



# The Ferguson Group LLC



## **THE FEDERAL TRANSITION AND YOU: PUBLIC SAFETY, HOMELAND SECURITY, AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

**December 16, 2008**



# Introduction

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- Welcome
- **Please call our conference line for the audio portion of the presentation at 1-800-377-8846 and enter passcode 26901245#**
- Major Issues in Homeland Security and Emergency Management
  - Current Federal Perspective on Local Homeland Security Funding
  - Obama Transition Team and Selection of Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano as DHS Secretary
  - Homeland Security and the Congress
    - ✦ Wildfires, Floods, Tornadoes, and Hurricanes
    - ✦ Oversight and legislation

# Today's Presenters

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Kareem Murphy, a partner at The Ferguson Group, is a top lobbyist in the areas of homeland security and emergency management. He helped to form a coalition of lobbyist and national organizations that in 2001 successfully lobbied Congress and the Administration for an initial \$3.5 billion in homeland security funding.



Dalen Harris, associate legislative director at the National Association of Counties (NACo), is the chief lobbyist at NACo for Homeland Security and Emergency Management and NACo's Large Urban County Caucus (LUCC). He also serves as NACo's liaison to several national Emergency Management Associations.

# Background on The Ferguson Group

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- **Founded in 1982 by William Ferguson, Jr.**
- **Bipartisan government relations consulting firm**
- **Among the top 20 non-law lobbying firms in DC**
- **Represents 150 clients in 27 states**
- **Largest federal representative of local governments in Washington, DC**



# Where We Currently Stand

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- **FY2009 Homeland Security Appropriations**
  - State Homeland Security Grant Program
  - Urban Area Security Initiative
  - Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant Program
  - SAFER Act Grant Program
  - Other State and Local Programs
- **2006 FEMA Reform Legislation**
  - Address structural problems exemplified by Katrina response
  - Codify several DHS grant programs by statute

# The Obama Transition and Its Impact on Homeland Security Issues

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- **Transition Team Includes:**

- Randy Beers – Former Bush and Kerry Aide
- Clark Kent Ervin – Homeland Security Director, Aspen Institute
- Scott Nance – Senate DHS Appropriations Committee Staffer
- Phillip Crowley – Homeland Security Director, Center for American Progress



- **Choice of Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano and DHS Secretary**

- Heavily focused on redundancy, overall management, and departmental integration
- Border security to remain a national issue

# NACo Perspective on 2009 (Obama Administration)

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- Increased Presidential budgets for State and Local Grant Programs
- Risked-based approach to program administration
- Increased investment in interoperability
- Improvements to Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness

# Homeland Security and Congress

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- **Restore FEMA to Independent Agency status?**
- **Oversight and Disaster Management**
  - Wildfires
  - Gulf Coast Restoration
  - Midwest Floods
  - Tornadoes, Hurricanes, and Earthquakes
- **Jurisdictional disputes**

# Q&A

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- Type your questions in the text box on the right of your screen



# Next Steps for Your Community

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- **Initiate and/or continue relationship with State Administering Agency (usually the state emergency management office)**
- **Utilize Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program**
- **Maintain contact with FEMA Regional Office (9 of them)**
- **Strategic resource-oriented engagement with UASI Working Group, in urban areas**

# More Federal Transition & Policy Guidance for Localities

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- **Upcoming events**
  - **Energy, Environment, Water & Climate Change**  
(January 7, 3 PM Eastern)
  - TFG Transition Papers – more to come
  - Key federal funding deadlines for localities: January – March 2009



**Thank you for participating**

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