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NEWS RELEASE

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Whitman Reiterates Support for Law Enforcement

NJ Gov. Christie Whitman issued the following statement regarding the Law Enforcement Appreciation Day rally held at the Statehouse today:

"I fully support the men and women of law enforcement, not only those who were gathered at the Statehouse this morning, but the tens of thousands more who were on the roads, in the station houses and patrolling our neighborhoods today," Gov. Whitman said.

"Law enforcement personnel deserve our thanks and appreciation for the jobs they do every day of the year. I am, and will continue to be, among their strongest supporters. I am committed to continuing my record of keeping law enforcement at the very top of our agenda," she said.

"Our law enforcement community asked me, after more than a decade of disappointment and frustration, to enact the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights. I signed that bill not only because of my personal commitment, but because it was the right thing to do for police officers and the people they protect.

"We have made available state-of-the-art equipment and training for our law enforcement professionals because they should never be at a disadvantage to the reckless or the lawless.

"And, with the overwhelming bipartisan support of the Legislature, we have enacted some of the toughest sentencing laws in this nation because our law enforcement personnel and the people they serve need to be confident that the entire criminal justice system is on their side," she added.

"Those who don a badge in New Jersey, from the rookie local patrolman to our state police, our prosecutors and the Attorney General himself, have taken an oath to uphold our laws with honor, dignity and integrity. All elected officials, and indeed all law abiding citizens, should honor and respect the men and women who live up to that oath," the Governor said.

