

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 8, 2023

Colonel Hugh T. Clements, Jr.
Director, Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

RE: Expanding School Resource Officer Program
Applicant: Rowan County
UEI: GCB7UCV96NW6

Dear Colonel Clements,

I am writing on behalf of Rowan County's COPS Hiring grant application for \$125,000. It's my understanding that funding will allow for an additional School Resource Officer (SRO) for the Rowan-Salisbury School System.

The Rowan County Sheriff's Office administers an SRO program for their local school system. The current program employs five officers who cover six schools including two middle schools, three high schools, and one college. The Sherriff's Office wants to expand the program by adding one additional SRO as an investigator.

I have been told that if funded, the new SRO will serve as a backup to other school resource officers, attend court and juvenile hearings, conduct welfare checks, and provide education and training for students and staff. The new officer will also serve as an additional conduit to build trust in the school system by investigating any serious misdemeanor or felony cases at the schools by relieving the primary SRO from investigations, which would overall improve officers' relationships with the students.

Thank you for giving the Rowan Sheriff's Office's COPS Hiring grant application your fair and prompt consideration. Please contact my State Director if you have any questions or require any additional information. I look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,



Ted Budd
U.S. Senator