



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hearing Statement of Chairman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS)

Local Efforts to Counter the Terror Threat in New York City: A Retrospective and a Roadmap

May 6, 2019

Since his first day in Congress, the Chairman has been a fierce advocate for the men and women of the City of New York Police Department, the Fire Department of the City of New York, and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. [Chairman Rose's] decision to hold today's field hearing underscores his commitment to law enforcement and first responders serving in and around Staten Island.

Nearly eighteen years after the September 11th attacks, we must continue to do all we can at the Federal, State, and local levels to prevent future attacks. The Federal government needs to support State and local partners in their efforts. For example, the Federal government provides vital funding through grant programs for State and locals to secure their communities.

Unfortunately, the Trump Administration again proposed significant cuts to these programs. This is unacceptable. When it comes to securing communities from current and emerging threats, we should not be asking our State and local partners to do more with less.

Instead, we need to give them the resources they need to work alongside their Federal partners on behalf of their communities and the American people.

The Federal government also spearheads critical information sharing practices. We must ensure those channels remain open and that jurisdictional barriers do not inhibit the Federal government and its partners from safeguarding those we serve. I hope that we hear about the influence the greater New York City community's resilience plays in their counterterrorism policies.

Time and time again, this city has refused to back down in the face of terror. The agencies represented here today are on the front line of defending our Nation from both domestic and international threats. That is why it is so important to hear their testimony and take it back to Washington to use in the Committee's work.

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