



MAYOR CHRIS BOLLWAGE

CITY OF ELIZABETH PRESS RELEASE



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FED FUNDS HELP CITY OF ELIZABETH HIRE ADDITIONAL COPS

ELIZABETH, NJ July 29, 2009 – Mayor J. Christian Bollwage announces the City of Elizabeth will receive \$4.9 million in federal recovery aid in order to hire more police officers. The aid was announced on Tuesday by Vice President Joe Biden, Attorney General Eric Holder, and various state governors including New Jersey Governor John Corzine at a press conference in Philadelphia, PA.

“Federal funding from the COPS program will place more police officers on our streets and in our neighborhoods,” said Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage. “Recently, we upgraded our police headquarters, added GPS to our police vehicles, installed more than a dozen security cameras throughout the City, increased the number of community block watch groups and now we will increase our police force. These combined and continuous efforts have resulted in safer streets and a 9 percent reduction in crime for 2009.”

Elizabeth, one of 18 cities that received funds from the U.S. Department of Justice’s Community Oriented Policing Services program, will receive approximately \$4.9 million of the \$26.8 million New Jersey funding, in order to hire additional police officers.

The Elizabeth police department will allocate more than \$500,000 of its COPS funding to support officer overtime for a “special neighborhood detail”, units responsible for cracking down on prostitution and drug problems in neighborhoods. The unit will also work to enforce the city curfew.

“Through the COPS Hiring Recovery Program, the City of Elizabeth anticipates hiring seventeen (17) police officers to further safeguard residents and improve the overall quality of life,” said Elizabeth Police Director James Cosgrove. “Funding will be utilized to expand community-driven policing efforts and increase collaborative neighborhood relationships to effectively address law enforcement issues as a team.”

Under the COPS program, each state is entitled to at least \$5 million in COPS money from the \$787 billion stimulus package. According to the COPS program, the federal government is responsible for paying the officers’ salary and benefits for the first three years, after which the local government will be responsible for the costs.

Since its inception 14 years ago, the federal program has spent \$12.4 billion in order to finance additional police in cities and towns across New Jersey. Over 117,000 law enforcement officers have been hired throughout 13,000 state, local and tribal agencies.