

Rothman, Police, Vow Push to Keep 'COPS' Alive

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Will Fight to Restore Budget Cuts of Crime Prevention Program;
Put Additional Officers on the Street

Wallington, NJ -- Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ) was joined today by law enforcement officers and mayors from 16 Bergen and Hudson County towns at Wallington's Police Headquarters, to push to restore funding cuts to the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program. The President's budget cuts the COPS program by over \$177 million for the next fiscal year, a 17 percent cut.

"We're here today because crime is down in Bergen County and there are more cops on the street and the major reason there are more cops patrolling our streets is because of the COPS program," Rothman said. "And we want to keep it that way."

Rothman vowed to use his seat on the House Appropriations Committee to work to restore the funding cuts to COPS as well as provide additional funds to hire put 50,000 more officers on America's streets over the next six years. Rothman will also fight for COPS within the bipartisan Law Enforcement Caucus of which he is a member, and by speaking with members of the New Jersey's delegation.

"This is an important fight, which is why I will do everything I can to win it," Rothman said. "I believe that if we have the will, we can win this fight and continue to clean up our streets."

Rothman and many members of the Bergen and Hudson County law enforcement community believe the COPS program plays a vital part in protecting our streets. Since Rothman entered Congress in 1997, he has secured over \$17 million worth of grants for towns in the 9th Congressional District. Crime has fallen throughout the nation for a record eight straight years.

Among the towns in attendance: Carlstadt, Cliffside Park, Fort Lee, Garfield, Kearny, Leonia, Little Ferry, Lyndhurst, Moonachie, New Milford, North Bergen, Palisades Park, Rutherford, Secaucus, South Hackensack and Wallington.

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[Go back](#)