

## Office of the Governor

PO BOX 004  
TRENTON, NJ 08625

### NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Pete McDonough  
609-777-2600

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#### **Whitman Requests Video Cameras in Trooper Cars Torricelli Seeks Federal Assistance to Expand Program**

Gov. Christie Whitman today asked New Jersey's toll road authorities to underwrite the costs of installing 245 video cameras in State Police cars that patrol the New Jersey Turnpike, the Garden State Parkway and the Atlantic City Expressway. Senator Robert G. Torricelli announced that he would seek federal funds to defray the costs of expanding the program and installing cameras in all trooper vehicles.

"Installing video cameras in state police vehicles is an effective way to augment investigations, document evidence, assist in prosecutions, and protect the innocent," Gov. Whitman said.

"Installing video cameras in State Police vehicles will be a benefit to every motorist who travels our highways and every law enforcement officer who patrols them," she added.

"I applaud the Governor's decision and I am seeking additional funds from the Department of Justice to expand the program so all State Police cars are equipped with video cameras," Sen. Torricelli said.

"Outfitting State Police cruisers with video cameras makes sense for everyone, and I am hopeful that with my intercession, the Department of Justice will extend the funding necessary to expand the program," the Senator said.

"Video cameras will be a very beneficial tool for law enforcement . Their usefulness in documenting actions and activities that lead to arrests cannot be argued and they will be a welcomed addition to standard State Trooper equipment," said Attorney General Peter Verniero.

"At the same time, I fully expect that the cameras will lead to an increased confidence in and understanding of the actions of our State Police," he added.

Under the program announced by the Governor, the 245 State Trooper cars operating on the state's toll roads will be equipped with video cameras that would be activated whenever a State Trooper is in pursuit of another vehicle, making a vehicle stop or an arrest.

Installing the cameras will cost an estimated \$1 million. Expanding the program to cover all marked Trooper cars could cost as much as \$3.7 million.

Video cameras are currently installed in local police cars in about 85 municipalities in New Jersey.