

# SUBJECT TO DEBATE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE POLICE EXECUTIVE RESEARCH FORUM



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VOL. 23, NO. 3 | MARCH 2009

## Local Police Departments Rushing To Apply for Stimulus Bill Grants

FOR LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS LOOKING TO THE federal government for help in dealing with their shrinking budgets, the first two months of the Obama Administration have been a very busy time.

The good news is that billions of dollars in federal grants are being made available to local police, and Justice Department officials are moving as quickly as possible to open the application processes and award grants. The challenge for local police departments is that they also must move fast to meet the short deadlines for applying for the funds.

Following is a summary of the fast-moving developments regarding COPS grants, Byrne/JAG grants, and other sources of funding stemming from three pieces of legislation:

- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (usually referred to as “the stimulus bill”);
- A separate law that provides funding for nearly all federal agencies through the remainder of the 2009 fiscal year; and
- The Obama Administration’s budget plan for the 2010 fiscal year, which begins on October 1 of this year.

Justice Department officials noted that grant applications should be made through the Justice Department’s grants management systems, not the federal Grants.gov system.

### STIMULUS BILL GRANTS

The Recovery and Reinvestment Act, signed into law on February 17, is designed to boost the national economy by injecting \$787 billion into certain programs that will result in job creation. Of that total, approximately \$4 billion was set aside for aid to local and state police and other criminal justice agencies, including the following grant programs:

**COPS GRANTS—Deadline April 14.** The stimulus bill provided up to \$1 billion in funding for the COPS Hiring Recovery Program, which can be used “for the hiring and rehiring of additional career law

enforcement officers.”

In the past, COPS grants have included a matching funds requirement, but many police chiefs said that this year, they would not be able to provide a local share, because their own budgets are being cut. So the new COPS grants were approved without a local match requirement. The COPS Office will provide 100 percent of approved entry-level salaries and benefits for officers for three years for newly hired, full-time sworn officer positions (including filling existing unfunded vacancies) or for rehired officers who have been laid off, or are scheduled to be laid off, as a result of local budget cuts.

However, grant recipients must agree to continue funding the officers for at least one year following the three-year federal funding.

This is a competitive grant; the Justice Department’s COPS Office will award grants after considering applicants’ local economic situation, crime levels, and how the federal funding would support community policing activities.

Interest in the program has been “extraordinary,” said Tim Quinn, acting director of the COPS Office. The COPS Office anticipates that it will be able to fund approximately 5,500 officers over three years with the \$1 billion in the stimulus bill. Speaking at a March 17 conference of the National League of Cities, Mr. Quinn noted that as he spoke, the grant application process had been open only one day, and the COPS Office had already received 18 completed applications, which together requested funding for more than 1,000 officers. And nearly 1,000 additional applications had been partially completed.

“It’s very unlikely we’ll be able to grant many agencies’ full requests,” Quinn noted.

The COPS Office Web site has further information about this grant program at [www.cops.usdoj.gov/Default.asp?Item=2108](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/Default.asp?Item=2108).

And much more detailed information about the technicalities of filing an application electronically, as well as information about the various scenarios under which COPS funding can be used to pay officers’ salaries and benefits, is available in a “Q and A” format at: [www.cops.usdoj.gov/Default.asp?Item=2130](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/Default.asp?Item=2130).

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## Joe Biden: Fulfilling His Promise To Make Local Police a Real Partner

IT'S NOT AN EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT THE 1990s were clearly a great epoch in policing, when, for the first time that I can remember, the national government took a look at the issue of crime and admitted that there was a rightful role for the national government in dealing with local crime. Obviously everybody agrees that crime is a local problem; no one argues that point. But to then argue that because it's a local problem, there is no role for the federal government is just a fallacious argument.

Fortunately, since the late 1980s and early '90s, the police profession has had one consistent and steady friend at the national level, and that was Joe Biden, the Senator from Delaware. After years of trying, he was able to get the attention of the Clinton Administration, and with Bill Clinton and the Justice Department, he crafted the 1994 legislation which put 100,000 new police officers on the street, and provided money for new technologies and in some cases existing technologies. And for the first time, the federal government became a real partner with local government in the area of policing.

