

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
4TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

CONSTITUENT SERVICE CENTERS:

OCEAN

Visit: 33 Washington Street
Toms River, NJ 08754
Mail: PO Box 728
Toms River, NJ 08754
(732) 504-0567

MONMOUTH

1715 Highway 35 North
Suite 303
Middletown, NJ 07748
(732) 780-3035



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

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
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,
and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
H-310 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chair Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Cartwright,

I write to respectfully request Community Project Funding in fiscal year 2024 to fund much needed Law Enforcement Support Programs for the Manchester Township Police Department.

The Manchester Township Police Department, located at 1 Colonial Drive, Manchester, NJ 08759, requires federal funds to maintain proper staffing levels and replace an aging fleet of patrol vehicles.

The federal support will enable the Manchester Police Department to continue delivering critical emergency and law enforcement services to a geographically large municipality where more than 65 percent of the entire population are senior citizens with a very high concentration of 100% disabled veterans. This project has the strong support of local and county elected officials.

In addition to being a growing town with a large senior population, Manchester hosts portions of Naval Air Station Lakehurst, a constituent installation of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. As a result, the Manchester Township Police Department is required to be prepared for emergency response in support of base activities. The Police Department maintains a strong relationship with federal law enforcement partners located at the Joint Base, and maintaining sufficient staffing levels and transportation and response capacities enables Manchester to fully support all community partners.

Due to economic realities and budget laws, the police department will be forced to release police officers or not replace retiring officers to address an impending budget shortfall. The request includes \$1,500,000 for law enforcement workforce support and \$794,500 for patrol vehicle replacement, for a total request of \$2,294,500. The Police Department has been unable to purchase replacement vehicles for three years, and at present must replace nine patrol vehicles.

Funding for the Manchester Township Police Department is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds as it is in keeping with the stated goals of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program providing additional personnel for basic law enforcement programs and specific funding for the replacement of police cruisers needed to patrol the town and respond to emergencies. This program has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10152).

Along with its large senior population, many of whom are living on fixed incomes, Manchester Township has a very large geographic footprint being spread out over an area of 85 square miles, with areas that are heavily wooded and prone to inclement weather due to proximity to the Atlantic Ocean. As a result, patrol vehicles suffer significant wear and tear, compromising the departments' ability to respond to emergencies across a large geographic area, and requiring vehicles to be sent for maintenance and unavailable for emergency response.

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

Thank you in advance for your careful consideration of this request. I appreciate the Committee's due consideration of the proposal.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress