



# THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

1620 EYE STREET, NORTHWEST  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006  
TELEPHONE (202) 293-7330  
FAX (202) 293-2352  
TDD (202) 293-9445  
URL: [www.usmayors.org/uscm](http://www.usmayors.org/uscm)

July 23, 2011

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman  
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Vice Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski, Chairwoman  
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, Ranking  
Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science  
and Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

Assembled in Los Angeles for the Summer Leadership of The U.S. Conference of Mayors, we write to urge that Congress provide at least current funding for the COPS Hiring grants next year. The bill reported out of the House Appropriations Committee would eliminate the COPS Office and its programs entirely. At a time when cities are being forced to lay off police officers, these cuts to such a critical source of support for local police departments are unconscionable.

Among those departments which have applied for COPS grants in recent years, 11.6 percent have had to lay off sworn officers this year, up from 5.65 percent one year ago. Further 43 percent of these departments have had to impose hiring freezes on sworn officer positions, up from 26 percent one year ago. Over the last three years, the COPS Office has gotten requests to save almost 8,000 sworn positions that either had recently been cut or were about to be cut.

In the latest of round of COPS grants, the Office received \$2 billion in requests for just over 9,000 officers. If the agencies which applied for these funds had not had to limit their funding requests to 50 officers, the demand would have been much greater: \$5.3 billion in requests for 22,194 officers. With the funding available this year the COPS Office expects to make grants for 1,000 to 1,200 officers to approximately 400 departments. These are real jobs for real people who work every day to protect our cities and our residents.

Compounding the proposed cut in COPS funding are cuts and eliminations proposed for other programs which provide critical assistance to cities. The Byrne Justice Assistance Grant, which provides flexible funds to police departments which they can use to meet their greatest needs, would be funded at \$357 million, 16 percent below this year's level and 30 percent below last year's level,. The State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, which provides reimbursement to state and local governments for some of the costs of incarcerating criminal aliens, would be eliminated. We urge that these programs be funded at least at this year's level as well.

It is important to note that the House Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill would cut state and local law enforcement programs disproportionately – by 39 percent. They would be reduced by \$1.1 billion next year, more than the total cut to the U.S. Department of Justice. While we understand the severe fiscal constraints facing the Committee, we are confident that needed funding reductions could be spread more equitably across the Commerce, Justice, Science spending bill.

It is ironic that these cuts are proposed at the same time that some cities are being forced to make cuts in public safety operations to balance their budgets. Public safety is the last thing we should be putting on the chopping block. The proposed cuts to the federal government's primary sources of support for local police departments are untimely and ill advised, and a threat to public safety.

Sincerely,

Antonio R. Villaraigosa  
Mayor of Los Angeles  
President

Scott Smith  
Mayor of Mesa  
Second Vice President

Brian C. Wabler  
Mayor of Piscataway NJ.

Charles Sweeney  
Mayor of Fresno, CA

Paul A. Zyglis  
Mayor of Marlinton WV

Mike Murphy  
Mayor of Crest, OH

Mayor of Sacramento, CA

Jim R  
Mayor of Oakland

Mayor of HAWAII COUNTY

Robert R. Brown  
Mayor of East Orange, NJ

Michael A. Nutter  
Mayor of Philadelphia  
Vice President

Elizabeth B. Kautz  
Mayor of Burnsville  
Immediate Past President

John P. Ochs  
Mayor of Pembroke Pines

Mark Stodola  
Mayor of Little Rock

Mayor of LAS CRUCES, NM


Michael M. O'Sullivan  
Mayor of Seattle

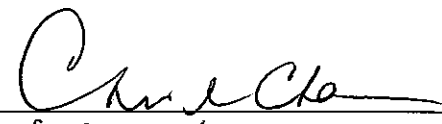
J. M. Franklin  
Mayor of DES MOINES, IA


