



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clinton County Sheriff David Favro and a representative from the Franklin County District Attorney's Office announced at a mid-morning press conference that their county law enforcement agencies were among the top three of thirteen in the state who received the largest portion of a multi-million-dollar federal grant.

A total of 3-million was available to law enforcement agencies across the state as part of a federal grant program called Operation Stonegarden. Of the 3-million Clinton County received \$423,959 followed by Franklin County who got \$331,918.

Operation Stonegarden gives law enforcement agencies money to pay officers to work overtime on border-related enforcement. The money also lets agencies buy equipment.

Congressman William Owens, who was unable to attend the press conference because of a scheduling conflict, released a statement. In his statement Owens said "The North Country faces a series of challenges that are unique to our specific border crossings, and we must give our patrol agents the tools they need to secure our borders."

In all, 60-million in federal money will be granted to law enforcement agencies along the Mexican and Canadian borders through the Operation Stonegarden program.

Stonegarden is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a component of the Department of Homeland Security, as part of the state Homeland Security Grant Program.

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