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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

CHAIRMAN, CONGRESSIONAL EXECUTIVE
COMMISSION ON CHINA

CHAIRMAN, GLOBAL HEALTH, GLOBAL
HUMAN RIGHTS, AND INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

CO-CHAIRMAN, TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION

SENIOR MEMBER, HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

www.chrissmith.house.gov

May 10, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
H-310, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro, and Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Cartwright,

I write to you today to request Community Project Funding in fiscal year 2025 to fund the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office Communications Interoperability Project in Monmouth County, New Jersey in my Congressional District (NJ-04).

Monmouth County Sheriff is responsible for serving the law enforcement needs for all 53 towns of Monmouth County, and provides emergency services to all 628,715 residents of New Jersey's 5th most populous county spread across 661 square miles. This request is for funds to acquire upgrade communications equipment that provides for interoperability between the Sheriff's office – the County's Emergency Management Agency – and the multiple law enforcement and emergency services providers throughout the county. These law enforcement partners include multiple municipal police departments, the New Jersey State Police, the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, the Monmouth University Police Department, New Jersey Transit Police Department, federal law enforcement partners such as the United States Coast Guard, Department of Defense Police located at NWS Earle and many others.

The Monmouth County Sheriff's Office requests \$540,000 to support upgrades including interoperable multi-band portable and mobile radio equipment, interoperability communications equipment as well as core appliances to allow real time video integration into the Sheriff's operations center. This includes integration with public camera systems such as transportation cameras, gunshot detection equipment, alarm and alert integration, and school panic alarms. This equipment will allow law enforcement and public safety partners to improve communication and coordination between local,

county and state partners, fostering better response times and coordination between first responders. This project, if funded, would serve as a platform for collaboration between law enforcement agencies, enabling the sharing of information and coordinated responses across jurisdictions.

County and municipal leaders strongly support the goals of this project. Ross Licitra, Commissioner Deputy Director for Monmouth County states in support of the project “our community faces several pressing challenges that require immediate attention and resources. These funds would assist and allow law enforcement and public safety partners to improve communication and coordination.”

Jennifer McCarthy, Vice President of the New Jersey Emergency Medical Services Task Force, wrote in her letter of support that “Funding the project would benefit hundreds of partner agencies in law enforcement, fire, EMS, emergency management, public health and more. For decades the emergency services community has worked toward the development of a truly useful interoperable radio system. Sheriff Golden and his team have been leaders in this realm, and we are hopeful that they can be provided with the funds needed to take the next step in creating such a system.”

The Monmouth County Sheriff’s Office Communications Interoperability Project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding consistent with the Department of Justice’s Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program to develop new technologies, including interoperable communications technologies, to assist State, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies in reorienting the emphasis of their activities from reacting to crime to preventing crime and to train law enforcement officers to use such technologies. This project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in section 1701(b)(8) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10381(b)(8)).

Additionally, I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Thank you for your due consideration of this project.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress