

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

June 3, 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 express my strong support of the South St. Paul Police Department's application for the COPS Hiring Program grant. The South St. Paul Police Department is applying for \$500,000 under this opportunity to bring on four new police officer positions. Police departments across the nation are seeing major spikes in crime including increases in call load and complexity. These events are occurring while coupled with a workforce shortage. South St. Paul is not immune to these effects and additional support would go a long way to ensure public safety in the city and surrounding communities.

Over the past several years, the South St. Paul Police Department has seen a surge in call volume, particularly for mental health calls. The increased call load and call intricacy often requires more officer time for response to crisis calls and stabilization services. To better ensure community safety, the department seeks to dedicate more officers to address these calls. Through the COPS Hiring Program, the department would be able to bring on two additional officers to respond to the overwhelming number of mental health calls, allowing other officers to tackle the remainder of the call load. Responses will be handled in partnership with Dakota County Social Services.

The funding from this opportunity would also enable the department to hire two additional officers to focus on building trust and legitimacy within the community through creative problem solving. This work would be carried out in addition to normal 911 responses. The COPS Hiring Program would permit the department to make a major investment in staffing and provide greater security to the city.

This grant program funding will significantly impact the City of South St. Paul and Minnesota's Second Congressional District. The department received unanimous support from their City Council for this opportunity. The City Council has also committed to retain and fund these

ANGIE CRAIG
2ND DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

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positions in future years, if awarded. This is a substantial increase to the department's budget and has been recognized as a major need.

I fully support the South St. Paul Police Department's application for the COPS Hiring Program. If allocated, funding would allow the South St. Paul Police Department to make a concerted effort, alongside Dakota County Social Services, to promote community safety by investing in the creation of additional lifesaving jobs. I strongly urge you to consider their application.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Angie Craig
Member of Congress