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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4611

COMMITTEE ON
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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the "Cyber and Forensics Division Equipment Upgrades" in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Fairfax County Government, located at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035. The funding would be used for the project below.

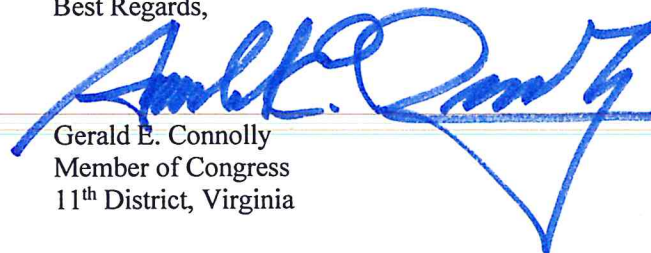
Project: Cyber and Forensics Division Equipment Upgrades
Recipient: Fairfax County Government, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035
Amount: \$135,000

Justification: This project will update and replace equipment used by the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) in the investigation of crimes. This includes the upgrade of aging forensic equipment, the procurement of advanced technology to reduce time spent on the processing of crime scenes, and the replacement of non-functional computer equipment in a mobile surveillance vehicle. These items will increase efficiency and accuracy of investigations and allow investigators more time to focus on other aspects of a wide range of investigations, including opioid trafficking, sexual assaults, human trafficking, and threats of violence in the community. Specifically, the funding request is for the following: Advanced scanning technology to allow for increased efficiency and accuracy of crime scene documentation. These are laser systems used to make 3D maps of crime scenes. These newer handheld units can be deployed into smaller, more cluttered spaces, allowing for better modeling than the current tripod models. Replacement of a non-functional mobile surveillance platform, which has been rendered unusable due to the failure of the computers in the surveillance van. A replacement on-board server and new cameras will revitalize a very valuable tool in the fight against crime, furthering investigations into opioid and narcotics trafficking, terrorist plots, and other threats. Upgrades to evidence analysis equipment (fuming chambers). The current fuming chambers are still functional but are starting to require costly repairs to remain in service. Advances in technology have now made available higher quality, more efficient instruments that could improve officers' ability to process latent evidence. Replacement of old fuming chambers should improve both accuracy and the quality of analysis on recovered latent evidence. Updating the equipment used to preserve evidence, as the old equipment is near its end of life (drying cabinets). Upgrading and improving the drying area/equipment will allow for better preservation of biological evidence and latent DNA. This is especially important in investigations of violent crimes against persons.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by the 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, 23 U.S.C. 10152.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Best Regards,



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress
11th District, Virginia