

## Rothman Gets Private Briefing from Head of NJ State Police on Latest Steps Taken to Strengthen Homeland

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Rothman Gets Private Briefing from Head of NJ State Police on Latest Steps Taken to Strengthen Homeland Security Preparedness and Coordination of Federal & State Agencies' Efforts to Protect New Jerseyans from Terrorist Attacks at Issue

Washington, DC - In an effort to monitor state homeland security activities, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn) last week received a private briefing from Colonel Joseph R. Fuentes, Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police, on the latest steps being taken in New Jersey to protect residents from future terrorist attacks. Rothman, who as a member of the House Appropriations Committee has helped secure hundreds of millions of federal dollars for homeland security initiatives in New Jersey, will continue working closely with the New Jersey State Police to ensure that all anti-terrorism needs are being fully funded.

"I am very grateful that Colonel Fuentes took the time to come to my Washington, DC office to give me a private briefing on what his agency, in cooperation with other state, local, and federal authorities are doing to safeguard New Jersey residents and the state's critical infrastructure. Among other areas of discussion, Colonel Fuentes gave me an update on the Homeland Security Branch within the New Jersey State Police - an initiative that streamlines the response to any future incidents and more effectively protects New Jerseyans," Rothman said. "We've made great progress since September 11th with regards to the prevention and deterrence of terrorist attacks by land, sea, and air and we have made great strides in capturing those who seek to harm us before they can act. With a strong partnership among all levels of government and the continued effective leadership of Governor James McGreevey, our state can have a homeland security system that will be the most effective of any of its kind in the nation."

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, which allocates all of the discretionary funds in the federal budget, Rothman has worked hard to ensure that New Jersey gets as much federal money as possible for homeland security initiatives. Over the past three years, Rothman has helped secure approximately \$400 million in federal homeland security funds for New Jersey, including money for first responders, port and airport security, and mass transit safety.

"With more than 8.5 million people living in New Jersey and key infrastructure sites including bridges, tunnels, sports stadiums, chemical plants, and interstate highways, our state law enforcement officials and other emergency personnel need all the help they can get to organize and pay for New Jersey's homeland security," Rothman said. "I will continue to fight everyday to ensure that the federal government gives the dollars needed to protect our state, while relieving state and local taxpayers from the added tax burden they would otherwise be required to pay for these security improvements."

Included in the \$400 million in federal monies Rothman has helped secure for the entire state, the Congressman has brought much needed funds to Northern New Jersey for: new emergency communication equipment for first responders in Bergen and Hudson County; six new homeland security officers for the Bergen County Police force; new equipment for firefighters across the region; and surveillance cameras at the Bergen County Courthouse as well as DMV facilities throughout the state.

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