



**STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

ERIC T. SCHNEIDERMAN
ATTORNEY GENERAL

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

June 9, 2014

Dear Law Enforcement Colleague:

I am writing to invite you to participate in the New York State Office of the Attorney General's inVEST Partnership. We created the inVEST Partnership to provide New York State law enforcement agencies increased access to funding for bulletproof vests in the face of cuts to the federal Bulletproof Vest Partnership program, to provide for up to 50 percent in matching funds for the purchase of new or replacement bulletproof vests.

As you are well aware, gun violence remains one of most dangerous threats faced by law enforcement officers in New York State. In the past 30 years, 71 police officers in New York State died as a result of gunshot wounds sustained in the line of duty. During the past three decades, according to the National Institute of Justice, bulletproof vests saved more than 3,000 police officers' lives nationwide. Put simply, bulletproof vests are a critical piece of law enforcement equipment that save lives.

Congress passed the Bulletproof Vest Partnership in 1998, recognizing the need to outfit police officers across the country with bulletproof vests. Your agency may have been one of the hundreds of police departments across the state to receive some of the \$25 million in federal funds dedicated to New York State under this program. Unfortunately, a marked decrease in funding has strained the Bulletproof Vest Partnership's budget and reduced financial assistance to law enforcement agencies. Since 2010, funding from the federal program decreased by over 80 percent in New York State alone.

In response, we have dedicated \$3.5 million of crime proceeds seized in joint federal and state criminal prosecutions to create the inVEST Partnership. The Partnership will reimburse selected agencies for up to 50 percent of the total cost of the purchase of bulletproof vest purchases. We ask that law enforcement agencies interested in applying to the inVEST Partnership submit the application by July 15, 2014, available online at <http://bit.ly/OAGINVEST>.

My office is dedicated to ensuring the safety of law enforcement officers throughout the state. Far too often, budget shortfalls shift the cost of purchasing the safest and most up-to-date equipment to police officers and their families. If your department is in need of new or replacement bulletproof vests, I encourage you to apply for funding through the inVEST Partnership.

If you have any questions regarding the details of the program or your agency's eligibility, please contact 212-416-8003 or refer to the New York State Office of the Attorney General's website at <http://bit.ly/OAGINVEST>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric T. Schneiderman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

Eric T. Schneiderman