

[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[City, State, ZIP Code]
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[Your Phone Number]
[Date]

The Grant Committee

Subject: Support for Grant Funding for Co-Responder Units in Local Police Departments

Dear Members of the Grant Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for grant funding to establish a co-responder unit within the Pineville, Cornelius, Matthews, and Mint Hill Police Departments. This initiative is critical for enhancing public safety and providing effective responses to mental health, substance use, and other behavioral health crises. The implementation of a co-responder model will not only benefit the police departments but also improve the lives of individuals in crisis and strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and our communities.

A co-responder unit, made up of trained mental health professionals working alongside law enforcement officers, has proven to be highly effective in communities across the country. This model provides mental health expertise during emergencies, ensuring that officers are better equipped to handle situations involving mental health challenges, substance use issues, homelessness, and other behavioral health concerns.

Benefits to the Departments:

- **Improved Officer Safety:** Mental health professionals help officers de-escalate crises, reducing the risk of confrontations.
- **Enhanced Training and Resources:** Officers will receive support and additional knowledge in handling complex situations, leading to more effective outcomes.
- **Reduction in Repeat Calls:** By addressing the root causes of crisis situations, the model reduces repeat calls, allowing officers to focus on other policing duties.

Benefits to the Towns:

- **Increased Public Trust:** The presence of a co-responder unit demonstrates a commitment to compassionate, community-oriented policing, fostering stronger relationships between law enforcement and residents.

- **More Efficient Use of Resources:** By redirecting individuals in crisis to appropriate services instead of jail or emergency rooms, the strain on public safety and healthcare systems is reduced.
- **Lower Costs Over Time:** A reduction in emergency room visits and jail bookings translates into long-term savings for taxpayers.

Benefits to the Population Served:

- **Better Crisis Intervention:** Individuals facing mental health emergencies will receive immediate professional care, preventing unnecessary incarceration.
- **Connection to Services:** The co-responder model facilitates access to long-term mental health and social services, addressing underlying needs.
- **Improved Community Well-being:** A proactive approach to mental health leads to a safer, healthier community for all.

Given these significant benefits, I urge the Grant Committee to prioritize funding for the creation of a co-responder unit within the Pineville, Cornelius, Matthews, and Mint Hill Police Departments. This initiative is a critical step toward creating a more effective, humane, and community-centered approach to public safety.

Thank you for considering this important matter. I am confident that this funding will have a lasting positive impact on both law enforcement and the community. I look forward to your favorable decision.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[Your Contact Information]