



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** November 23, 2021

**County Contact:** Sheriff Frank Leonbruno  
440.350.5517  
FLeonbruno@lakecountyohio.gov

### **Third Township Accepts Lake County COPS Grant**

The Board of Lake County Commissioners approved the third COPS grant at their November 23, 2021 meeting. The Concord Township Trustees approved the contract on November 17, 2021 becoming the third township in the Sheriff's patrol area to take advantage of this localized grant program. Concord will be hiring one (1) new deputy in a contract with the Lake County Sheriff's Office. Additionally, they will accept an additional deputy sheriff paid for by the Commissioners to add to local patrol in Concord Township.

With the assistance of Clerk of Courts Faith Andrews, the Commissioners created the program to help immediately fund increased Sheriff's Deputies in the townships by offering to provide a second deputy for every deputy added to current policing contracts.

"As with Perry and Painesville, I want to thank Concord Township for participating in the COPS grant and providing increased patrol in their ever growing community," said Commission President John R. Hamercheck.

As crime has increased across the United States, the Lake County Commissioners recognized the growing need for a stronger law enforcement presence across the townships. Recognizing the financial constraints of township government to address the immediate need for increased policing with limited revenue, the Lake County Commissioners created a local COPS grant. Concord joins Perry and Painesville Townships in accepting the grant.

"Watching the increase in crime across our four (4) townships, as well as the dramatic increase in violent crime nationally, requires an increased law enforcement presence in each of our areas on proactive patrols to make it clear to the criminal community that lawlessness is not acceptable here. Under the new contract, an average of two (2) Deputies will be on patrol in Concord Township at any given time. The collaboration between the Commissioners and Perry, Painesville and Concord Township will result in ten (10) additional deputies on the road providing comprehensive coverage in their communities," said Sheriff Frank Leonbruno.

"In a little over four months, the Commissioners, Sheriff, Clerk of Courts, and now three of our townships, have proactively worked together to provide increased Sheriff's protection to some of our fastest growing

communities, including Concord Township. I want to personally thank Chairman McIntosh and Trustees Dondorfer and Lucci for their leadership and continued commitment to public safety. I have said it before and will say it again, the Commissioner's Office supports the police in Lake County 100%. The COPS grant is an example of our commitment," said Commissioner John Plecnik.

The COPS Grants will continue to fund the additional deputy(s) for a period of four (4) years to enable enough time for the township to find alternative funding sources to assume the financial responsibility of the added deputies after four years.

"The more security and police protection a community can offer the more economic development can be expected. Concord Township is one of the County's fastest growing communities and this action by the Trustees show their commitment to providing a safe environment for business investments," said Commissioner Ron Young.

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