

**RESOLUTION R-2002-072**

*Ensuring Hometown Security*

WHEREAS, the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 have changed life throughout the Nation, and robbed Americans of their sense of security;

WHEREAS, the attacks have far reaching implications for all cities and towns and their first responders now on the front lines of hometown defense;

WHEREAS, cities have shouldered the full financial burden for hometown security defense at a cost of approximately \$3 billion since September 2001;

WHEREAS, at significant cost to local taxpayers across America, cities have met their many new hometown security challenges by updating their emergency plans to meet multiple new threats such as dirty bombs, biological and chemical weapons, taking on security duties at commercial airports, identifying and assessing their vulnerabilities, and improving collaboration, communication and information sharing within their regions and with state and federal government;

WHEREAS, cities cannot carry this new financial burden alone much longer and continue to maintain other essential local services without raising local taxes or cutting services;

WHEREAS, a recent National League of Cities survey shows that, for the first time since 1992, a majority of cities are less able to meet their financial needs because of a fall off in revenues due to the economic downturn and the surge in spending for hometown security;

WHEREAS, Congress and the President have squandered a rare moment of bipartisan unity by failing to act decisively on federal homeland security coordination and funding;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED this 16th day of October, 2002, that the City of Columbia, South Carolina endorses the National League of Cities' Hometown Security Day to draw attention to the essential role of America's cities and towns as the front line of homeland defense and the urgent need for a true federal-local partnership to carry out this new responsibility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Columbia, South Carolina urges Congress and the President to work out their differences and pass a homeland security bill now to provide a federal framework for unified and coordinated responses to terrorism; and

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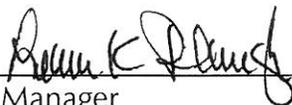
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Columbia, South Carolina urges Congress, with the full support of the President, to finalize immediately 2003 funding for homeland security, particularly the \$3.5 billion promised for first responders and the \$22 million per month reimbursement promised to cities and towns for providing local law enforcement at the nation's commercial airports.

Requested by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

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Approved by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager

Approved as to form:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Introduced: 10/16/2002

Final Reading: 10/16/2002