

Support for Municipal “Real Time Crime Centers”:

Within Connecticut, many municipalities have their own “Real Time Crime Centers.” The State Police should work collaboratively with them. Funds will be provided to the largest centers, Hartford, Bridgeport, Waterbury and New Haven. Additionally, Norwich, Stamford, Norwalk, New London, New Britain, Meriden, Danbury, Torrington and Willimantic would receive funds for each of their centers to build data capacity. These funds will enhance data collection and sharing between the State Police and the municipal departments through these crime centers. This would allow for state and local leaders to be able to properly assess an incident and make appropriate command decisions, in a timely manner and standardize reporting.

Violent Crimes Task Forces:

The \$1,108,800 in FY 2023 and 2024 will provide stipends for twenty-two municipal officers to participate in the task force to address violent gun crimes in our cities. CSP will be the lead, with statutory statewide jurisdiction (CGS 29-10) to assist municipalities in investigating violent gun related assaults.

Gun Tracing Task Force:

The Gun Tracing Task Force would be to identify and target gun Straw buyers (those who can legally purchase a firearm for illegal resale), Identify and track illegal Straw buyers from out of State, and then identify other sources of illegal guns used in Connecticut crimes. This would require additional staffing and would require the recruitment of Task Force Officers from local Police Departments.

Domestic Highway Interdiction Team:

The Domestic Highway Interdiction Team is conducted through the Bureau of Special Investigations and also collaborates with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). The primary focus is to target illicit narcotics, bulk cash and illegal firearms being trafficked throughout the state. Patrol Troopers who are active in drug interdiction are placed onto this Task Force with Detectives assigned to BSI. Both the Detectives and the patrol Troopers receive a block

of instruction by participating States Attorneys prior to participating in the Task Force. The training covers changes to state law impacting law enforcement and allows personnel to ask questions pertaining to search and seizure, vehicle searches and consent. This training builds on the basic training that Troopers receive in the academy related to search and seizure; it gives Detectives and Troopers the enhanced knowledge and added confidence to perform their duties in this specialized area of expertise while conducting thorough investigations. This program has helped with the fight against the opioid crisis which has been exasperated by the pandemic and has had an impact on violent crime in our state.

Continuation of Funding for CSP and Municipalities/Towns Impacted by Auto Theft and Violence:

DESPP/CSP is requesting a continuation of funding for CSP along with Cities and towns impacted by increased auto theft and violence. On July 14, 2021, Undersecretary Marc Pelka and Commissioner James Rovella (DESPP) met with large city Police Chiefs and many local Police Chiefs stressing the importance of regional law enforcement cooperation around the major cities to combat increased auto theft and violence issues. Funding was allocated and distributed for police overtime for these Task Forces. The funds were administered by OPM. The funds were only to be used for reimbursement of police overtime. Several cities and towns requested flexibility with the funds for use with youth and police interaction as well as positive interaction with re-offenders. The new request allows for flexibility but with OPM oversight and prior approval.