

Nancy Johnson



Fifth District, Connecticut

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Contact: Brian Schubert

(202) 225-4476

Johnson Secures Body Armor For Police

New Britain Chief: "Nancy has always been our champion"

NEW BRITAIN, CT – Congresswoman Nancy Johnson joined New Britain police officers Friday to announce \$12,500 in federal funds to purchase bulletproof vests for 35 city police officers.

New Britain Police Chief William Gagliardi credited Johnson for helping to secure the funds when the city's grant application was blocked by the federal government's computer system. After Johnson intervened with the Justice Department, the city was able to file its application properly with only hours to spare before this year's deadline.

"New Britain's police work hard every day to serve our community, and they deserve the best equipment and protection," Johnson said. "We made sure government red-tape did not prevent these officers from getting the body armor they needed. I thank Chief Gagliardi and New Britain's dedicated police officers and support staff for their service to our community. I'm very proud to represent them in Congress."

"Nancy has always been our champion, and she came through for New Britain's police officers again," said Chief Gagliardi. "In one hour she cut through the red-tape that jeopardized this funding. Her help was a tremendous service to the 35 officers who will now get the vests they need to protect themselves as they perform their duties for New Britain."

In April, the Police Department attempted to electronically file a grant application with the Justice Department's Bulletproof Vest Partnership program, but the government's computer system did not allow it to be submitted, even though the filing deadline fell on the next day.

Concerned that the City would be shut out of this year's grant program, Chief Gagliardi called Johnson for help. The congresswoman's office contacted the Justice Department and arranged for the Department to file its application on time. The federal reimbursement is expected to be \$12,500, approximately half of the cost of the 35 vests.

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) was created by the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998. It provides assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies for the purchase of new and replacement bulletproof vests.

Bulletproof Vests/2

Chief Gagliardi said the 35 vests will be divided between officers who need replacement vests and newly sworn New Britain police officers. The New Britain Police Department has 158 sworn officers.

Since 1999, over 11,900 jurisdictions have received \$173 million in federal funds to support the purchase of approximately 450,000 vests.

The Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance, an agency within the U.S. Department of Justice, administers the BVP Program.

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