

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0505

June 20, 2011

Mr. Bernard K. Melekian, Director  
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services  
U.S. Department of Justice  
1100 Vermont Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20530

**RE: FY2011 COPS Hiring Program**

Dear Mr. Melekian:

I am writing in support of the City of Sacramento Police Department and the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department as they apply for funding through the FY2011 COPS Hiring Program. This funding has become necessary in Sacramento due to city and county-wide budget cuts, concerns about lay-offs in law enforcement departments, and rising crime rates.

I have had the privilege of working with Sacramento Police Chief Rick Braziel and Sacramento County Sheriff Scott Jones on numerous occasions. I know their commitment and dedication to the people of Sacramento is tremendous, but unfortunately, their department budgets have been severely reduced in recent years. These cuts have created an environment where officers and deputies have been taken off the streets and laid off, resulting in increased response times to 911 calls for help. In 2010, there were 84 homicides in Sacramento County, a number that is up sharply from the 70 homicides reported during 2009. In addition, from 2008 to 2010, firearm-related assaults increased by 15 percent and non-fatal shootings with gang-involvement increased by 124 percent. Law enforcement leaders are dedicated to maintaining safe and livable neighborhoods, but as city, county and state funding is reduced, this task is becoming even more difficult and poses a serious threat to the livelihood and livability of the people of Sacramento.

Due to a decreased operating budget, the City of Sacramento Police Department is expected to lay-off 42 officer positions at the end of this month. To help alleviate the impact of staffing shortages, the Sacramento Police Department has submitted an application for COPS Hiring Program funding to rehire 35 full-time officers who are schedule to be laid-off. The Sacramento County budget has also been significantly reduced and county executives are expected to cut \$26.5 million from the Sheriff's Department budget this year. Through continued budget cuts over the past three years, the Sheriff's Department has seen a reduction of 122 deputy positions. In their COPS Hiring Program funding application, the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department has requested funding to hire and rehire 50 full-time deputies.

I am very pleased with the work of the officers and deputies of the City of Sacramento Police Department and the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, and whole heartedly support them as they apply for funding through the FY2011 COPS Hiring Program. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of their applications.

Sincerely,



DORIS O. MATSUI  
Member of Congress