



U.S. Representative • 9th CD, New York • Brooklyn-Queens

ANTHONY D. WEINER

Report

GOP CONVENTION PRIMER: PUBLIC SAFETY

New York City Left Vulnerable By Bush

**Presented by
Congressman Anthony D. Weiner**

Executive Summary

Last November, Mayor Bloomberg said that the Republican National Convention would provide a "chance for New York City to show its gratitude to President Bush and Vice President Cheney for all they have done for New York City" (*Daily News*, 11/15/03).

Over the next several weeks, Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-Queens & Brooklyn) will release a series of reports detailing exactly what the Bush Administration has—or more accurately, *hasn't*--done for New York City. This report focuses on public safety.

Despite President Bush's pledge to do everything necessary to keep New York safe in the wake of September 11, the City will receive \$61.8 million less for police and security in 2004 than it did in 2000. Even with the additional homeland security funding provided to the city in the wake of 9/11, the Bush budget has cut the funding stream running from Washington to New York City by more than a third.

The Mayor's response to Bush's deplorable record? "I think he's a great President and I'm going to support him to the end" (*New York Sun*, 2/25/04).

Funding History

Before 9/11, the bulk of federal funding for New York City's law enforcement community came primarily through the United States Department of Justice via three programs:

- <!--[if !supportLists]--> • <!--[endif]--> The Community Oriented Policing Services Program (COPS)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--> • <!--[endif]--> The Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program (LLEBG)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--> • <!--[endif]--> The Edward Byrne Memorial Grant Program

With the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, the federal government set up a second funding stream. Today, these "homeland security" funds are distributed through three programs:

- <!--[if !supportLists]--> • <!--[endif]--> The State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSG)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--> • <!--[endif]--> The Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--> • <!--[endif]--> The Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)

Analysis of the funding levels directed to New York City through these three programs demonstrates that President Bush has dramatically cut funding to New York City's law enforcement community in the wake of September 11.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FUNDING

The Community Oriented Policing Services Program (COPS)

The COPS Office was created in the 1994 Crime Bill as a part of President Clinton's promise to put 100,000 new police on the street. To date, the program has been a tremendous success, funding more than 119,000 new officers around the country – contributing to more than 7,000 new hires in New York City alone. As Attorney General John Ashcroft testified recently: "Let me just say that I think the COPS program has been successful. The purpose of the COPS program was to demonstrate to local police departments that if you put additional people, feet on the street, that crime could be affected and that people would be safer and more secure. We believe that the COPS program demonstrated that conclusively."

Unfortunately, COPS funding for New York City has dropped precipitously since President Bush took office. New York received \$141.7 million in 2000 – during the last years of the Clinton administration. But based on estimates of funding New York has received during the last three years, New York can expect to receive roughly only \$4.8 million from the COPS program this coming year. That represents a 96% decrease.

COPS Funding for New York City.

2000	2004
\$141.7 million	\$4.8 million

Why the drop? A number of factors play a role. First, the Bush administration has consistently tried to eliminate the program by reducing funding – often suggesting that Congress zero the program out. Second, President Bush has diluted the program by placing non-COPS related programs within the COPS budget, thereby eliminating funds spent on hiring, equipment and overtime (as COPS was intended to do). Finally, the Bloomberg administration has chosen in many circumstances *not* to apply for COPS funding.

Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program (LLEBG)

The LLEBG Program was established to encourage innovative and effective policing techniques and programs within local police forces. LLEBG grants can be used for hiring, training, overtime, equipment, school safety enhancements, drug courts, juvenile justice programming, and multi-jurisdictional task forces. They are administered by the Justice Department, and distributed to local law enforcement agencies on a formulaic basis. Like the COPS program, the Bush administration has chosen to cut the LLEBG program, and has in fact initiated efforts to combine the program with the Byrne program (discussed below), and fund the new "Justice Assistance Grant" program at a reduced level. Like with the COPS program, Congress has been successful in thwarting the president's attempts to gut the program entirely.

As a result of the diminished funding levels, New York City receives significantly less LLEBG funding today than it did before September 11. During 2000, New York City received \$23.7 million. In 2004, the city received only \$6 million, representing a 75% decrease.

LLEBG Funding for New York City

2000	2004
\$23.7 million	\$6.0 million

The Edward Byrne Memorial Grant Program

The Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Grant Program (Byrne Formula Grant Program) is program administered by the Department of Justice to "provide personnel, equipment, training, technical assistance, and information systems for more widespread apprehension, prosecution, adjudication, detention, and rehabilitation of offenders who violate such state and local laws." Grants are provided to states, which in turn distribute funds to local law enforcement agencies.

