

City of Miami, Florida

MANUEL A. DIAZ
MAYOR



3500 PAN AMERICAN DRIVE
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33133
(305) 250-5300
FAX (305) 854-4001

Event with Vice President Joe Biden City of Miami Police Headquarters

Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

March 6th, 2009

MR. VICE PRESIDENT, GLAD TO SEE YOU ARE STILL IN MIAMI STIMULATING OUR ECONOMY. LAURIE, WELCOME TO MIAMI, IT IS A BIT WARMER THAN THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU.

YESTERDAY, DURING A TRANSPORTATION EVENT, I THANKED THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR HIS LONG-STANDING SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF AMERICA'S CITIES. TODAY, WE HIGHLIGHT YET ANOTHER AREA WHERE HE HAS TRULY BEEN A CHAMPION FOR AMERICA'S CITIES AND THE AMERICAN PUBLIC.

AS A SENATOR, AS A VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, AND NOW AS VICE PRESIDENT, JOE BIDEN HAS STOOD WITH AMERICA'S MAYORS AND AMERICA'S CITIES ON PUBLIC SAFETY: POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, AND FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT.

LAST SUMMER, 50 MAYORS AND POLICE CHIEFS FROM ACROSS AMERICA MET IN PHILADELPHIA TO DEVELOP A PUBLIC SAFETY AGENDA FOR THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

SENATOR JOE BIDEN JOINED US IN RECOGNIZING, AS HE ALWAYS HAS, THAT ASSURING OUR PUBLIC SAFETY REQUIRES AN ACTIVE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CITIES AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

HE JOINED OUR CALL TO REVIVE THE C.O.P.S. PROGRAM AND THE BYRNE JAG GRANTS. HE JOINED OUR CALL TO RENEW THE FEDERAL BAN ON MILITARY ASSAULT WEAPONS THAT ARE KILLING CHILDREN ON THE STREETS OF MIAMI AND CITIES AROUND THE COUNTRY ON AN UNPRECEDENTED SCALE.

ON THE STREETS OF MIAMI, AN AK-47 IS CHEAPER TO BUY THAN A PLAYSTATION. IS IT ANY WONDER THAT THESE WEAPONS OF WAR ARE BEING USED BY CHILDREN TO KILL OTHER CHILDREN?

AND HE JOINED OUR CALL TO PUT AN END TO THE GUN SHOW LOOPHOLE.

TRUE TO HIS WORD, THE C.O.P.S. PROGRAM AND BYRNE JAG GRANTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT AND ARE PART OF THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED 2010 BUDGET.

THANK YOU, MR. VICE PRESIDENT.

THIS COULDN'T COME AT A MORE CRUCIAL TIME. DECLINING MUNICIPAL BUDGETS HAVE FORCED MANY CITIES TO REDUCE THEIR POLICE FORCE AT A TIME WHEN PUBLIC SAFETY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER.

THESE FUNDS WILL ALLOW CITY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO HIRE NEW OFFICERS, REHIRE THOSE RECENTLY LAID OFF BECAUSE OF BUDGET CUTS, AND ELIMINATE LAYOFFS THAT WERE FEARED OR EXPECTED.

THESE FUNDS WILL ALSO ASSIST POLICE DEPARTMENTS WITH EQUIPMENT AND OTHER VITAL CRIME FIGHTING TOOLS.

GOVERNMENT'S MOST IMPORTANT ROLE IS TO MAKE OUR STREETS AND NEIGHBORHOODS SAFE FOR OUR CHILDREN AND OUR FAMILIES.

TO THAT END, WE HAVE NO BETTER FRIEND THAN JOE BIDEN.

###

AND ON THAT NOTE, I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE OUR MIAMI CHIEF OF POLICE, JOHN TIMONEY.

WHEN I BECAME MAYOR IN 2001, I WANTED THE BEST POSSIBLE CHIEF OF POLICE FOR OUR DEPARTMENT. JOHN TIMONEY WAS, AND IS, THE BEST OF THE BEST.

JOHN TIMONEY HAS BEEN MIAMI'S CHIEF OF POLICE FOR SIX YEARS. BEFORE THAT, HE SERVED FOUR YEARS AS THE POLICE COMMISSIONER OF THE PHILADELPHIA POLICE DEPARTMENT AND WAS THE YOUNGEST PERSON IN NEW YORK CITY HISTORY TO HOLD THE "FOUR STAR" POSITION OF CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT.

DURING CHIEF TIMONEY'S FIRST YEAR AS MIAMI POLICE CHIEF, HE WAS ABLE TO STRENGTHEN THE DEPARTMENT'S SENSE OF INTEGRITY, REVISED PROCEDURES FOR GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY, IMPLEMENTED ONE OF THE MOST PROGRESSIVE POLICIES IN THE COUNTRY ON THE USE OF DEADLY FORCE BY POLICE OFFICERS, AND REDUCED THE NUMBER OF POLICE SHOOTINGS OF CIVILIANS

HE IS THE RECIPIENT OF OVER 65 DEPARTMENT MEDALS, INCLUDING THE PRESTIGIOUS MEDAL OF VALOR.

CHIEF TIMONEY IS PRESIDENT OF THE POLICE EXECUTIVE RESEARCH FORUM AND SERVES ON THE BOARDS OF THE PENN INSTITUTE FOR URBAN RESEARCH, PHILADELPHIA UNIVERSITY, AND CEDARS MEDICAL CENTER. HE IS ALSO CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE FBI'S SOUTH FLORIDA JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCE.

PLEASE WELCOME OUR Chief of Police, John Timoney.