

Biden Promotes Stimulus, Law Enforcement Funding In Miami Visit

Vice President Joe Biden said federal stimulus money earmarked for law enforcement will be "incredibly well spent" in S. Florida.

Biden made those comments during a 15-minute address Friday at the Miami Police Department.

Friday marks the second day of Biden's swing through the Miami area.

He joined Miami Mayor Manny Diaz and Chief of Police John Timoney at the Miami Police Department about 10:15 a.m. to praise the \$787 billion economic stimulus plan. That bill will pour more than \$4 billion into state and local law enforcement and other crime-stopping programs. The money will help hire officers and fund anti-crime programs.

Cities all over the region will get financial help. Miami-Dade County will receive more than \$14 million and Broward County will get approximately \$2 million.

"We're not only rebuilding America," Biden said. "We're laying down a platform ... a competitive platform for the 21st century."

Biden said the Miami Police Department will receive \$2 million for equipment and hiring more officers.

"We think this is going to be incredibly well-spent money," Biden said. "We are going to be putting some federal money into the hands of a city that is going to know how to spend it, know what to do with it and know how to deal with it."

During the conference, Biden said Timoney is the best police chief in the nation and Diaz is one of the finest mayor in the country.

On Thursday, transportation was on the agenda. Biden visited the Miami Intermodal Center, a transportation hub under construction near the airport. Approximately \$2 million will fund construction of the Greyhound bus station at the center.

"People believe this will be the Grand Central Station of South Florida," Biden said.

The stimulus plan will benefit construction, transportation and law enforcement. It's something Miami Mayor Manny Diaz appreciated.

"Vice president Biden is really, really a keen supporter and a cheerleader almost of local government and his belief in our ability to work," Diaz said. "He was a county commissioner a long time ago so he understands the importance of the urban agenda."