

WASHINGTON – Congressmen Charles Gonzalez, Ciro Rodriguez and Lamar Smith today announced \$10,354,400 in federal funding for the City of San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) to hire 50 police officers. The grant from the Department of Justice Office (DOJ) of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) will provide the salary and benefits for entry level officer positions for a three-year period. The SAPD will be required to retain the grant-funded positions for a fourth year.

Gonzalez, Rodriguez and Smith sent a letter of support to the DOJ to advance the request for funding.

“The growing needs of San Antonio demand more police protection,” said Congressman Gonzalez. “We have heard the growing need for additional officers from our Police Chief, Mayor, and City Council and today’s funding will help meet their request. Our common goal has been and will always be public safety.”

“Our citizens deserve the very best when it comes to public safety,” said Congressman Ciro Rodriguez. “This grant money gives our law enforcement agencies the resources they need to hire officers who will patrol our streets, respond to emergencies and protect our residents.”

“With the crime rate in San Antonio rising last year, this funding will enable the SAPD to increase and retain the manpower needed to fight crime more effectively through community policing,” said Congressman Smith, who is the Ranking Member on the House Judiciary Committee. “The addition of 50 police officers will have a positive impact on the safety and security of our city.”

“Funding for 50 new officers will bolster our pro-active, crime fighting efforts and support our community-oriented partnerships in San Antonio,” said San Antonio Police Chief William McManus.

According to the FBI’s Preliminary Unified Crime Report, incidents of violent crime in San Antonio increased from 2007 to 2008 from 7,327 to 9,699. Robbery, aggravated assault, property crime, burglary, theft and arson also saw significant increases.

The SAPD works closely with residents and the business community to develop programs to reduce crime. The officers hired through this funding will be appointed to both Community Policing Units and the San Antonio Fear Free Environment (SAFFE) program to combat serious violent and property crimes. Officers will have specialized training in community policing and will focus on chronic problems, building community partnerships, and addressing community needs.

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