



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

1620 EYE STREET, NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006
TELEPHONE (202) 293-7330
FAX (202) 293-2352
TDD (202) 293-9445
URL: www.usmayors.org/uscm

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Dear Mayor:

Within forty-eight hours of initial military strikes against Iraq President Bush is expected to send a supplemental appropriation bill to Congress in order to fund our troops and our essential military needs abroad.

Now is the time for us to secure direct federal support for our fire, police and emergency medical first responders.

Today -- please call members of your congressional delegation and urge them to include immediate and adequate funding for our police, fire and EMS first responders who are fighting here in America's cities. You best understand equipment, training and overtime needs of your frontline troops. You know where the likely terrorist targets are in your city. Our people cannot wait another eighteen months for funds to crawl through federal and state bureaucracies before reaching our first responders. The threat to America's cities is imminent, the primary vulnerabilities are in America's cities, and the federal dollars are needed in America's cities. If this vital funding is to have any effect at all, it must be sent *directly* to our nation's cities now.

Only you can educate your citizens and put the necessary pressure on your congressional delegation. Adequate, direct, and flexible funding administered quickly as block grants will allow us to support, protect, train, and equip our first responders for any crisis.

I am attaching some talking points that I hope you will find helpful. We must push now for the direct federal support our first responders need.

Very truly yours,

Martin O'Malley
Mayor of Baltimore
Chair, Homeland Security Task Force

Attachment