



# NEWS The United States Conference of Mayors

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## **WAR, THREAT ALERT INCREASE CITY SECURITY COSTS BY \$70 MILLION PER WEEK NATIONWIDE**

*New Survey Finds Security Costs Are Mounting, as Cities Await Direct Federal Aid*

WASHINGTON, DC – Cities nationwide are spending about \$70 million per week on additional homeland security measures due to the war in Iraq and national high state of threat alert, according to a new 145-city survey by the U.S. Conference of Mayors. At that rate, a six-month period of war and/or high alert status would cost cities nearly \$2 billion.

**The costs reflected in this survey come on top of existing homeland security spending already underway or planned since 9/11.** In addition, this survey only asked cities about **direct** costs, new money that had to be allocated for homeland security because of the war or threat alert level. These figures do **not** account for the huge **indirect** costs cities are experiencing. When a police officer normally assigned to anti-gang work is reassigned to guard a public building, that is an indirect but very real cost for a city and its residents. These figures also exclude major equipment purchases or other security needs that are not directly related to the current state of alert and homeland preparedness given the war. A prior survey found cities expected to spend more than \$2.6 billion on homeland security between September 11, 2001 and the end of 2002.

“Mayors need direct homeland security funding and we needed it more than 18 months ago,” said Baltimore Mayor Martin O’Malley, who chairs the Mayors’ Homeland Security Task Force. “Our domestic troops – police, fire, and emergency medical personnel – must be well funded just as our troops in Iraq must be.”

Cities have received little direct federal assistance for homeland security since the attack on September 11. This week, President Bush proposed an additional \$1.4 billion in aid for local governments, recommending that all but \$50 million of that funding be channeled first through state bureaucracies.

“Cities are the first line of homeland defense,” said Boston Mayor and Conference President Thomas Menino. “They continue to bear tremendous and growing costs to

ensure security and protect their residents and businesses in these tough times. Cities urgently need direct, flexible financial assistance to meet their homeland security needs”

The 145 cities participating in the survey are geographically and politically diverse. They range in size from 30,000 to eight million people. As a group, they are spending more than \$21.4 million per week on additional homeland security efforts because of the war and national “orange” threat alert level. The Conference’s methodology projects a figure for the 1185 cities nationwide with population of more than 30,000 based on the data received from this sample pool of cities.

A summary of the survey and complete data from participating cities is available at [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org).

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*The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of the nation’s 1185 cities with populations of 30,000 or more. Each city is represented 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.*