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**NEWS  
RELEASE**

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# City of El Paso Awarded \$2.25 Million COPS Hiring Program Grant

**EL PASO, Texas**—The City of El Paso has been awarded a \$2.25 million grant through the U.S. Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program to support the addition of new police officers and strengthen community policing efforts across the City.

The grant will enable the El Paso Police Department to enhance public safety initiatives, reduce response times, and continue investing in programs that build trust between officers and the community.

"This investment represents a major step forward in our ongoing efforts to keep El Paso one of the safest large cities in the country," said Mayor Renard Johnson. "We are grateful to our federal partners for their continued support and advocacy on behalf of our community. I especially want to thank Congressman Tony Gonzales and Congresswoman Veronica Escobar for their leadership and commitment to ensuring federal resources reach El Paso. Public safety remains one of my top priorities, and this funding strengthens our ability to protect and serve every resident of our city."

The COPS Hiring Program is a competitive grant that provides funding to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to hire and rehire career law enforcement officers and to increase their capacity for community-oriented policing.

Congressman Tony Gonzales (TX-23) and Congresswoman Veronica Escobar (TX-16) both championed federal funding to support law enforcement agencies along the U.S.–Mexico border and throughout Texas.

"El Paso has consistently ranked among the safest cities in the nation and it's thanks to our dedicated law enforcement in the region. To continue ensuring the public safety, I'm pleased to announce a new \$2.25M federal COPS grant that I helped support and fund through my role on the House Appropriations Committee," said Congressman Gonzales. I want to thank Mayor Johnson and Police Chief (Peter) Pacillas for their partnership on this key investment that will keep communities along the borderland safe and secure."

"I'm proud to help support local law enforcement and ensure we ease the tax burden on local property owners taxpayers whenever possible. This COPS grant will help the El Paso Police Department expand its community-based initiatives, strengthen trust between officers and residents, and ensure that every person, especially our most vulnerable neighbors, can feel safe and supported," said Congresswoman Escobar. "I will continue my work to secure federal funds for the programs, initiatives, and hardworking men and women who keep our community safe."

The City of El Paso will work closely with the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services to implement the grant and ensure measurable, community-focused outcomes.

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