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July 6, 2011

The Honorable Frank Wolf
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science
And Related Agencies
H-307 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chaka Fattah
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science
And Related Agencies
1610 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Fattah:

On behalf of the League of California Cities (League), which represents California's 481 cities, I am writing to urge you to support full funding for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program and the Byrne/Justice Assistance Grants (Byrne/JAG) program in the FY 2012 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill.

Over the past five years California cities have put to use over \$230 million in COPS hiring funding and \$70 million in Byrne/JAG awards. These significant federal resources have greatly enhanced California local law enforcement strategies to increase public safety and reduce crime over this period, and our local law enforcement agencies rely on this much-needed federal support to continue and expand their efforts to keep our communities safe.

We understand that you are faced with tough choices and competing demands as you assemble the Subcommittee's FY 2012 appropriations legislation, but reaching an agreement on the federal budget should not come at the expense of your partners in local law enforcement or the residents in the communities they serve. According to a recent survey by the Police Executive Research Forum, nearly half of the responding agencies said that budget cuts have already caused or will cause changes in police services in their communities this year.

The COPS hiring and Byrne/JAG programs provide local governments with much-needed support to further a broad range of local public safety activities including law enforcement hiring, prosecution, planning, evaluation, and technology improvement, corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, prevention and education. Full funding at \$600 million for the COPS hiring program and \$511 million for the Byrne/JAG program is needed to maintain the great number of local law enforcement programs and activities that are currently underway and keeping our neighborhoods safe. As you consider the FY 2012 Commerce, Justice, Science bill we urge you to fully fund these important programs at these requested levels.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you on this important issue as work to organize and debate this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris McKenzie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christopher McKenzie
Executive Director

Cc: The Honorable Representative Adam Schiff
The Honorable Representative Michael Honda