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## **Garden City Awarded a \$12,396 Crime Control Grant from the Department of Justice**

*Garden City Police will use the money to purchase and train a drug detection K9 for increased drug traffic patrol efforts*

**Washington, DC** – 12<sup>th</sup> District Georgia Congressman John Barrow (D-Savannah) today announced that the Garden City Police Department has been awarded a \$12,396 grant from the Department of Justice's Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (Byrne JAG). The money will be used to purchase and train a Drug Detection K9 to assist in Garden City's ongoing drug traffic patrol efforts.

"This grant is great news for the families of Garden City," Barrow said. "To keep our neighborhoods safe, our local police need to have every resource available. And Byrne JAG grants were specifically designed to respond to the needs of local law enforcement. With this grant, the Garden City Police will now have a new recruit to help them fight crime: man's best friend."

Byrne JAG grants help state and local law enforcement agencies pay for a broad range of crime fighting programs. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis and can be used by state and local law enforcement agencies to promote local crime control initiatives, provide technical assistance and training, or pay for additional personnel, equipment, and supplies. According to the Department of Justice, Chatham County and the City of Savannah will receive \$123,517 in Byrne-JAG grants this year.

In the 2007 federal budget that President Bush submitted to Congress earlier this year, he proposed eliminating all future funding for the Byrne JAG program. Congressman Barrow opposes efforts to reduce funding for local crime control initiatives, specifically Byrne JAG. It is still unclear if funding for Byrne JAG will be available in 2007, as the final version of the budget proposal is still being debated in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

"As a former county commissioner, I know how important these grants are for local law enforcement," Barrow said. "The last thing Congress should do is cut programs like Byrne JAG. We need to give our local police more tools to fight crime – not take them away."

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