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For Bergen County Police Dept. To Pay

For Full-Time Police Officers For Three Technical Schools

Helps Get New Jersey's Fair Share Of Federal School Safety Funds

Hackensack, NJ - Continuing his work to improve school safety and get New Jersey's fair share of federal grants, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) today announced a \$375,000 federal grant to pay for three full-time police officers to patrol in three Bergen County schools. The grant, which comes from the U.S. Department of Justice's COPS In Schools program, was awarded to the Bergen County Police Department, which will use the funds to have a full-time police officer, for three years, stationed at each of Bergen County's three technical schools in Hackensack, Paramus, and Teterboro.

"New Jerseyans pay a disproportionate share of federal taxes along with high state and local taxes. Getting these federal dollars improves the lives of our students, teachers and parents," Rothman said. "This grant means that the children of Bergen County, who are students at our technical schools in Hackensack, Paramus, and Teterboro, as well as their parents and teachers, will have the comfort of knowing that their schools are protected by police officers who will help keep them safe. These federal dollars will also help reduce some of the burden on Bergen County's property taxpayers."

Under the terms of the award, these police officers at the schools during the school day will work with students, teachers, and parents to improve school security, counsel troubled youth, mediate conflicts before they erupt into violence, and help prevent drug use. Additionally, the officers' mere presence will help deter criminal activity at the schools.

"As the father of two children in Bergen County public schools, I understand full well that school must be a safe haven for students without the kids having to look over their shoulders fearing that they may be in danger. There is no question that students learn better and are less distracted in a secure school environment," Rothman said. "This grant also relieves the financial burden of paying for this increased school security from local taxpayers who already pay a disproportionate share of their hard earned money to the federal government."

Rothman has a strong history of working to curb school violence by bringing home federal grants to New Jersey. Earlier this year, Rothman helped secure \$590,620 in federal funds for five police officers to be hired for schools in Garfield and Lyndhurst, relieving the burden on the taxpayers in those municipalities.

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