Up to that point, there had been a lot of lip service, phrases that police chiefs heard ad nauseam but never believed in—"We work well together, we're very close, very coordinated." We all knew that was just for show; there was no substance to it. For the first time, the Clinton Administration, at the urging of Senator Biden, made us real partners.

Unfortunately, the partnership took a severe blow, especially as a result of 9/11. Whether or not the past Administration would have been as committed as the Clinton Administration if 9/11 had not happened, we'll never know. But what we do know is that for the last eight years, local police chiefs, and the issues that are near and dear to their hearts, did not have a seat at the table.

Last August, Senator Joe Biden, who at that point was just a former Presidential candidate, met with a group of mayors and police chiefs for a crime meeting hosted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and its President, Mayor Manny Diaz of Miami. Joe Biden was the keynote speaker, and he assured all present that he was speaking on behalf of the Presidential candidate Barack Obama. He made certain promises, among them the promise to reinvigorate the COPS Office, and also

to provide additional funding for Justice Assistance Grants and Byrne Grants.

When candidate Barack Obama named Joe Biden as his Vice Presidential running mate two weeks later, everybody who attended that meeting in Philadelphia knew that Joe Biden had in fact been speaking on behalf of Barack Obama.

After the election, in late December during the transition period, Chuck Wexler and I had the opportunity to meet with the future Vice President in a private meeting in Washington, D.C., and he reiterated the promise that he had made four months earlier in Philadelphia. And a month after taking of-



**Vice President Joe Biden visits the Miami Police Department in early March to discuss funding for law enforcement in the recently passed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. PERF President and Miami Chief John Timoney is at left.**

vice, President Barack Obama announced the stimulus package which included all the funding to guarantee the promises that Joe Biden had made to us.

We have all met politicians who make promises. Promises are easy to make, but very few politicians fulfill all of the promises that they make. But Joe Biden, when it comes to policing, has fulfilled every promise he has ever made over the years. He has been the one constant and loyal friend that we in law enforcement have looked to over the last two decades.

It's great to have him in the White House, and we know that with Joe Biden there, we'll always have a seat at the table.



# Unique Program Helps Police Officers Buy Homes, While Helping to Reduce Foreclosures

By Sgt. Eileen M. Welsh  
Prince William County, Va. Police Department

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY HAS THE HIGHEST FORECLOSURE rate in Virginia, and it's no secret that foreclosures put an incredible amount of stress on local government. To help combat this issue, Prince William County government officials developed an innovative program that not only helps reduce the number of foreclosed properties, but also enables police officers and other county employees to afford housing in Prince William County.

Called "Home Help," the new program enables selected employees to take advantage of reduced mortgage rates and offers help with closing costs and down payments so they can buy locally—all at no cost to the tax payer.

Affordable housing has been an issue in Prince William County for many years. The expansive growth of the county's population and increasing median household income levels drove the price of housing beyond the reach of many county employees.

"Fifty-two percent of our police officers live out of the county," said Police Chief Charlie T. Deane. "The department offers incentives such as a take-home car program to entice as many officers as possible to live in the county, but when it comes down to it, many just can't afford to do so. This new program will enable officers to save thousands of dollars and give them the chance to live in the same county where they work."

The Home Help Program, which was developed by Prince William County's Finance Agency, works by putting \$50 million of the county's investment portfolio into certificates of deposit with

an established bank, in this case, SunTrust Bank. In return, the bank offers a series of financial incentives to a number of county employees. These incentives, in terms of credits, can be used for interest rate reductions and/or closing cost discounts. The bank also offers reduced rates for other services such as document processing and settlement fees.

It's a solution where everyone wins. The county continues to receive the 3- to 4-percent rate of return on investments that it typically would, while at the same time helping its employees and reducing the amount of surplus homes. The bank wins by gaining new customers and increasing its business.


The first annual application period for Home Help began January 12, 2009, and ended January 30, 2009. By design, Home Help assistance funds were targeted for county employees, especially public safety employees and teachers.

