



April 19, 2021

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi
US House of Representatives / 8th Congressional District
1701 East Woodfield Road, Suite 704
Schaumburg, IL 60173

Dear Representative Krishnamoorthi,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the grant request for The Village of Hoffman Estates for a Byrne Justice Assistance Grant. The Hoffman Estates Police Department responds to domestic violence calls frequently and we have seen an increase during the pandemic. This funding will provide crisis intervention and long-term counseling to victims of domestic violence in Hoffman Estates. Funding will be used to contract with the local domestic violence agency to hire a Domestic Violence Counselor who will work alongside police officers during and after domestic violence calls.

This innovative program takes community policing to the next level. Officers will be equipped to connect victims of domestic violence to an expert in domestic violence and safety planning. This can be done virtually while the officer is at the scene instead of connecting victims with services after the fact. It is important to provide the access in real time because many victims may become scared to follow up with services later.

Grant funds will be used to cover program salaries, equipment and an emergency fund to help victims leave the abuser to safer and healthier environments. This assistance can help with immediate needs and housing. It will also cover trainings for the police officers to understand the dynamics of domestic violence and how to deploy safer diffusion tactics in the field.

The Hoffman Estates Police Department has a stellar reputation and leadership is always looking for opportunities to serve our citizens better. Having a Domestic Violence Counselor within the station will help to elevate their response to victims of domestic violence and stop the cycle of abuse.

As the Mayor of Hoffman Estates, I fully support this request for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant for \$150,000. The investment in this issue will most certainly stop the cycle of violence for many constituents of the 8th District.

Sincerely,

Bill McLeod

Mayor Bill McLeod
Village of Hoffman Estates