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Beverly Hills Demonstrates UNITE Program For Homeland Security Chairman Thompson

Beverly Hills, CA – Beverly Hills welcomed Congressman Bennie Thompson, Chairman of the House of Representatives' Committee on Homeland Security, to the City to showcase the success of its UNITE (Unified Network of Interoperable Technology Enhancements) project. Chairman Thompson was provided with a first-hand view of how Beverly Hills is field-testing several innovative technologies in partnership with the Federal Department of Homeland Security and the State of California's Office of Emergency Services (OES).

Mayor Nancy Krasne and Councilmember William Brien, M.D. welcomed Chairman Thompson, who was provided a presentation by Police Chief David Snowden, Commander Theresa Taylor, Chief Information Officer David Schirmer and City Manager Rod Wood. Also in attendance were former Mayors Linda Briskman, Mark Egerman and Stephen Webb, who were instrumental during their terms of office in launching the City's advocacy efforts to seek grants for the City's UNITE program.

Beverly Hills' numerous dignitary visits and high profile national and international events make coordination with federal and regional partner agencies critical to the success of the City's emergency response operations. Through UNITE, the City tests cutting-edge technologies which are designed to enhance public safety and protect citizens from the threats of terrorism.

Background

UNITE is a multifaceted program intended to serve as a highly effective, anti-terrorism resource that enables collaboration and enhances inter-agency coordination and communication. Since December of 2007, Beverly Hills has received over \$1.3 million in state and federal grants to create partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies in developing state-of-the-art interoperable public safety and homeland security programs that can be replicated for localities nationwide.

The key components of UNITE include expansion and enhancement of the City's Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) and Automated License-Plate Recognition (ALPR) systems. The systems provide police and fire first responders with a wide range of video, audio and other real-time data from their vehicles.

For more information on the UNITE program, go to the City's website at www.beverlyhills.org.

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