The initial announcement of the program was very popular, and the county received more than 323 applications for just 167 available participant slots. The winners were selected by a lottery system, with 55 uniformed officers, 56 school employees, and 56 general government employees making the final selection. The winners have from March 1, 2009, to May 31, 2010, to settle on a property.



Sgt. Eileen Welsh

Foreclosure properties and affordable housing are challenges that many counties across the nation currently face, and the solutions used to address these issues vary. Prince William County is not in a position to buy foreclosed properties directly, but it has been able to develop a creative program that accomplishes several important goals, and could be used as a blueprint by other counties.

For more information regarding the Home Help Program, visit the Finance Department section of Prince William County's web site at [www.pwcgov.org/default.aspx?topic=040060](http://www.pwcgov.org/default.aspx?topic=040060). 

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**BYRNE/JAG GRANTS—Deadline May 18 (cities) and April 9 (states).** Approximately \$2 billion in stimulus funding is available for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program, split between state governments (60 percent) and local governments (40 percent).

This is a formula grant program; a list of the funding amounts available to each eligible state and local jurisdiction is available online at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recovery/JAG/recoveryallocations.html](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recovery/JAG/recoveryallocations.html).

Funding may be used for a variety of purposes, including personnel, training, equipment, technical assistance, and information systems for criminal justice. However, because the overall purpose of the stimulus bill is to create jobs, grantees must provide information about the number of jobs they expect to create or maintain with the federal funding. The deadline for applications by local governments is May 18; the deadline for applications by states is April 9.

For details, go to [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/)

**BYRNE COMPETITIVE GRANTS—Deadline April 27.** Local governments also are eligible to apply for \$225 million in Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive grants for a variety of purposes, including reducing violent crime, reducing mortgage fraud and crime related to vacant properties, hiring civilian employees in police agencies, and improving forensics and crime scene investigations. Additional information is available in the grant solicitation at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recovery/RecoveryByrne.pdf](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recovery/RecoveryByrne.pdf) and in a Frequently Asked Questions document at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recovery/RecoveryByrneFAQ.pdf](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recovery/RecoveryByrneFAQ.pdf).

**SOUTHERN BORDER GRANTS—Deadline April 17.** The stimulus bill includes approximately \$30 million for law enforcement agencies in the Southern Border region for combating narcotics activity. Details are available in the Bureau of Justice Assistance solicitation at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recovery/RecoverySouthernBorder.pdf](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recovery/RecoverySouthernBorder.pdf) or at the Frequently Asked Questions Page at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recovery/RecoverySouthernBorderFAQ.pdf](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recovery/RecoverySouthernBorderFAQ.pdf).

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# Shrinking Budgets? One Option: Use Retired Police Officers

By Chief John Comparetto, Passaic County, N.J. Sheriff's Office, Retired, and Chief Richard P. Rosenthal, Wellfleet, Mass. Police Department

THE ECONOMIC CRISIS HAS CAUSED A SHRINKAGE of municipal and state budgets, current and projected, to a degree not seen in many years. Police agencies are not immune to this situation and have come under increasing pressure to reduce costs.

As police managers, we are obliged to deliver the level of services demanded of us and for which citizens are willing to pay. The dilemma we face during hard economic times is, just how do we maximize the use of our assets in order to meet these needs?

Difficult circumstances sometimes force us to take options that would have otherwise gone unconsidered. When Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, quite a few officers from around the nation responded to the need for police services and volunteered their time there. Immediately after the 9/11 attacks, officers from New Jersey could be seen directing traffic on the streets of New York City. And most recently, on the morning before the Presidential Inauguration, Washington, D.C. Chief Cathy Lanier oversaw a mass swearing-in of 4,000 police officers from around the nation to assist her department in providing security for Inaugural events. Those officers came in from a multitude of cities, including Miami, Cincinnati, Boston, Chicago, Atlanta and Savannah.

In all of these events, responding officers served admirably without excessive concern over their different levels of training or (presumably limited) knowledge of local statutes in the District of Columbia.

One possible tactic for local police chiefs working in the new economic paradigm that we find ourselves in is to make use of members of our departments who have retired. This option offers a money-saving approach at a time when saving money is a top priority.

