significant, flexible, direct funding for America's domestic troops – our police, fire, and emergency response personnel.”

Mayor O'Malley will join J. Thomas Cochran, Conference Executive Director, for a live webcast Friday at 1:00 p.m. at www.usmayors.org to update mayors, their staffs, and other interested parties on the need for and status of additional homeland security funding.

“Since 9/11, our emergency services personnel have been on the front lines everyday, protecting the nation's cities,” said Mayor O'Malley. “I am honored to be named Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Mayors' new Homeland Security Task Force and look forward to lobbying for direct and flexible funding that will allow us to support, protect and train our first responders for any crisis.”

Mayors have been seeking a stronger federal partnership and additional funding for local homeland security efforts since 9/11. Disappointing mayors and the President, the budget enacted for this fiscal year failed to deliver on the promise of \$3.5 billion in new assistance, even as cities across the nation face rapidly mounting security costs. America's mayors were encouraged today by Secretary Ridge's announcement that President Bush will seek additional homeland security funding in a supplemental appropriations bill. Earlier this month, Mayor Menino wrote to President Bush urging him to make such a request. Mayors, led by Mayor O'Malley, look forward to continuing

to work closely with the Administration and Congress on the details of this new funding proposal.

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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 1,183 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. More information about the Conference is available at www.usmayors.org.

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