

## **AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING**

### **ITEM #10: URBAN AREAS SECURITY INITIATIVE (UASI) FUNDING**

#### **SUBJECT:**

Congress has passed The Consolidated Appropriations Act (HR 2055) for FY 2012 which has severely cut Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant funding to state and local government, including the UASI grant.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Hampton Roads was designated a high risk urban area eligible to receive UASI funding in Fiscal Year 2007. Since that time, these funds have been used to address unique planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs of Hampton Roads, and assisted in building an enhanced and sustainable capacity to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism.

While the DHS total allocation for FY 2012 was reduced from Fiscal Year 2011 by nearly \$111 million, DHS grants were reduced by roughly \$1 billion. HR 2055 calls for \$2.37 billion to be set aside for grants to state and local governments. However, after prescribed minimum funding for various programs, approximately \$1.35 billion is left to be divided among ten grant programs, including the UASI program. Congress has instructed Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to award the remaining \$1.35 billion based on threat, vulnerability and consequence.

In the event Hampton Roads does not receive further UASI funding, many of the capabilities built using these funds will not be able to be sustained. As such, the HRPDC staff has developed the attached letter for submittal to the Hampton Roads Congressional Delegation and the Governor regarding the sustainment of UASI funding at historic levels.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Authorize the Chairman to send the attached letter to the Hampton Roads Congressional Delegation and the Governor concerning the UASI funding for Hampton Roads.

Attachment

MEMBER JURISDICTIONS

January 19, 2012

CHESAPEAKE

FORM LETTER

FRANKLIN

RE: Norfolk (Hampton Roads) Urban Areas Security Grant Program

GLOUCESTER

Dear Senator/Congressman/Governor:

HAMPTON

The Consolidated Appropriations Act (HR 2055) severely cut state and local grant funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for Fiscal Year 2012 (see attached). At its January 19, 2012 Commission Meeting, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission acted to urge you to relay the concerns of Hampton Roads stakeholders to Secretary Napolitano about losing Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grant funding. We request your support with advocating for sustainment funding to ensure that regional preparedness capabilities are maintained.

ISLE OF WIGHT

JAMES CITY

NEWPORT NEWS

NORFOLK

HR 2055 directs Secretary Janet Napolitano to award \$1.35 billion based on threat, vulnerability and consequence. In a December 7, 2011 Congressional hearing, the Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee reported that the military is the number one target for terrorists within the United States. Hampton Roads is home to the world's largest military/industrial complex, which encompasses 22 military installations and multiple supporting defense contractors. Currently, there are approximately 115,000 active-duty military in the region. The total Department of Defense (DoD) population in Hampton Roads, including active-duty, reservists, retirees, and family members, totals more than 450,000. As this proves, Hampton Roads continues to face risks that UASI funding is needed to address.

POQUOSON

PORTSMOUTH

SOUTHAMPTON

SUFFOLK

SURRY

Since Hampton Roads was brought into the grant program in fiscal year 2007, UASI grant funds have significantly helped the sixteen jurisdictions of Hampton Roads to increase homeland security preparedness, response and recovery capabilities. For example, the majority of these funds have been utilized to build a regional, interoperable communications infrastructure that first responders rely on to save lives during day-to-day operations, special events, and major disasters.

VIRGINIA BEACH

WILLIAMSBURG

YORK

Provided by the Department of Homeland Security, these funds are sub-awarded to the agencies and localities that are directly responsible for preventing, protecting from, responding to and recovering from acts of terrorism. Unlike most preparedness grants, these funds are provided to directly benefit local first responders and security officials who serve as the front line for our nation's defense against terrorism. As demonstrated with the attached document which shows funded initiatives, the UASI grant continues to reduce risk and close capability gaps. Currently, several initiatives are being built and/or sustained with UASI funding. Removing these funds during a time of economic hardship will result in an inability of local stakeholders to sustain these initiatives and ultimately, a substantially decreased ability to protect the citizens of Hampton Roads.

Hampton Roads stakeholders have been good stewards of UASI funds. As required by DHS, a regional homeland security plan guides UASI investments. Additionally, a regional capabilities assessment and gap analysis has furthered efforts to prioritize and strategically utilize UASI funds. The strategic approach to grant investments ensures federal funds are maximized in the best way possible to increase terrorism preparedness capabilities and reduce risk in Hampton Roads.

The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission asks you for your support in maintaining this important Homeland Security Grant Program. Thank you for your consideration and assistance in helping ensure that Hampton Roads has the necessary resources to protect its citizens and property.

Sincerely,

Thomas G. Shepperd  
Chairman

Attachments