

City of Newburgh

Press Release

83 Broadway, Newburgh, N.Y. 12550
(845) 569-7354 – (845) 569-7370

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City of Newburgh to Receive More than \$937,000 in Federal Community Oriented Policing (COPS) Grant Funds

Vice President Joseph Biden announced that the Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing (COPS) Office awarded \$1 billion in Recovery Act funding through its COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) to create and/or preserve nearly 5,000 law enforcement positions throughout the country. The City of Newburgh is among only 12 municipalities in the State of New York slated to receive federal stimulus funding for more police officers through this highly competitive grant process. The COPS stimulus program received more than 7,200 applications and only awarded money to 1046 police agencies nationwide. The City of Newburgh will receive \$937,480, which will make it possible for the City to hire four officers for three years.

The funding will provide for 100% of the approved salary and benefits for entry level officer positions over the three year period. Police departments receiving the grants will then be required to retain the grant funded positions for a fourth year.

Police Chief Eric Paolilli commented, "This funding, along with additional funding secured with the help of Representative Maurice Hinchey will allow the City of Newburgh Police department to enhance its Community policing initiatives and assure a more sustained police presence even in these harsh economic times. We plan to expand our current Park and Walk program which puts all available officers on a foot post in identified areas for a portion of every shift. It will also allow the department to expand the work that they have been doing with the Police-Community Relations Advisory Board in being able to assist with their Neighborhood Safety Audit program."

Congressman Maurice Hinchey commented, "At a time when local municipalities are facing difficult financial circumstances, this federal economic recovery funding will help keep police officers on the beat and ensure the public remains adequately protected. Public safety must never be compromised and these federal funds will ensure that the City of Newburgh has the resources needed to staff its police force. I'm very pleased that the economic recovery funds we approved earlier this year in Washington are making their way back up to New York in an effective manner."

“Enhancing public safety is a critical component of the 7-Point Plan for Community Revitalization put forth by Acting City Manager Dwight Douglas,” said Mayor Nicholas Valentine. “This funding will help the Police Department continue a series of initiatives, many of which have already been launched, focused on gang activity, drug elimination, and strengthening community relationships, all of which will help make our community safer.”