

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1806

July 28, 2016

The Honorable Loretta Lynch
The Attorney General of the United States
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Lynch,

Less than two weeks have passed since a Missouri man traveled to Louisiana to carry out the premeditated, murderous attack on Baton Rouge law enforcement witnessed by the nation on July 17, 2016. Three officers lost their lives in the line of duty that day and three more were critically injured; one hospitalized officer remains in a battle for his life as of this writing. On behalf of the citizens of Baton Rouge and the state of Louisiana, we write to express appreciation to the Department of Justice for the initial \$650,000 to aid response efforts, and we ask for further assistance to ensure law enforcement capabilities remain uncompromised throughout the long recovery process ahead.

The total cost of responding to these shootings could reach \$3-5 million – unplanned costs incurred by Baton Rouge City Police, the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's office, Louisiana State Police, multiple law enforcement agencies that have deployed officers from across the state and countless other first responders who are critical to maintaining public safety. Since the officer killings, many agencies in Louisiana have moved to the new standard of a two-man patrol for all emergency calls. These and other operational adjustments are necessary for an increased presence to protect our citizens, but they are costly. Officers are working longer hours and agencies need more manpower and equipment, both of which place further strain on already limited resources. Additional resources are necessary to support law enforcement capabilities at levels appropriate for the demands of the current environment.

The recovery in Baton Rouge has national implications. The same hateful, anti-police sentiment that compelled this outsider to travel to Baton Rouge solely to target and kill our law enforcement officers was also behind the police shootings in Dallas, and it exists in pockets across the country. The lives lost in both cases cannot be replaced, but the public's faith in law enforcement's ability to protect communities must be restored, and it's critical we learn all we can from these tragedies to prevent future targeting of law enforcement. A complete recovery that firmly reestablishes the rule of law in Baton Rouge is a condemnation of attacks on police and sends a clear message of deterrence to anyone contemplating similar acts of evil elsewhere.

Uniformed men and women who daily put their lives on the line to protect and serve our communities deserve the highest level of support - attacks on them are attacks on all of us. A thorough completion of the response and recovery in Baton Rouge is in the best interest of the nation as a whole. Apart from additional assistance, we are concerned that current increased costs will be at the expense of future manpower, training, weapons and protection our officers will need to continue to effectively enforce the law, protect our citizens and promote the well-being of all members of our community.

Like you, we want to see all of our communities whole and strong in the wake of these senseless attacks. We ask for your support and appreciate your consideration as you respond to our request.

Sincerely,



Garret Graves
Member of Congress



Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress