



Congressman Tim Bishop

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Bishop, SCPD Computer Crimes Unit Tout Tools to Protect Children Online

Yaphank—Congressman Tim Bishop and the Suffolk County Police Department (SCPD) Computer Crimes Unit are continuing to take the fight to protect our children in cyberspace. Bishop held a press conference at SCPD headquarters in Yaphank to announce he has secured federal funds for the Computer Crimes Unit for a third consecutive year. They also discussed ongoing efforts to protect children online.

“The Computer Crimes Unit is leading the fight against sexual predators who stalk our children over the Internet,” Bishop said. “The key to that fight is education, and I am very pleased to help get important information to parents and children throughout Suffolk County.”

“The importance of online safety education to the children of Suffolk County cannot be overstated,” Detective Sgt. John Cowie, Chief of the Computer Crimes Unit, said. “Congressman Bishop’s support has been an invaluable resource and has allowed our unit to pursue an aggressive proactive approach to on-line enforcement and child education.”

For the previous two years, Bishop secured \$275,000 for the Unit. For the upcoming fiscal year, Bishop has secured federal funding in the Commerce, State, Justice Appropriations Bill. The actual amount of the funding will not be available until the House-Senate conference committee reconciles a final version of the bill later this year, but Bishop requested \$250,000 for the Computer Crimes Unit.

Additionally, Bishop and the Computer Crimes Unit discussed their program to bring education into local schools. In just the past year, this effort has resulted in approximately 20,000 students receiving Internet safety education. The pair is teaming up to get the message to even more students this year. Schools who are interested in receiving an Internet Safety presentation can schedule one by calling Bishop’s office at 696-6500 and asking for Jennifer Gunn who coordinates the program.

“One of the unfortunate realities of the Internet is that predators living hundreds of miles from Long Island are just a mouse click away, and ready to pounce on unsuspecting children,” Bishop said. “The Computer Crimes Unit has helped catch hundreds of these criminals and is giving thousands of people to tools to fight back. I hope every school in Suffolk County holds a workshop to help protect our children online.”

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