Mayor of Tallahassee, FL

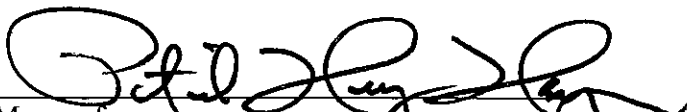
Mayor of Charlotte

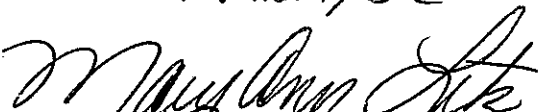
Mayor of SUMTER, SC


  
Mayor of Salt Lake City

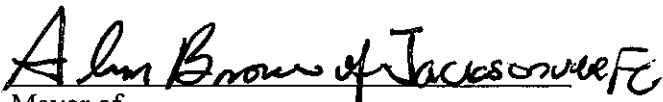
  
Mayor of Larkspur, CA

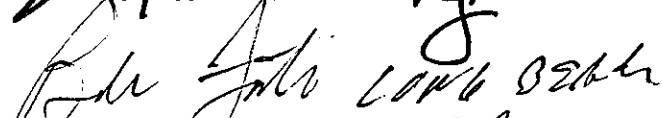
  
Mayor of Columbia, SC


  
Mayor of North Little Rock, AR


  
Mayor of Monrovia, CA

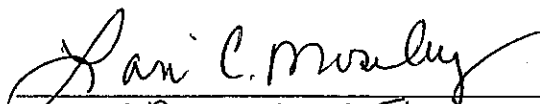
  
Mayor of Kansas City, MO

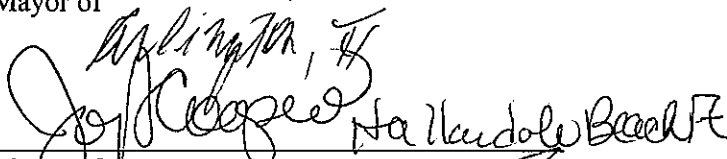
  
Mayor of Jackson, MS

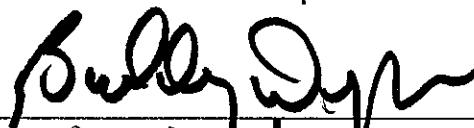
  
Mayor of Redondo Beach, CA


  
Mayor of West Sacramento

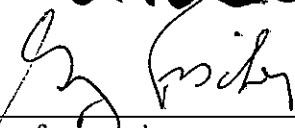
  
Mayor of Arlington, TX

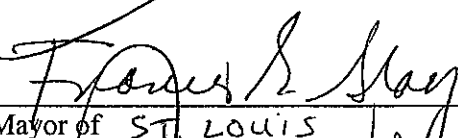
  
Mayor of Miramar, FL


  
Mayor of Hallandale Beach, FL


  
Mayor of Orlando

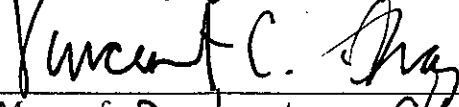
  
Mayor of New Orleans

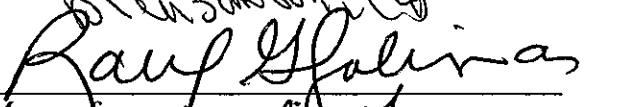
  
Mayor of Louisville, KY


  
Mayor of St. Louis

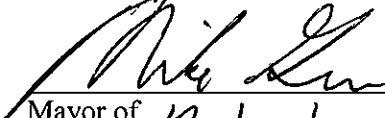
  
Mayor of Columbus Ohio

  
Mayor of San Antonio, TX

  
Mayor of District of Columbia

  
Mayor of Harold, Texas

  
Mayor of Santa Ana, CA

  
Mayor of Redondo Beach, CA

Rachel Jones  
Mayor of MANHATTAN BEACH

Kim McMullan  
Mayor of Clarksville, TN

Beverly  
Mayor of NORTH MIAMI, FL

Bob Brown Broomfield Hills  
Mayor of

John Langer  
Mayor of Turlock, CA

**Mayor**

1. ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
2. MICHAEL A. NUTTER
3. SCOTT SMITH
4. ELIZABETH B. KAUTZ
5. RALPH BECKER
6. STEPHEN K. BENJAMIN
7. ROBERT L. BOWSER
8. ALVIN BROWN
9. BARRY BRUCKER
10. CHRISTOPHER L. CABALDON
11. CAROL CHEN
12. ROBERT CLUCK
13. MICHAEL B. COLEMAN
14. JOY COOPER
15. T.M. FRANKLIN COWNIE
16. BUDDY DYER
17. GREG FISCHER
18. BOB FOSTER
19. ANTHONY R. FOXX
20. MICHAEL A. GIN
21. VINCENT GRAY
22. PATRICK HENRY HAYS
23. JENNIFER HOSTERMAN
24. SYLVESTER JAMES
25. KEVIN JOHNSON
26. WILLIAM P. KENOI
27. MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU
28. JOHN LAZAR
29. MARY ANN LUTZ
30. MARK MALLORY
31. JOHN R. MARKS III
32. JOSEPH MCELVEEN, JR.
33. MICHAEL MCGINN
34. KIM MCMILLAN
35. KENNETH D. MIYAGISHIMA
36. RICHARD P. MONTGOMERY
37. LORI C. MOSELEY
38. FRANK C. ORTIS
39. ANDRE PIERRE
40. MIGUEL A. PULIDO
41. JEAN QUAN
42. RAUL G. SALINAS
43. FRANCIS G. SLAY
44. PAUL SOGLIN
45. MARK STODOLA
46. ASHLEY SWEARENGIN
47. BRIAN C. WAHLER

**City**

- Los Angeles, CA, President
- Philadelphia, PA, Vice President
- Mesa, AZ, Second Vice President
- Burnsville, MN, Past President
- Salt Lake City, UT
- Columbia, SC
- East Orange, NJ
- Jacksonville FL
- Beverly Hills, CA
- West Sacramento, CA
- Cerritos, CA
- Arlington, TX
- Columbus, OH
- Hallandale Beach, FL
- Des Moines, IA
- Orlando, FL
- Louisville, KY
- Long Beach, CA
- Charlotte, NC
- Redondo Beach, CA
- District of Columbia
- North Little Rock, AR
- Pleasanton, CA
- Kansas City, MO
- Sacramento, CA
- Hilo, HI
- New Orleans, LA
- Turlock, CA
- Monrovia, CA
- Cincinnati, OH
- Tallahassee, FL
- Sumter, SC
- Seattle, WA
- Clarksville, TN
- Las Cruces, NM
- Manhattan Beach, CA
- Miramar, FL
- Pembroke Pines, FL
- North Miami, FL
- Santa Ana, CA
- Oakland, CA
- Laredo, TX
- St. Louis, MO
- Madison, WI
- Little Rock, AR
- Fresno, CA
- Piscataway, NJ