



The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
The Honorable Benjamin Cardin
The Honorable Jim Webb
Senator-elect Mark Warner

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer
The Honorable Frank Wolf
The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
The Honorable James Moran
The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
The Honorable Roscoe Bartlett
The Honorable Elijah Cummings
The Honorable Dutch Ruppersberger
The Honorable John Sarbanes
The Honorable Donna Edwards
Representative-elect Frank Kratovil
Representative-elect Gerry Connolly

December 31, 2008

Dear Leader and Members:

The National Capital Region (NCR) jurisdictions look forward to hosting the 2009 Inauguration and associated events. To host an event of this magnitude is indeed an honor of the highest order. However, the security issues we must address in order to properly prepare for this historic and unprecedented event present challenges we have not faced before as a region. Therefore, we write today to respectfully request your assistance in securing funds for costs that could exceed \$75 million to help us ensure the safety of all those who will participate in or attend next month's events.

As you know, NCR jurisdictions have effectively collaborated with each other and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)'s Office for National Capital Region Coordination for a number of years to reduce the region's vulnerability to terrorist attacks as well as man-made and natural disasters. This partnership, and the support we receive from you and your colleagues, has allowed us to protect people, assets and resources; maintain functional emergency response capability; and establish the necessary protocols to support the continuity of government in the event of such an occurrence.

On December 10, 2008, DHS issued a memorandum (enclosed) designating the 2009 Presidential Inauguration occurring in the District of Columbia and pre-Inauguration events scheduled in Baltimore, Maryland, the District, and other neighboring jurisdictions as "National Special Security Events" (NSSEs).¹ Since the establishment of the NSSE by statute in 2000, only 28

¹ In accordance with Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7 and 18 U.S.C. 3056.

events have received the designation. In deciding whether to designate an event an NSSE, DHS considers:

- anticipated attendance by U.S. officials and foreign dignitaries;
- size of the event; and
- significance of the event.

It is indisputable that the 2009 Inauguration far exceeds past NSSE-designated events on each of these factors. In fact, the historical significance of inaugurating the first African-American President of the United States alone makes the event unprecedented. Given its political significance, we expect that the event will be attended by hundreds, if not thousands, of elected U.S. Government officials and foreign dignitaries. Turn-out by the general public for the swearing-in ceremony alone is likely to exceed 2 million. Transportation officials estimate that roughly 10,000 charter buses will enter the District with approximately 500,000 riders alone – a number which nearly matches the city’s population.

With respect to the NSSE scheduled in Baltimore involving the use of passenger rail, federal security officials expect the number of attendees to exceed 150,000. According to officials representing the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Dulles International Airport and Reagan National Airport could receive about 300,000 passengers between January 16th and 19th, if all scheduled flights are full, and Baltimore-Washington International Airport expects an increase of 16% of incoming passengers for the Inauguration. In addition, the opening ceremony, which will take place on January 18th, is expected to attract a crowd of 500,000, as large as one typical for the national 4th of July celebration, and larger than attendance at the 2005 Inaugural.

The Emergency Managers in the District, Maryland and Virginia are expecting this to be the most complex and challenging Inaugural in history. The mass of attendees expected will challenge fire, law enforcement, emergency medical, and mass transit capabilities. Moreover, the high volume of buses/traffic, weather factor and other threats will create additional demands. A detailed breakdown of projected costs for each of our jurisdictions can be found in the attached annex. However, below is a summary of those cost estimates.

Washington, D.C.

The District will physically host the opening ceremony, Inaugural Parade, and swearing-in ceremony, as well as numerous other events during the Inaugural period that will be attended by President-Elect Obama, his family, hundreds of other prominent U.S. officials and foreign dignitaries, and tens of thousands of visitors from across the nation and the world. The District’s Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) will serve as the lead local law enforcement agency supporting the U.S. Secret Service in securing these events, an activity that will span the entire Inaugural Period, including several days prior to the first public event. In addition, the District has taken the lead role in transportation coordination, for both the general public and participating officials and security personnel. Finally, the District’s emergency personnel are the primary first-responders for any life, health or safety/security incident at any of the events.

