



# NEWS The United States Conference of Mayors

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## **The U.S. Conference of Mayors President Trenton Mayor Douglas H. Palmer Thanks Congress for Funding Increases**

Washington, D.C. - The U.S. Conference of Mayors President Trenton, NJ Mayor Douglas H. Palmer released the following statement on critical increases included in the Joint Funding Resolution for FY 2008 Budget:

“As CEOs of the nation’s cities, mayors know all too well the challenges America’s families face. We believe that our legislative agenda, *Mayors’ 2007 10-Point Plan: Strong Cities...Strong Families... For a Strong America*, reflects the priorities of the American people and strengthens American families.

“We are encouraged by the recent actions of the House and the Senate leadership and the Appropriations Committee Chairs in increasing funding for some of our key policy priorities in the Joint Funding Resolution.

“Specifically, we commend Congress for increasing funds to fight crime, which is the first step in restoring federal-local partnership. The Joint Funding Resolution for FY 2007 contains \$542 million for Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), an increase of \$70 million. The bill also provides \$520 million for Byrne Justice Assistance Formula Grants, an increase of \$109 million.

“These increases are the first to be proposed for these anti-crime programs in recent years, and they represent a first step toward reversing the drastic cuts made to state and local law enforcement programs since 2001.

“For a growing number of cities across the United States, violent crime is accelerating at an alarming pace. The FBI’s Uniform Crime Report for 2005 showed the largest single year percent increase in violent crime in 14 years. This is why we have been working with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and many other members of the House and Senate, to restore the federal-local partnership on fighting crime, which is a major priority in our legislative agenda.

“We also commend Congress for including in the Joint Funding Resolution an increase in public housing subsidies of \$300 million, bringing it to \$3.8 billion. This is also a key priority included in the Mayors’ 10-Point Plan. This increase of \$300 million will address escalating operating expenses, such as utility costs, which were not anticipated. The mayors also claim victory for increases for the Section 8 Tenant-Based Program and Section 8 Project-Based Program. Both of these measures were included in Conference of Mayors emergency resolution adopted at the 75<sup>th</sup> Winter Meeting in January 2007, and we are pleased to see such quick legislative action.

“The nation’s mayors look forward to continuing to work in a bi-partisan manner with the Congressional leadership, committee chairs and ranking members, and all Members of Congress to further strengthen working families and build stronger cities.”

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