



## New Hanover County Sheriff's Office

3950 Juvenile Center Road

Castle Hayne, N.C. 28429

Edward J. McMahon, Sheriff

Telephone: (910) 798-4206

FAX: (910) 798-4212

April 22, 2021

The Honorable David Rouzer  
US House of Representatives  
2333 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

E-mail Delivery to [ian.whitson@mail.house.gov](mailto:ian.whitson@mail.house.gov)

RE: FY 2022 Commerce, Justice and Science Funding Request

Dear Congressman Rouzer:

With the announcement of Community Project Funding in the FY 2022 appropriations bills, I am writing to outline a critical opportunity to improve policing in New Hanover County, and to ask for instructions to formally request funding through this program.

New Hanover County Sheriff's Office would like to purchase a Rapid DNA instrument to help bolster law enforcement efficiency, improve community outcomes and build our new crime lab. We see this technology as a critical tool to reform our department, save time and keep our community safe. The instrument allows our deputies to process DNA samples themselves with minimal training. These samples are processed quickly and can generate investigative leads in 90 minutes, as opposed to the many months (or years) it can take at the crime lab. We intend to follow the guidance published by the FBI for Rapid DNA in law enforcement contexts.

Rapid DNA has allowed various law enforcement agencies to see long-term results. Bensalem Township has a sustained 42% reduction in property crimes. Kauai PD saved \$30,000 on *one case* by choosing Rapid DNA over the lengthy process of sending samples to the lab. Our situation is no different – the current backlog at the state crime lab has an 8-month waiting period, and often longer for low priority cases (property crimes, in particular). Using this technology to create investigative leads and process samples locally, will allow the Department to save time and resources, catch more criminals and improve our community.

The cost is estimated to be \$150,000 for the instrument and \$250,000 for setup, management and three years' worth of consumables. We respectfully request that you pursue \$400,000 from the FY 2022 Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations bill to help New Hanover County start this journey forward.

Sincerely,

Ed McMahon  
New Hanover County Sheriff