

**WASHINGTON, DC** - Congressman Joe Courtney announced today that the Willimantic Police Department has been awarded \$550,256 through the COPS Hiring Program (CHP) to hire two additional police officers.

“I have seen firsthand the challenges that police officers face in Willimantic and am glad to help provide this vital funding for the community,” Courtney stated. “The COPS hiring program not only increases public safety but helps create good paying jobs that are vital to eastern Connecticut.”

“I am thrilled and also very grateful to Congressman Courtney for his assistance,” said Willimantic Police Chief Lisa Maruzo-Bolduc. “We have been short-staffed and while two officers might not seem like a lot, it makes all the difference to the police force.”

Congressman Courtney has been a staunch supporter of the COPS program since being elected to Congress. He has consistently advocated for full funding of the program that provides invaluable resources to communities in eastern Connecticut. Since its inception, the COPS program has provided more than \$100 million to Connecticut police departments.