The Bush administration has, to date, provided sufficient funding to allow Byrne funding to continue to flow to New York City. New York State passed \$6.7 million from the federal government through to New York City in 2000, and recent projections indicate that the City could receive \$8.1 million in 2004, which would amount to a 21% increase. Unfortunately, the Bush administration has proposed to gut the Byrne program in next

year's budget by combining it with LLEBG, and reducing overall funding.

Byrne Grant Funding for New York City

2000	2004
\$6.7 million	\$8.1 million

TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FUNDING

Funding provided to New York City through the Justice Department's three major programs dropped from \$172.1 million in 2000 to \$18.9 in 2004. That decrease of \$153.2 million represents a drop of 89%.

Traditional Law Enforcement Funding for New York City

Program	2000	2004
COPS	\$141.7 million	\$4.8 million
LLEBG	\$23.7 million	\$6.0 million
Byrne	\$6.7 million	\$8.1 million
Total	\$172.1	\$18.9 million

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

The State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSG)

Since September 11, the Bush administration has set up three major programs to provide funding for local law enforcement agencies working to provide homeland security. The first of these programs, established for fiscal year 2003, is the State Homeland Security Grant program, administered by the federal Department of Homeland Security, which distributes funding to states on a formulaic basis that relies primarily on population. New York State then passes a portion of those funds to New York City.

In 2003, the first year of the program, New York State sent New York City \$34.2 million in total SHSG money. In 2004, despite cuts in the amount of federal funding for the SHSG Program, the State provided a larger percent of its allocation to New York City, totalling \$41 million. That represents almost a 20% increase – due not to the Bush administration’s generosity, but rather Governor Pataki’s decision to boost the City’s share of the State’s SHSG allocation.

The State Homeland Security Grant Program

2003	2004
\$34.2 million	\$41.8 million

The Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP)

A second program, administered by the Department of Homeland Security in tandem with the State Homeland Security Block Grant, is the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program. Established for 2004, the second year of the SHSG program, these funds are distributed using the same formula, and are also provided to local law enforcement agencies through the State. In 2004, New York City received \$12 million from the LETPP.

The Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program

2004
\$12.0 million

The Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)

Because the State Homeland Security Grant Program does *not* distribute money on the basis of vulnerability, Congress set up a separate stream of homeland security funding for local law enforcement targeted directly for urban areas. Originally called the “high threat, high density” program, and later entitled, the “Urban Area Security Initiative,” UASI provides funding based on a formula kept largely secret by the Department of Homeland Security. Money is targeted by the federal government to specific localities and transportation agencies, provided to the state (which takes a 20% cut off the top of any allocated funding), and passed in turn to the locality.

Initially, New York City did very well under UASI. In 2003, the City was allocated almost \$150 million, and received (after New York State took its cut), \$124.8 million. But because the Department of Homeland Security has decided to open up the program to more and more localities – initially only seven cities were eligible; at last count 80 cities and transportation agencies were receiving UASI funds – New York’s allocation has dropped to \$37.6 million in 2004, representing almost a 70% decrease.

The Urban Area Security Initiative

2003	2004
\$124.8 million	\$37.6 million

HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Funding provided to New York City in 2004 through the Department of Homeland Security’s three major programs amounted to \$91.4 million.

TOTAL FUNDING

Analysis of overall funding for New York City since September 11th shows that New York's law enforcement community is actually receiving \$61.8 million *less* from the federal government today than it did in 2000.

Program	2000	2004
COPS	\$141.7 million	\$4.8 million
LLEBG	\$23.7 million	\$6.0 million
Byrne	\$6.7 million	\$8.1 million
SHSG	0	\$41.8 million
LETPP	0	\$12 million
UASI	0	\$37.6 million
TOTAL	\$172.1 million	\$110.3 million

Methodology

Funding levels for the COPS programs were provided by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services at the U.S. Department of Justice and estimates of 2004 funding for New York City were based on funding levels for New York as a proportion of national funding since 2000. Funding levels for LLEBG Program provided by the Office of Justice Programs at the U.S. Department of Justice. Funding levels for the Byrne Grant Program in 2000 provided by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, and 2004 numbers estimated from national numbers provided by the Congressional Research Service and pro-rated from funding levels provided to New York City as a percentage of national funding between 1999 and 2003. Funding levels for Homeland Security Programs provided by the City of New York and the State of New York. State Homeland Security Grant Program figure reflect funding for both the formula grant program and Citizen Corps.

This is the second in a series of reports Rep. Weiner will release in the run-up to the Republican National Convention detailing the Bush Administration's record when it comes to New York City. The first, regarding education, can be found at <http://www.house.gov/weiner/report26.htm>.

Congressman Anthony D. Weiner

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