



# The United States Conference of Mayors

1620 Eye Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006  
Phone (202) 293-7330 • Fax (202) 293-2352  
E-mail: [info@usmayors.org](mailto:info@usmayors.org) URL: [usmayors.org](http://usmayors.org)

## STATEMENT OF BOSTON MAYOR THOMAS MENINO, PRESIDENT, U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, ON THE NEED FOR HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING AND ECONOMIC STIMULUS FOR AMERICA'S CITIES

January 13, 2002

*The following statement is excerpted from Mayor Menino's "State of the City" address, which was delivered this evening.*

"We need to get another message across, this time to Washington, D.C. In these last two years, the federal government has retreated from urban America. As president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, I go across the country to speak out for American cities. Boston is better off than most, but all our cities need more from Washington.

"It is sixteen months since 9/11, and Congress has still failed to deliver public safety money for first responders. Congress got past the election, then went home and left cities hanging. This is wrong. They vote tax cuts for special interests, but deny cities and states money for necessary programs.

"Washington is out of step with the rest of the country. So I am hosting a summit meeting in Washington with key mayors and governors. I am asking governors to join with the mayors to force Washington to step up to the plate.

"We need more money to put people to work. Instead, we got massive tax breaks on stock dividends that are outside people's retirement funds. This is not real stimulus. This is not what we need. And this is not fair.

"We know what will put people to work: the missing homeland security money we were promised; aid to cities and states that have lost billions in revenue; and money for infrastructure jobs and medical care. Washington should do it, and do it now.

"Congress is missing in action when it comes to restoring financial health to our cities and states. I know Senator Kennedy and Senator Kerry and all our congressmen understand this: we can't have domestic security without economic security. We need a

real stimulus plan, not just more tax cuts that don't do enough to stimulate the economy. People are hurting. We can't wait.

"I am speaking not just for Boston, but for every city and town. We educate your kids, plow your streets, pick up your garbage, put out your fires, police your neighborhoods. When you have a problem, you call us. But we cannot do the job without the tools.

"We have been retreating on the home front for too long. We need a new urban Marshall Plan from the only place we can get it – the federal government."

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*Note: A survey by the U.S. Conference of Mayors found that cities nationwide expected to spend an additional \$2.6 billion on homeland security between September 11, 2001 and the end of 2002. One year ago, the President proposed \$3.5 billion in assistance to first responders. Congress has yet to act on this request.*

*The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of the 1,183 cities with populations of 30,000 or more. Each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. The primary roles of the Conference are to promote the development of effective national urban/suburban policy; strengthen federal-city relationships; ensure that federal policy meets urban needs; provide mayors with leadership and management tools; and create a forum in which mayors can share ideas and information.*