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

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-305 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the City of Rochester Critical Police Technology Upgrades Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Rochester, MN, located at 201 4<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Rochester, MN 55904.

The funding would be used to support the launch of a real-time operations and intelligence platform, the adoption of a unified data platform, and the expansion of the Drone as First Responder (DFR) program. These technologies will modernize the Rochester Police Department's operational capabilities and position the department to address violent crime more quickly, with greater coordination and effectiveness.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the City of Rochester continues to face complex public safety challenges, including violent crime, firearm-related incidents, and rapidly evolving critical events that require immediate, informed response. Officers must often make split-second decisions with limited information, while investigators work across siloed data systems that can slow pattern identification and case development. These challenges strain departmental resources and can increase risk to officers and community members alike.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for the purpose described in section 1701(b)(9) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10381(b)(9)).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Brad Finstad  
Member of Congress