The District projects total costs associated with the period of over \$47 million. The major components of that amount are as follows:

Law enforcement (local and non-local):	\$28,346,184
Fire and emergency medical services:	\$ 3,437,950

Transportation:	\$ 4,812,014
Communications:	\$ 4,182,272

Maryland

Maryland has the dual responsibility of consequence management for both the Washington and Baltimore NSSEs in addition to emergency preparedness planning for multiple jurisdictions and almost 100 miles of railway on which President-Elect Obama is expected to travel in Maryland during his historic train ride to Washington.

Maryland projects total state and local costs associated with the Baltimore and D.C. Inaugural events to exceed \$12 million. The major components of this amount include:

Law enforcement (local and non-local):	\$ 2,534,863
Fire and emergency medical services:	\$ 2,046,590
Transportation:	\$ 1,994,191
Mass Care:	\$ 2,960,602

Virginia

Virginia must also be prepared to implement the Northern Virginia Evacuation Plan and support a Federal COOP operation if necessary. The Commonwealth of Virginia does not have an appropriation from the Federal Government to fund the necessary emergency measures to assist in protecting this event. The Commonwealth and the Northern Virginia localities remain fully committed to supporting this event.

The cost estimates recently provided by state agencies and the Northern Virginia Jurisdictions are over \$16 million dollars. The Commonwealth of Virginia is currently in an economic recession with a \$2.9 billion budget shortfall. The Northern Virginia counties and cities, that are part of the NCR, also face shortfalls of up to \$50 million each. Within this context some of our projected costs include:

Transportation	\$7,105,000
Bus / Shuttle Service	\$3,500,000
Police / Law Enforcement / Security	\$2,133,615

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA/Metro)

In addition, WMATA anticipates providing an unprecedented level of service, including 17 hours of rush-hour service from 4 a.m. until 9 p.m. on Inauguration Day. This service will be essential not only to provide mobility for the millions of visitors to the region but also as part of the region's emergency consequence management efforts. For the opening ceremony on January 18, Metro is expecting to serve crowds that will equal or exceed the ridership on July 4th. On the 20th itself, Metro expects to substantially exceed its current highest ridership day of 854,638 and is planning for ridership of 1 million or more. **This will result in \$3.5 million in unbudgeted operating and security costs; without federal assistance, these costs will also be borne by the local jurisdictions.**

It should be noted that these estimates could change, as the jurisdictions continue to receive information regarding newly scheduled events or changed conditions that may impact the requirements placed on their agencies.

As the notion of what constitutes NSSEs and the complexity of the security challenges they present have evolved, the partnership of federal, state, and local leaders has proven extremely successful. We ask that you and your staff continue to work with us to devise a proposal that will provide the necessary resources to adequately prepare for events that promise to continue this trend and present situations that are unique and susceptible to mass casualty. As time is of the essence, with the events to occur in less than one month from the date of this letter, we appreciate your efforts to devise a proposal in the most expedient manner practicable, and we will provide information necessary to facilitate this endeavor.

Thank you for your past support of our efforts to protect the region and for your exceptional representation of our jurisdictions in the Congress. Especially in light of the severe fiscal constraints that we (and so many other states and local governments) are facing, we are asking you to work with your colleagues to secure the additional resources detailed above. We look forward to furthering our partnership to provide historic homeland security preparedness for an event of groundbreaking proportions. Our staff has initiated dialogue with yours about these issues and how best to frame possible solutions, but should you have questions, we can be reached at (443) 336-2920 (Dana Thompson, Maryland); (202) 724-7675 (Karen Bates, District of Columbia); and (202) 783-1769 (Melinda Glazer, Virginia).

Sincerely,

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Adrian Fenty
Mayor



Timothy Kaine
Governor

cc: The Honorable Michael Chertoff