



MAYOR CHRIS BOLLWAGE

# CITY OF ELIZABETH PRESS RELEASE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **18 NEW POLICE RECRUITS BEGIN TRAINING**

*New recruits hired through \$4.9million COPS Hiring Recovery Program Grant*

**ELIZABETH, NJ January 11, 2010-** Mayor Chris Bollwage, City Council members, and Police personnel welcomed 18 new Police recruits at a ceremony in City Hall. Senator Frank Lautenberg, Congressmen Albio Sires and Donald Payne, as well as representatives from the U.S. Department of Justice and Office of Community Oriented Policing Services were also in attendance, wishing the new recruits well as they head for six months of training before receiving their assignments in June.

“I wish all the new recruits much success in their new careers and extend my gratitude to all the Legislators who made this law enforcement funding possible,” said Mayor Chris Bollwage. “From increased neighborhood-focused initiatives to enhanced interoperability and response, these grant funds will further improve residential communication and interaction with the Elizabeth Police Department.”

Elevating the ranks of the Elizabeth Police Department will achieve a multitude of goals, including: increasing police presence, enhancing community partnerships with the law enforcement community, as well as proactively incorporating community policing principles to assist in the prevention and reduction of criminal activity throughout neighborhoods. These initiatives, combined with continual input and assistance of residents, will create safer communities and an improved overall quality of life.

“The City of Elizabeth is serious about fighting crime and bringing the fight straight to the criminals,” Sen. Lautenberg said. “This federal Recovery Act funding will help Elizabeth PD effectively carry out their duties, drive down crime and strengthen neighborhoods.”

Seventeen of the recruits are being funded through a \$4.9 million **Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP)**. The Federal initiative is a competitive grant program that provides funding directly to law enforcement agencies having primary law enforcement authority to create and preserve jobs and to increase their community policing capacity and crime-prevention efforts.

The new class is a diverse group with: 16 Men and 2 Females-- 13 Hispanics, 4 Caucasians, and 1 African American.

“In these challenging economic times, it is important that we strengthen essential community services. The COPS hiring program restores a national commitment to improving public safety and reducing crime through our law enforcement officers. These officers are living proof that the federal stimulus dollars are being used effectively to protect main street America, through programs such as the federal COPS program,” said Rep. Payne, a senior member of the House Education and Labor Committee.

The Elizabeth Police Department offers an excellent starting salary of \$45,915 with an increase in pay after graduation from the Police Academy. Officers are eligible for retirement after 25 years of service at 65% of their final salary.