



# Congressman Tim Bishop

*FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK*

## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **BISHOP DELIVERS \$250K IN ANTI-GANG FUNDING**

**Patchogue, NY-** In their continuing effort to fight gang violence in Suffolk County, Congressman Tim Bishop and Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota announced \$250,000 in funding for Suffolk County's Anti-Gang Initiative. Bishop and Spota announced the funds at an event at Patchogue-Medford Youth & Community Services where they were joined by Assemblywoman Pat Eddington, Legislator Brian Foley, and incoming Patchogue Village Mayor Paul Pontieri.

"Gangs were once thought to only be in urban areas, and Suffolk County seemed far removed from the threat. However, we have come to realize that distance has not prevented the spread of gang violence to our communities," Bishop said. "Fortunately, our community has been fighting back, and leading that fight has been District Attorney Tom Spota and the Anti-Gang Unit. I am proud to support that fight on the federal level by delivering these funds."

This funding will enable the Anti-Gang Unit to continue its coordinated approach to street gang enforcement and prosecution. Under this program, investigators work closely with patrol gang teams and local detective squads in debriefing suspected gang members, clearing individuals as informants, and conducting proactive investigations, particularly those dealing with the sale of a possession of firearms.

Bishop also stressed that it is important to provide positive choices to our youth, which is why the event was held at the Patchogue-Medford Youth and Community Services.

"While it is important to crack down on violent gangs, we must also provide our youth with positive choices and alternatives to gangs," Bishop said. "This institution is the result of all levels of government as well as people throughout our community joining together and providing positive choices."

Recent high-level arrests have disrupted notorious gangs such as MS-13, which has a presence throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties, as well as the Murder Unit, and several of its members were arrested on the North Fork. These victories have been the result of law enforcement and members of the community working together to crack down on violent gangs. These new federal funds will help those efforts.

Bishop worked to secure the funds in Congress and was able to include them in the Omnibus Appropriations Bill, which passed by a wide bipartisan majority.

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