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**Contact:**

**For PORAC & CPOA: Sierra Layton**  
[slayton@fionahuttonassoc.com](mailto:slayton@fionahuttonassoc.com)  
(303) 653-8191

**For Rep. Mike Levin: Eric Mee**  
[eric.mee@mail.house.gov](mailto:eric.mee@mail.house.gov)  
(202) 407-0805

**Congressman Mike Levin Joins California Law Enforcement Leaders and the Carlsbad Police Officers' Association to Support the Invest to Protect Act**

*Invest to Protect Act Provides Opportunity to Increase Funding for the Carlsbad Police Department Amid Rising Crime and Retail Theft Throughout California*

**Carlsbad, CA** – Today, the [Peace Officers Research Association of California \(PORAC\)](#) and the [Carlsbad Police Officers' Association \(CPOA\)](#) joined [U.S. Representative Mike Levin](#) (D-CA) in his home district to express their support for the [Invest to Protect Act \(H.R.6448\)](#) – bipartisan legislation that would authorize \$50 million a year for a new grant program for police departments with fewer than 200 officers, including the Carlsbad Police Department.

The full press conference can be viewed online here: <https://www.facebook.com/PORAC>.

As elected officials continue to increase calls to fund the police and bolster law enforcement to combat the rising crime taking place across the country, the *Invest to Protect Act* provides an opportunity to ensure smaller police departments are well-equipped with the resources needed to keep their communities and officers safe.

“As we continue to discuss police reform, we also need to acknowledge that the vast majority of police officers are honorable people – fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, our neighbors – who risk their lives to keep our communities safe and deserve the resources they need to do their jobs safely and effectively,” said **Congressman Mike Levin (CA-49)**. “I’m proud to be a sponsor of the *Invest to Protect Act* and I strive to bring our law enforcement and civil rights communities together for constructive dialogue on the path forward. This starts with ensuring police departments, especially our smaller departments, have the resources they need to foster these relationships.”

Funding for the *Invest to Protect Act* would be administered by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, and could be used for a variety of purposes, including investment in critical law enforcement training on de-escalation, officer safety, and domestic violence response.

“PORAC has been calling for increased grant funding to support our nation’s law enforcement profession for years, and it is especially needed right now, as officers seek to protect our families and communities

from a dramatic increase in crime and violence,” said **PORAC President Brian Marvel**. “The *Invest to Protect Act* is a meaningful proposal to provide this funding that PORAC is proud to support. We know from experience that passing bipartisan police reform measures and enacting legislation to modernize law enforcement is achievable, but it requires patience, genuine listening, collaboration, and last but arguably most important, the funding to see these policies through.”

“As local agencies are working to advance the practice of community policing and build trust and mutual respect between police and communities, proposals such as the *Invest to Protect Act* will support these efforts,” said **CPOA President Jim Willis**. “As our officers face the increased challenges of modern-day policing, recruitment is at an all-time low as sworn officers leave the profession and recruits are reluctant to join the force – and smaller departments are feeling these impacts the hardest. The funding provided through this new grant program would be a huge step in the right direction in bolstering smaller departments – including here in Carlsbad.”

The *Invest to Protect Act* will provide the following federal investment to small police departments:

- **Investments in officer safety, de-escalation, and domestic violence response training** – allowing officers to receive critical training that will make them more effective at their jobs, all without putting a strain on department budgets or reducing the number of officers on duty while others are at training by allowing investment to be used to offset overtime pay.
- **Investment for body worn cameras** – to hold everyone accountable – while also providing much-needed resources for data storage and data security.
- **Investment for small departments to recruit new officers** – helping expand departments and bringing in new, good officers. This investment can also be used by departments to provide retention bonuses to help keep their existing officers and provide investment for officers pursuing graduate degrees in public health, social work, and mental health.
- **Investment for departments to provide mental health resources for their officers.**

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