However, it is fair to state that in many jurisdictions, any discussion of using retired officers will probably raise the hackles of police union leaders and their members. Indeed, one of the authors of this article was recently involved in a situation that demonstrated the visceral resistance to this idea, even from police managers.

A retired sergeant called his former chief after an incident of school violence in another state got him to worrying about the safety of his own two school-age children. The sergeant offered a suggestion intended to protect all of the children of the school his children attended, as well as the school's employees: He offered his time as a volunteer to do ministerial work at the school's office, while at the same time carrying a concealed firearm. No one but the school administrators would be aware of his being armed; he would

be there simply to provide a degree of protection in the event of a deadly-force situation arising at the school.

The chief thought the idea had merit, and he brought it up at a meeting with other chiefs of police in the area and the region's school administrators. Here was being offered, at no cost to taxpayers, an individual with 30 years of experience in law enforcement, a stable, mature person who always demonstrated prudent judgment when serving as a police sergeant, and a father with a personal stake in the well-being of the school's children.

The group's response to the idea was, to put it charitably, not a welcoming one. The other chiefs of police did not want a former member of a police department to serve even in what the offering chief considered a most benign capacity. The civilian administrators were adamant in not wanting an armed individual in the office. The school officials would, however, consider the sergeant's offer of assistance only if no firearm was involved. (Because the entire concept was to defend the school officials and students from a deadly physical force attack, one can only speculate that perhaps they thought the retired sergeant could resort to the use of strong language in order to thwart such an attack.)

However, using retired officers is not unheard of; there are proactive police managers who have taken bold steps to make it happen. One such individual is a sheriff located on the East coast, in a county with a population of approximately half a million. The sheriff is making plans to recruit several hundred retired police officers, deputize and train them, and, in the event of a serious public safety need, deploy them into every school, shopping mall, house of worship, or other populated area of the county as necessary. Should funding be

available, these retired officers will be paid for such a deployment.

Each year, police departments lose to retirement large numbers of healthy, fit-for-duty members. Why shouldn't police managers use the services of these already trained and vetted individuals, at least to cover routine functions and free up our active-duty members for more critical duties? Property control, initial complaint intake, prisoner watch, public relations, background investigations, and general non-criminal citizen interactions are but a few of the tasks a retired senior officer would be suited to fulfill.

Using retired officers for certain mundane yet time-consuming police tasks would produce a number of financial advantages. These include:

- No need to pay benefits such as health insurance, because the retired officers already have those benefits.
- No need to pay into a retirement system.
- Modest hourly costs.
- A minimal need for retraining.

Some states have caps on the amount of pay allowed for individuals already receiving funds from a retirement system from that

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Chief John Comparetto (LEFT) and Chief Richard P. Rosenthal (RIGHT)

# Honoring Fallen Officers: Missouri's Law Enforcement Funeral Assistance Team

By Cpl. Scott Barthelmass  
Overland, Mo. Police Department

WHEN A POLICE OFFICER DIES IN THE LINE OF DUTY, shouldn't the individuals and the badge they wear receive the proper respect? If the officers and their grieving families were to be forgotten, that would only make the hurt more painful. Unfortunately, many police agencies do not have the resources to undertake large-scale official funerals.

Since the state of Missouri was established in 1821, it has suffered more than 620 line-of-duty deaths, many of them in recent years. When two policemen were murdered in the suburban St. Louis community of Kirkwood on February 7, 2008, a group of officers came together to begin creating the Missouri Law Enforcement Funeral Assistance Team. Over the last year, these officers have devoted hundreds of hours to research and planning this new organization. They have assembled a Missouri-specific law enforcement funeral guide, have put in place a structure to establish funeral response teams, and have developed training criteria for volunteers who will assist police departments and officers' families through the aftermath of a line-of-duty death.

The Missouri Law Enforcement Funeral Assistance Team responds only when the agency that sustained the loss requests help. The team serves in a behind-the-scene capacity, offering suggestions based on the needs of the department and the fallen officer's family. This includes providing personal support as well as help with logistics and planning for a funeral. The team utilizes the incident command system and prepares incident action plans. A key strength of the team is its professionalism tied in with a genuine dedication to properly honoring a fallen officer.

