

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2302

May 17, 2022

United States Department of Justice
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services
ATTN: Acting Director Robert E. Chapman
145 N Street NE
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Acting Director Chapman,

I am writing to strongly urge you to consider the Burnsville Police Department's application for the COPS Hiring Program grant. The Burnsville Police Department is applying for five FTE police officer positions under this opportunity. This grant would cover \$125,000 per position over a three-year period, totaling \$625,000 for all five positions.

The City of Burnsville is currently experiencing a massive shortage of employees and the Burnsville Police Department needs to fill over 11 positions. In addition to this shortage, the call load and complexity of calls often requires more officer time and inhibits the time available and necessary for complex and time-consuming response to crisis calls for service, stabilization, on-site assessments, and long-term support for family members and those in crisis. It also prevents the time available for proactive policing initiatives.

Through the COPS Hiring Program, the Burnsville Police Department would be able to hire for critical officer positions. Three police officer positions would be assigned to the Community Engagement/Behavioral Health Unit (CEBHU). The CEBHU works to support and enhance mental health and wellness, reduce stigma, and collaborate with the Fire Department, Dakota County, and mental health professionals to reduce repeated emergency calls for service by providing individuals with the right services and resources at the right time. Two police officer positions would be assigned to the patrol unit to better enhance community policing and community engagement efforts. All five positions would support the department in achieving their mission of Working Together to Make a Difference Through Excellence in Policing by providing trusted service with dignity and respect.

The COPS Hiring Program would allow the Burnsville Police Department to address capacity issues and provide crucial support to call response time and would assist in addressing behavioral health needs and meeting community expectations. I fully support the Burnsville Police

ANGIE CRAIG
2ND DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

CRAIG.HOUSE.GOV

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Department's application for the COPS Hiring Program and request that you give this application all due consideration.

Sincerely,



Angie Craig
Member of Congress