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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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April 20, 2022

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
H-310 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Cartwright and Ranking Member Aderholt:

I write to request funding for a greatly needed **9-1-1 Call Center and Emergency Management Office (OEM)** planned by the county government of Ocean County, N.J. to accommodate the growing needs of a fast-rising population.

The county seeks \$500,000 to help fund the concept, site design and permitting plans to build the 9-1-1 Call Center and OEM, which will be a 60,000 square-foot facility that will serve a growing county and consolidate seven buildings currently spread out across the second largest county in the state at 629 square miles. Cost savings, greater efficacy, efficiencies, and improved services would result. This facility, for which the county expects to fund most of the cost, would ultimately centralize the main functions of the Sheriff's Department, including its Detective Division, Court Security and Forensic Laboratory, as well as the 9-1-1 Call Center and the OEM. The county (<https://co.ocean.nj.us/>) is set to begin the design project in FY2023. The county views this project as an essential need, and is committed to funding the construction costs itself.

With large tracts of undeveloped land and a strong demand for homes and businesses in a popular shore town and rural areas, the county is expecting more growth.

The 2010 Census showed the population of the county to be 576,567. Only 10 years later the 2020 Census showed the county grew to 648,998, an increase of 60,662 people, or over 10.5 percent. In the single year since the Census was completed, one town experienced a population increase of 1.8 percent. The most recent 2020 census shows that same town, Lakewood, N.J., grew from 92,843 resident to 135,158 between 2010-2020, one of the fastest towns in America. This growth demands that the county modernize and centralize its resources to serve the public.

This Community Project Funding would greatly help Ocean County in this worthwhile endeavor to better serve its residents with modernized emergency services. Included are strong

letters of support from the Ocean County Commissioners, the County Sheriff and County engineer.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project to consolidate services for this growing county. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Smith", written in a cursive style.

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress