

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Joe Courtney today announced that the City of Norwich has secured \$500,000 in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Justice’s COPS Hiring Program (CHP). The funding will be used by the Norwich Police Department to hire four new police officers. The 2012 program requires that all new officers hired under the grant must be military veterans who have served at least 180 days of active military service, any part of which occurred on or after September 11, 2001.

“At the job fairs I hosted across eastern Connecticut and in advocating for federal legislation like the [VOW to Hire Heroes Act](#) , hiring military veterans has been a priority for me,” **said Congressman Courtney.**

“By allowing the City to hire veterans, it further fulfills our obligation to the men and women who served in our military. This targeted assistance will make the streets of Norwich safer and provide great assistance to Chief Fusaro and his Department, which participated in my recent career fair in Norwich.”

“Four additional police officer positions will be very beneficial to the City of Norwich and the surrounding community as a whole,” **said Norwich Police Department Deputy Chief Warren Mocek.**

“The ability to assist in the hiring of returning veterans and to provide gainful employment – something that is beneficial to them and to our Department – makes us all proud.”

CHP grants go directly to law enforcement agencies to hire new and/or rehire career law enforcement officers in an effort to increase their community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts.

This year’s CHP grants provide 75 percent funding for approved entry-level salaries and benefits for three years (36 months) for newly-hired, full-time sworn officer positions (including filling existing unfunded vacancies) or for rehired officers who have been laid off as a result of local budget cuts.

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