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### Lautenberg Joins Newark Officials To Announce \$7 Million Grant To Hire 70 New Firefighters

#### Grant Will Replenish Firefighter Staff Following Retirements

Lautenberg Press Office, 202-224-3224  
Wednesday, April 27, 2011

NEWARK, N.J. — U.S. Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Rep. Donald Payne (D-NJ-10) were joined by Council President Donald Payne, Jr., city officials and Newark firefighters today to announce the Newark Fire Department was awarded \$7.1 million in federal funding to hire 70 new firefighters. The funding is being made available through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program and will be used to fill vacancies left by recently retired Newark firefighters.

**“This federal grant funding will help ensure that the Newark Fire Department has the staffing necessary to protect local families and secure our region,”** said Lautenberg, Vice Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security that funds the SAFER grant program. **“I am committed to making sure our fire departments are equipped and staffed when the alarm sounds and I will continue fighting in Washington to fund homeland security programs that benefit our state.”**

**“The 7.1 million dollar two-year SAFER grant funding awarded by FEMA comes as a much needed boost to the Newark Fire Department. Recent job losses have left much needed positions to be filled. SAFER grants were created to provide funding directly to fire departments to help them increase the number of trained firefighters available in their communities. The SAFER grant funding is a win-win as more jobs are now available to the unemployed and the residents of Newark will be safer because of the new hires,”** said Congressman Donald M. Payne of the 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

**“We are grateful to our federal partners, Senator Frank Lautenberg and Representative Donald Payne, for their hard work, courage, and leadership in gaining the City of Newark this vitally important grant, which will enable our fire department to strengthen its ranks. Public safety is a top priority of this administration. I commend Fire Director Ziyad and his team for their determination to apply for this grant. These funds will continue to support the mission of our fire department to save lives and protect property in the City of Newark,”** said Newark Mayor Cory Booker.

The SAFER grant program provides funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter organizations in order to help them increase the number of trained “front line” firefighters in their communities. The program is administered by FEMA and funds salaries for two years.

Including this award to Newark, 21 New Jersey fire departments have received more than \$52 million from Fiscal Year 2010 SAFER awards. Other recent awardees include: Trenton - \$13.7 million; Atlantic City - \$9.7 million; Jersey City - \$8.1 million; Camden - \$5.1 million and East Orange - \$1.9 million.

The recently enacted funding legislation for Fiscal Year 2011 has an additional

5/18/2011



Senator Frank R. Lautenberg

\$405 million for the SAFER program. This funding will be made available for fire departments across the country to apply for later this year.

For more information about the program, please visit:  
<http://www.fema.gov/firegrants/safer/>

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