

## Mahoney Votes to Hire 222 More Law Enforcement Officers in FL-16

(May 15th, 2007)

(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) voted to reauthorize the C.O.P.S. program today and put 50,000 more police officers on America's streets, including an estimated 222 additional sheriffs' deputies and police officers in Florida's 16th Congressional District. Mahoney is a cosponsor of the C.O.P.S. Improvements Act of 2007, which passed the House today with bipartisan support by a vote of 381 to 34. This crime-fighting bill passed in the midst of recent FBI reports showing violent crime on the rise nationwide.

"The C.O.P.S hiring program has been instrumental in fighting crime in our communities. Last year, Congress and the President eliminated funding for the C.O.P.S. hiring program. This legislation will reverse the trend of shortchanging our local sheriffs department and will help put more law enforcement officers on the street. It is an important step forward in fighting crime and reducing gang violence," said Congressman Tim Mahoney.

The C.O.P.S. (Community Oriented Policing Services) hiring program has been one of the most successful law enforcement programs in the nation's history. To date the program has put almost 120,000 more officers on the street nationwide, including 519 in Florida's 16th Congressional District. Funded at over \$1 billion a year near the end of the Clinton administration, the hiring portion of C.O.P.S. has been zeroed out under President Bush.

### Officers and Deputies

Since 1994, C.O.P.S. has helped put 519 additional police officers and/or sheriff deputies have been hired in Florida's 16th Congressional District.

If the C.O.P.S. Improvement Act of 2007 passes into law, 222 more police officers will likely be put on the beat in Florida's 16th Congressional District.

### Funding

Since 1994, \$33,375,532 in C.O.P.S. grants have been awarded to law enforcement agencies in Florida's 16th Congressional District.

If the C.O.P.S. Improvement Act of 2007 passes into law, an additional \$10,182,366 will likely flow to Florida's 16th Congressional District.

### School Resource Officers

Since 1994, 45 additional police officers and/or sheriff deputies have been hired in Florida's 16th Congressional District.

If the C.O.P.S. Improvement Act of 2007 passes into law, 19 more school resource officers will likely be put on the beat.

#### Technology Grants

Since 1994, \$7,278,850 in C.O.P.S. grants have been awarded to law enforcement agencies in the 16th District of Florida to purchase technology that enables agencies to put more officers on the beat.

If the C.O.P.S. Improvement Act of 2007 passes into law, an additional \$2,220,666 in technology grants will likely flow to Florida's 16th Congressional District.

The C.O.P.S program was created in 1994 to put more police officers on the streets. Nationally, C.O.P.S has provided \$9 billion to hire 117,000 police officers nationwide.

According to a GAO (Government Accountability Office) study, between 1998 and 2000, C.O.P.S. grants were responsible for reducing crimes by about 200,000 to 225,000 crimes - one third of which were violent. In 1998, C.O.P.S. grants were responsible for an 8% decrease in crimes - and a 13% drop in violent crimes.

However, last year, President Bush and Congress eliminated the hiring program. At the same time, violent crime has spiked across the nation.

Earlier this year, the Police Executive Research Forum, a prominent law enforcement association, released a report which found that violent crimes rose by double digit percentages over the last two years. Among the cities surveyed since 2005, 71% had an increase in homicides, 80% saw robberies rise and 67% reported an increase in aggravated assaults with guns.

The study is backed by FBI statistics released last December which show that crime is growing in the United States for the first time since the early 1990s. During the first six months of 2006, homicides, assaults and other violent offenses grew by 4%, and robberies, which are often interpreted as a precursor to more serious crime, jumped by 10% nationwide.

This legislation has been endorsed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Sheriffs Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Police Organizations, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National League of Cities.

-###-

