



New Jersey Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness **NEWS**

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State Awards Homeland Security Grant to Irvington to Enhance Information Sharing

-Funds further state's commitment to address regional needs of high-risk urban areas-

IRVINGTON — New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHSP) Director Richard L. Cañas announced today the Township of Irvington has been awarded \$400,000 in state homeland security funds to upgrade the police department's information sharing capabilities and records management systems. Information sharing among and between multiple law enforcement agencies was a key recommendation of the 9/11 Commission Report and continues to be a major priority for New Jersey.

Cañas said the funds will be used to connect the Irvington Police Department to the Essex County Integrated Law Enforcement Initiative (ILEI), which is maintained by the Essex County Sheriff's Office. Under the ILEI, Essex County will in turn connect to the New Jersey Data Exchange, commonly referred to as "NJ-DEX," the statewide intelligence management system. Currently, Essex County's ILEI includes participation from the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, Essex County Corrections Office and the Newark Police Department. Plans are underway to link the remaining Essex County municipalities to the countywide system and into NJ-DEX.

Irvington is being awarded these funds under the competitive State Aid for Capital Homeland Security Critical Infrastructure Grant Program administered by OHSP and funded in the state's annual budget and appropriations act. Irvington and Essex County are located in New Jersey's federally designated Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) area. The UASI program is designed to provide funding to high-threat, high-density urban areas to help them build capacity to prevent, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism.

"Public safety and homeland security remain top priorities for my administration," Governor Jon Corzine said. "We will continue to make strategic investments around the state, especially in our high-risk and high-threat urban areas. Ensuring that local law enforcement agencies have the resources they need is paramount in our efforts to revitalize the state's urban centers."

"Irvington remains a high priority area because of its urban population density, its location near the state's two largest cities and its proximity to a bustling international airport and well-traveled roadways and public transportation systems," Cañas said. "I thank the Governor and the Legislature for making these funds available, which enable my office to make strategic investments, such as enhancing information sharing capabilities that benefit regional law enforcement and emergency management agencies throughout the state."

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"The ability to share information is one of the most effective public safety tools," said Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Essex County Executive. "We are pleased that the NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness is providing this grant funding to Irvington so they can modernize their records management and link into the regional systems maintained by the county and state. This is another example of how all levels of government can work in partnership to keep our streets safe and be prepared for any emergency."

"Our state-of-the-art electronic records management system has dramatically expanded our ability to share information about criminals among multiple law enforcement agencies," said Armando Fontoura, Essex County Sheriff. "Today's grant from the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness will enable the Irvington Police Department, a major player in the war on crime, to upgrade its records management system and merge with the foundation already established by our department, our prosecutor's office, the Newark Police Department and county corrections. We eagerly look forward to the day when every municipal police department in Essex County falls under our electronic information sharing umbrella."

"Intelligence-led policing tracking a criminal or possible terrorist requires the very latest technical crime fighting equipment," said Essex County Prosecutor Paula Dow. "With this grant, the Irvington Police Department will be able to greatly enhance their information sharing capabilities in order to better protect the citizens of Irvington and potentially all the citizens of New Jersey."

"We thank the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness for awarding these funds," said Irvington Mayor Wayne Smith. "We will use these funds for the development of a Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD) system, which will enable us to connect with the Essex County Sheriff's Office, and be more effective in our crime fighting efforts."

Governor Corzine created the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness after taking office in 2006. OHSP is responsible for leading the state's counter-terrorism and preparedness efforts. OHSP oversees and distributes discretionary state and federal homeland security and preparedness funds on behalf of the State of New Jersey.

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