

## \$ 3.4 Million Federal Grant For Jersey City to Hire 20 Police Officers

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Rothman, Menendez, Payne Announce \$3.4 Million Federal Grant

For Jersey City to Hire 20 Full-Time Police Officers

New Officers Will Strengthen Homeland Security Efforts, Improve Area's Quality Of Life

Jersey City, NJ - Congressmen Steve Rothman (D-NJ9), Bob Menendez (D-NJ13), and Donald Payne (D-NJ10) this week announced that Jersey City has been awarded a \$3.4 million Federal grant from U.S. Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program to hire 20 full-time police officers. The grant was awarded under the COPS' Universal Hiring Program (UHP), which helps law enforcement agencies pay the salary and benefits of additional officers who will perform homeland security activities and community policing.

"This substantial Federal grant will add 20 new officers to the Jersey City police force at a time when additional resources for First Responders are very much needed to meet our area's increased terror threat," Rothman said. "Jersey City's Police Department will use these new officers to help bolster its homeland security efforts, while continuing to improve the quality of life of residents and businesses. In addition to helping safeguard Jersey City, this Federal grant saves local taxpayers from having to pay \$3.4 million to hire these new police officers."

Menendez said, "Today's funding recognizes Jersey City's continuing and increasing need to prepare and work to secure our neighborhoods. Communities across our great state and nation depend on COPS funding to meet the ever increasing needs of protecting our homeland. I call on the Administration to continue to fund this vital program, which historically has provided our community with much-needed police protection, both in our schools and on our streets."

The COPS' UHP program provides up to 75 percent of the total cost of salary and benefits (up to \$75,000) of each new officer for three years. Local funds pay the remainder, and each grantee is required to retain the new positions for a minimum of one local budget cycle after the grant funds expire.

"I am pleased that we were successful in winning this large award to enable Jersey City to strengthen its law enforcement efforts and to enhance homeland security measures as we continue to deal with the aftermath of September 11th," Payne said. "Funding to hire an additional 20 police officers in Jersey City through the highly successful COPS program will help make the community safer and more secure."

Since 1995, COPS has helped over 13,000 law enforcement agencies make their communities safer by funding the hiring of more than 118,000 officers. Jersey City has received more than \$18 million in COPS grants since the inception of the program.

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