

**CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Highland Park Recipient of COPS Grant 2023

*Highland Park, MI* – The City of Highland Park was recently informed that it has been named in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328) as a grant funding recipient under the FY COPS Technology Program. Funding has been designated in the estimated amount of \$500,000.

The COPS Technology Program will assist the Highland Park Police Department Pilot Project for Mental Health Co-Response Model. Funding under this program is provided to assist the Highland Park Police Department effectively handle mental health situations properly by allowing a Social Worker to be present in the field.

Community Policing is one of the Mayor's goal here in the City of Highland Park and we understand that not every situation requires someone going to jail, weapons to be drawn, use of force, etc. Sometimes, we can diffuse situations through conversation, especially when dealing with potential individuals that may suffer from mental illness. Through this pilot program, it will allow for the salary of a Social Worker to join the team of police officers and allow for Highland Park to help shift the narrative of policing.

Special thank you from the City of Highland Park to Senator Debbie Stabenow for pushing an appropriation through the U.S. Congress on our behalf.

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