



# NEWS The United States Conference of Mayors

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## Mayors Call for Action Now to Address Continued Rise in Violent Crime

### Statement by Trenton, NJ Mayor Douglas H. Palmer President of The United States Conference of Mayors

Washington, D.C. -- “The nation’s mayors are extremely concerned that violent crime rates are continuing to rise in many cities across the nation, with some cities experiencing double-digit or even triple-digit percentage increases in homicides and other violence.

“According to the latest statistics gathered by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), an organization we work with on law enforcement priorities, 56 policing agencies across the nation over a two year period starting on January 1, 2005 reported:

- **Total homicides were 10.21 percent higher;**
- **Robberies increased 12.27 percent;**
- **Aggravated assaults increased 3.12 percent; and**
- **Aggravated assaults with a firearm increased by almost 10 percent.**

“As stated in our new *Mayors’ 10-Point Plan: Strong Cities, Strong Families, For a Strong America*, mayors and police chiefs have identified a number of factors contributing to this rise in crime, including a growing culture of violence among youth, gangs, a proliferation of illegal guns, drug activity, the re-entry of ex-offenders, and social problems related to school truancy and a lack of jobs.

“Mayors and police chiefs are working together to address these issues at the local level, but while violent crime is steadily increasing, funding for federal law enforcement programs has been slashed in past years. The COPS hiring program (once funded at almost \$1.3 billion), and the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant program (once funded at approximately \$523 million) have both been eliminated.

“We commend the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, which has already begun to restore the federal-local partnership on crime by increasing funding for the COPS program and block grants.

“We look forward to continuing to work with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, other members of the House and Senate bi-partisan leadership, and key committee chairs to fully rebuild the federal-local partnership on fighting crime and increasing hometown security.”

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