



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 8, 2004

For more information, contact:  
Jon Schneider (202) 225-3826  
Ryan Rudominer (202) 225-3335

**Press Release**

**BISHOP, ISRAEL SECURE FUNDS FOR SCPD**  
***Grants will Aid Efforts to Fight Sexual Predators, Patrol Waters***

**Washington, DC-** Today, Congressmen Tim Bishop and Steve Israel announced new federal funds for the Suffolk County Police Department (SCPD). One grant will be used for the SCPD Computer Crimes Section to investigate online sexual predators who stalk children. The other will be used to purchase a Hovercraft for the SCPD, which will aid efforts to patrol local waters and access remote areas in all climates.

The funds were included in the Fiscal Year 2005 Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Bill, which passed the House today by a vote of 397 to 18.

“I am pleased to secure these funds to help make Suffolk County law enforcement more effective,” Bishop said. “We must crackdown on sexual predators who stalk our children in cyberspace before they can strike.”

“We must ensure that Suffolk County law enforcement has the resources it needs to fight crime in all its forms,” Israel said. “I am so delighted to have been able to secure these federal funds to keep my constituents safe.”

“My thanks to Congressman Bishop and Congressman Israel for providing this funding. These federal dollars will help our officers identify and apprehend on-line sexual predators who are stalking our children,” SCPD Commissioner Richard Dormer said. “Additionally, these monies will enhance our marine patrol rescue efforts with the purchase of this all-season vessel.”

While the SCPD grants were included in the legislation, dollar amounts will be allocated later, however, Israel and Bishop are hoping to secure their requested amount for each:

- **SCPD Computer Crimes Section:** This unit is responsible for investigating and arresting individuals involved in online sexual exploitation of children. With sexual predators having access to ever more sophisticated computer technology, the SCPD needs additional funding to extract and store data from seized equipment, training for detectives in the latest technology, and community outreach programs to schools and communities. The Congressmen requested approximately \$450,000 for this program.

**-continued-**

- **Purchase of Hovercraft:** A hovercraft would enable the SCPD to operate in all climates. It would replace a 1985 airboat used for ice patrol duties. However, the Hovercraft would have superior hull protection and electronics, making it usable in a variety of situations. It would also have unique capabilities, for instance, during when the Great South Bay is frozen in the Winter, it would be the only SCPD vessel capable of accessing remote barrier beaches of the Fire Island National Seashore. The Congressmen requested approximately \$150,000 to purchase the Hovercraft.

Bishop also got funding for a Mobile Command Center for the Town of Brookhaven. The Center will allow Brookhaven Town officials to coordinate quick response when a national disaster or emergency occurs. Such a unit could have helped coordinate a response to the 1996 crash of TWA Flight 800 off Fire Island. Bishop requested approximately \$200,000 for the Command Center.

“The Mobile Command Center will help Brookhaven Town officials better coordinate emergency responses with County, State and Federal officials,” Bishop said. “I am committed to making sure our local first responders have the resources they need to best protect Brookhaven’s families.”

“We are pleased to have been chosen to receive this \$200,000 grant for the Mobile Command Center,” Brookhaven Town Supervisor John Jay LaValle said. “This will enhance Public Safety’s ability to quickly respond and coordinate with other Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies concerning Homeland Security and other major emergencies.”

Although these funds passed the House today, they still must be approved by the Senate, and then signed into law by the President. Fiscal Year 2005 begins on October 1, 2004.

# # #