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Donald T. Cunningham, Jr., County Executive

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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.