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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0917

August 3, 2026

The Honorable Todd Blanche
Acting Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

**RE: Letter of Support – North Port Police Department (NPPD) FY 2026 BIDEN Program Application
(Category 2: Technology)**

Dear Acting Attorney General Blanche:

I am pleased to offer my support for the City of North Port Police Department's (NPPD) application for the DOJ FY 2026 *Bridging Immigration-related Deficits Experienced Nationwide* (BIDEN) Program. This request would provide funding for NPPD to launch their critical *Drone as a First Responder* (DFR) initiative.

Rapid demographic growth has strained our local public safety infrastructure, creating unique operational challenges. Implementing a DFR program will directly bridge these deficits by providing real-time aerial intelligence within seconds of an emergency call. This advanced technology will allow NPPD to:

- Disrupt Transnational Crime: Rapidly track and interdict illicit narcotics and human smuggling operations along regional transit corridors.
- Enhance Tactical Safety: Provide responding officers with immediate situational awareness before arriving on scene.
- Optimize Resources: Remotely assess active incidents to de-escalate situations and deploy field personnel efficiently.

NPPD is committed to deploying this technology transparently and in compliance with privacy guidelines. This initiative serves as a vital force-multiplier supporting regional safety partnerships.

I respectfully ask that you give the North Port Police Department's application your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress

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