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## Lehigh County Awards Safe Streets Grants *Cunningham Introduces New Community Police Officers*

*Lehigh County Executive Don Cunningham will hand out more than \$300,000 in checks to the six municipalities that qualified for a Safe Streets Grant to hire police officers during an 11:30 a.m. presentation on Thursday, Oct. 1 at the West Bethlehem Police Substation at 434 W. Broad St., Bethlehem.*

*Cunningham will also introduce some of the new community police officers who will be serving in Allentown, Bethlehem, Catasauqua, Fountain Hill, Macungie and Salisbury.*

*The goal of Safe Streets is to draw people back to downtown areas and reinvigorate the urban core by improving public safety, said Cunningham.*

*"It's a win-win situation," said Cunningham, who initiated community policing in Bethlehem when he was mayor. "Municipalities save money on police and the county becomes a more desirable place to live."*

*This is the first year of a three-year county grant program, awarded to communities who put forth the best community policing programs.*

*"Community policing is a highly effective method used by police departments nationwide," Cunningham said. "Officers are assigned to a neighborhood or downtown, preferably patrolling the area on foot or*

*bicycle, and giving residents a chance to interact with law enforcement.”*

*Allentown is receiving funding for four police officers, Bethlehem two and the boroughs of Catasauqua, Fountain Hill and Macungie, along with Salisbury Township, received one.*