

Fighting Crime: Law Enforcement Efforts to Work Across State Lines Get Federal Support

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Congressman Rothman Backs Law Enforcement Efforts to Work Across State Lines to Combat Crime

(Washington, DC)—On Tuesday, February 26, 2008, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ) was pleased to welcome law enforcement officials from New Jersey and surrounding areas to his office to discuss federally-funded efforts to combat crime. In particular, they went over the successes of the Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program. RISS is a national law enforcement program that supports regional efforts to combat terrorist activity, illegal drug trafficking, violent gangs, and other identified regional criminal priorities.

"I was proud to support \$40 million to expand the reach of this program in New Jersey and surrounding states. Our officers need all the help they can get to target, identify, and remove criminal organizations and activities that cross county and state lines. We cannot have a situation where communities continue to be terrorized simply because the criminals operate in multiple towns, counties, and states. On the contrary, those are the big players that we need all hands on deck to stop," said Rothman, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, which makes decisions about all federal spending.

Specifically, Rothman said he will continue to support federal funding for the Middle Atlantic-Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network (MAGLOCLLEN), which is the RISS network to which New Jersey belongs, along with Delaware, District of Columbia, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

Present for the meeting were Lieutenant Edwin Torres, Supervisor of the Gang Management Unit for the State of New Jersey, Richard Norcross with the Camden County Prosecutors Office, Dennis McGuigan with MAGLOCLLEN, and Detective Dan Stevens with the Albany Police Department. Norcross is also a member of the MAGLOCLLEN Policy Board.

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Pictured (L-R): Det. Dan Stevens, Dennis McGuigan with MAGLOCLLEN, Rep. Rothman, Rich Norcross with the Camden County Prosecutor's Office, and Lt. Edwin Torres, Supervisor of New Jersey's Gang Management Unit.