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September 10, 2013

Attorney General Eric Holder
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Holder:

I write in strong support of the City of Newark's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Grant Application for Fiscal Year 2013. The city has recently experienced a significant spike in gun violence, and Newark urgently needs federal funding to bolster its police presence and prevent further killings.

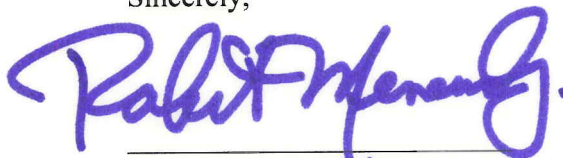
Newark has made significant progress in improving public safety, but without continued federal and state financial support, that progress may be in jeopardy. The city recently suffered ten tragic murders in the span of ten days, with victims including bystanders and minors. The families of these victims and their communities need our assistance, and it's urgent that the federal government provide resources to prevent further deaths.

The Newark Police Department is doing its utmost to combat the spike in crime, including additional police presence and patrols, as well as resources focused on preventing gun violence. However, in recent years, budget constraints at both the federal and state level have hampered Newark's ability to fully respond to upticks in violent crime. Since the city suffered police layoffs in 2010, rebuilding the police force has been a significant challenge.

While prevention of gun violence is a long-term issue that requires a collective community response, I believe that the federal government should provide desperately needed resources to help Newark hire additional personnel. Specifically, a COPS Hiring Grant would help the city respond to this horrific escalation in violent crime.

For all of the above reasons, I strongly support the City of Newark's COPS Hiring Grant. I ask that you give their application due consideration. Thank you for your consideration of Newark's application.

Sincerely,



ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senate