The Assistance Team also can assist the fallen officer's family in obtaining the benefits they are due. This effort is led by members of the Missouri Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS) who have been trained in completing the Public Safety Officer Benefits application process. The Team will also help plan and carry out services for active-duty officers who pass away while off duty, and for retired officers.

Team managers are organizing several statewide subgroups. These include a motor officers group to assist with providing funeral procession escorts, a mounted honor guard, and a chaplain group to provide spiritual support for the fallen officer's family and agency. A statewide pipe and drum corps and an honor guard group have been formed to assist in honoring fallen comrades.

In time, our plans include deployment of trailers equipped with items to assist in carrying out appropriate memorial services, including casket flags, military service flags, honor guard supplies,

mobile public address systems, mourning bands, and so on. We have developed a comprehensive list of supplies that might be needed for any type of service, and we are undertaking efforts to raise the estimated cost of \$17,500 for such a fully equipped trailer.

Initial steps have been undertaken to establish a response team in the Kansas City area, with personnel from the Gladstone Department of Public Safety leading such efforts. We hope to have this response team ready by mid-2009. Our long-term goal is to have four or five response teams with equipment trailers across the state.

To train those who are interested in participating on the response teams, the Missouri Funeral Assistance Team anticipates hosting a training cadre from a similar program in Indiana in the next few months. Indiana's team, one of a small number of state-wide teams, is well recognized for its efforts to train personnel in carrying out law enforcement funeral services. Our team plans on hosting training classes to help officers with death notifications, and to help individuals learn how to play the bagpipes. Efforts are also under way to host an honor guard academy.

Our team received its first request for assistance from the University City Police Department, following the murder of Sgt. Michael King on October 31. The Missouri Law Enforcement Funeral Assistance Team, along with an existing Fire Service team in Missouri, helped plan and carry out the funeral services. The Missouri Fire Service Funeral Assistance Team was established in 2005, and, unfortunately, has been involved in planning funerals for numerous line-of-duty deaths across the state.

At Sergeant King's funeral, the police and fire teams worked side by side, with law enforcement officers taking the lead and fire service personnel serving as mentors. This was a valuable learning experience and was helpful in ensuring that all the necessary arrangements were made and needs met. Personnel from the Brentwood, Clayton, Crestwood, Eureka, Maplewood and Overland Police Departments represented the Missouri Law Enforcement Funeral Assistance Team.

"Planning funerals of this magnitude is an incredible task," wrote Susan King, widow of Sergeant King. "After being part of one, I am still overwhelmed by the sheer size and logistics involved. And yet I am amazed at how flawlessly everything worked together and was absolutely perfect...a fitting tribute to my husband. Needless to say, I was very distraught at the time and they took care of everything down to the last detail. The members of the team that I worked with were kind and compassionate; they brought me comfort during that difficult time. I cannot thank them enough for all the time and effort they put into honoring my husband."

Kelly McGee, a member of the University City Police Department and a liaison to the fallen officer's family, recently wrote, "I cannot thank you enough for helping us through this tragedy. We are dealing with a nightmare; however, you guys really came through for us and we truly appreciate you. It helped me to stay busy during this time and to be a part of honoring my friend, but it had its moments of being overwhelming. When those moments hit me, you and the other team members really helped pull everything together."

In February 2009, the funeral team assisted the Vinita Park Police Department with funeral arrangements after Chief Michael



Corporal Scott Barthelmass

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**RURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANTS—Deadline April 22.** The stimulus bill provides \$125 million for grants to rural areas for purposes of fighting crime and drug activity and improving investigations and justice information-sharing. For details, go to the solicitation at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recovery/RecoveryRuralLE.pdf](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recovery/RecoveryRuralLE.pdf) and the Frequently Asked Questions page at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recovery/RecoveryRuralLEFAQ.pdf](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recovery/RecoveryRuralLEFAQ.pdf).

