
U.S. Representative

John Spratt

South Carolina # 5th District

News Release

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Spratt Announces “COPS in Schools” Grant

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced today that the Sumter Police Department has won a \$336,165 grant from the Justice Department to hire three full-time community police officers to work in primary and secondary schools.

“This grant,” said Spratt, “is part of the Justice Department’s COPS program — Community Oriented Policing Services. Community policing is making a difference in the lives of citizens across our state and nation. As we put more officers on the streets and in our schools, we will continue to reduce crime in our communities.”

Spratt said that all of the officers hired with COPS grants work in community policing, a strategy that develops partnerships between law enforcement officers and the neighborhoods they serve in order to reduce crime. Many police chiefs, sheriffs, and criminal justice experts have credited community policing with the drop in crime rates across the nation.

“COPS in Schools” grants provide up to \$125,000 to pay for the salary and benefits of each new officer over three years.

Spratt said “COPS in Schools” grants were started because many communities are discovering that trained, sworn law enforcement officers assigned to schools make a difference. “These officers provide schools with on-site security and a direct link to local law enforcement agencies,” he said.

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