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June 6, 2024

Mr. Hugh T. Clements, Jr.
Director
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services
145 N St NE
Washington, DC 20002-3393

Dear Director Clements,

I am writing to ask that you give full and fair consideration to the City of Whitewater Police Department's application to the FY24 COPS Hiring Program (O-COPS-2024-172009).

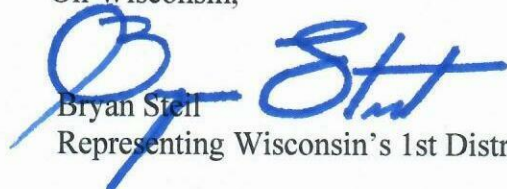
I was pleased to learn that the requested funds would allow the Whitewater Police Department to hire three additional sworn officers. I am optimistic that these additional police officers will help address the significant challenges that the Whitewater Police Department faces each day from an unexpected influx of approximately 800-1,000 migrants into their community of 15,600 residents.

While the Whitewater community has implemented strategies in adapting to these population and demographic changes, their community and department have experienced strains on their budgets and resources while responding to these additional challenges. For example, their police department has experienced an uptick in unlicensed drivers, an increase in citations issued, increased costs for translation services, and a higher workload.

As a result, it is becoming more difficult for their officers to proactively serve the community. I am hopeful that these additional officers will help alleviate the challenges that their department faces, as well as benefit the entire Whitewater community with advancing public safety through community policing activities, strengthened community partnerships, and crime prevention strategies.

I would appreciate it if you and the appropriate officials would carefully review the City of Whitewater Police Department's application and give it your full consideration (consistent with all laws and regulations), while remaining within the parameters of the federal government's ability to fund the program.

On Wisconsin,


Bryan Steil
Representing Wisconsin's 1st District