### REGULAR 2009 APPROPRIATIONS

On March 11, President Obama signed into law an Omnibus Appropriations Act that provides regular funding for most federal agencies for the remainder of the 2009 fiscal year. This bill provides additional funding, separate from the stimulus bill, for aid to local police agencies, including \$546 million for Byrne/JAG grants and \$550 million for COPS grants. The COPS funding includes \$187 million for law enforcement technology, \$39.5 million for methamphetamine programs, \$18 million targeting child sexual preda-

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political entity. In New Jersey, for example, retired officers with a pension are not allowed to take a new police job, and if they take another type of government job, such as working in a courthouse, they cannot be paid more than \$14,999 a year. In Massachusetts, retired officers cannot be paid more than the difference between their pension and the amount earned by the police officer serving in the retired officer's prior position.

At first, the modest pay available to such rehires might seem like a serious impediment to the concept of using former law officers. However, in a way these constraints could be beneficial, in that they limit retired officers to a fraction of the hours that current officers work—thus minimizing union leaders' argument that rehiring retired officers takes work away from active union members.

The use of retired officers is not a new idea. The New York State Police, immediately after the 9/11 emergency, hired back a number of their retired members at full salary, and the retirees were allowed to continue collecting their pensions. In California, the Fairfield Police Department sent out a survey regarding the use of retired officers to other departments within that state. Thirty-eight departments responded, and many indicated that they used retired

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Webb lost his battle with cancer. Just weeks later, the Jennings Police Department lost Det. Sgt. David Joyce, who suffered a fatal heart attack. That agency handled the funeral arrangements after obtaining planning documents from our team.

Our team has already received the endorsement of the Missouri Sheriffs' Association, the Missouri Deputy Sheriffs' Association, the Missouri Peace Officers Association, the Missouri Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS), the Missouri State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police, the Missouri-Illinois Railroad Police

tors, and \$16 million for Secure Our Schools (SOS) programs. For details, go to: [www.cops.usdoj.gov/Default.asp?Item=2122](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/Default.asp?Item=2122).


Further information about grants funded through this regular appropriations bill will be forthcoming from the Justice Department.

### PRESIDENT OBAMA'S BUDGET REQUEST FOR 2010

On February 26 the Obama Administration released a rough outline of its planned budget request to Congress for Fiscal Year 2010. More detailed information is expected to be released in mid-April.

The initial outline notes that the Administration will be asking Congress to begin providing funding for a total of 50,000 police officers through the COPS program.


In addition, \$109 million will be requested for prisoner reentry programs, including \$75 million for the Office of Justice Programs to expand programs authorized by the Second Chance Act, such as drug treatment and job training for prisoners being released into the community.

Overall, the 2010 budget is to include \$26.5 billion for the Justice Department, a 3.5-percent increase over 2009. 


personnel in some capacity, ranging from background investigator to part-time commander. Fairfield now uses retired officers in the positions of part-time sworn investigator and civilian station officer. These employees are limited by the state retirement system to working no more than 960 hours during the year. The sworn investigator is required to have a current POST Police Officer Certificate and meet all POST training requirements.

And there are some small police departments in New York State whose entire staff is part-time and made up of retired officers from other agencies.

One advantage of using retired officers is that they do not enjoy the job protections that their full-time colleagues have, so police managers have greater flexibility to use them only as needed. Retirees would be at-will employees, and their assignments and retention would be at the discretion of the head of the department.

These are troubling times financially. The authors would like to suggest that police managers consider hiring retirees as one way of thinking "outside the box." All across the country, there is no getting around the fact that economic crisis is forcing us to think creatively. Sometimes a crisis can have the effect of knocking down barriers that would otherwise prevent new approaches from getting off the ground. 

Association, the Gateway Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), and the National Reserve Law Officers Association. The team has also directed support to other worthy causes including the Barwick/Newton Fund, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, and Concerns of Police Survivors. Members of the team have been invited to speak at the 2009 National Law Enforcement Expo in Tampa. We are hopeful that other statewide or regional teams will develop across the country, creating a network of organizations to assist with officer funerals.

For additional information, see the Missouri Law Enforcement Funeral Assistance Team's Web site at [www.mopolicefuneral.org](http://www.mopolicefuneral.org). 



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