

Rothman Secures \$ 250,000 for Security Enhancements to Bergen County Courthouse

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Funding Will Help Bergen County Sheriff's Office Begin to Modernize Security at Aging Building

(Hackensack, NJ)– Today, Congressman Steve Rothman (NJ-9) announced that he secured \$250,000 in federal funds for the Bergen County Sheriff's Office to spend on courthouse security enhancements. Sheriff Leo McGuire approached Rothman about enhancing safety at the courthouse after a high-profile courthouse shooting in Atlanta, GA left a judge and three others dead last March. That shooting took place just eleven days after the husband and mother of a federal judge in Chicago, IL were murdered in February 2005.

"I believe that the first purpose of government is to protect the people and keep them safe. That's why I am so pleased that I was able to secure these federal dollars for Sheriff McGuire. Now, his Office can do an even better job safeguarding the thousands of employees and visitors who enter the Bergen County courthouse every day," said Rothman.

The Sheriff's Office plans to use the money to begin its long-term security enhancement plan, which includes purchasing 250 interior and exterior cameras, securing all courthouse entrances with a wireless data network that will transmit video from the courthouse to Sheriff's cars patrolling the area, and installing a secure ID access control system on non-public areas so that only authorized people may enter.

"The Sheriff Office's Courthouse Security Initiative is a huge step forward in modernizing our security systems in Bergen County," added Rothman. "But I recognize that the state cannot do it alone. We pay a lot of taxes in New Jersey, so getting dollars like these back from Washington is important. This is \$250,000 that our local property taxpayers will not have to take out of their pockets to pay for this vital operation."

"They say the best defense is a good offense," said McGuire. "That is why, with the help of Congressman Rothman, the Sheriff's Office is being proactive in protecting our justice system, preventing tragedy and safeguarding the life of each and every person who depends on these courts."

In 2005, over one million people entered the courthouse or probation facilities at River Street and Hudson Street. Rothman himself used to work at the court house when he was the Bergen County Surrogate Court Judge from 1993-1996, and as a practicing attorney from 1978-1992.

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