

Remarks for Mayor Finkbeiner
Monday, March 16, 2009 6:15 p.m.
COPS grant application
22nd floor/Conference Room

Today the U.S. Department of Justice began accepting applications for its COPS Hiring Recovery Program. We have submitted a request for economic stimulus dollars in the amount of \$34,594,050. If granted, these funds will cover the salary and benefits for 150 police officers for three years. All applications for COPS funds will be reviewed after the application period closes on April 14.

With the approval of this economic stimulus application, we can prevent the layoff of 75 police officers. It will also allow us to hire an additional 75 new police officers.

If both requests are filled, that will bring our police force to a level of 679.

We have been meticulous and thorough in submitting our application, and are confident that we are asking for just the right amount of funds. President Obama recently visited Columbus, and celebrated with a graduating police class that had been saved by the COPS funding. The same thing also recently happened in Minneapolis. We are confident that Toledo's police force will similarly benefit from these economic stimulus funds.

I will now ask Chief of Police Michael Navarre to speak.

