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Rep. Joe Sanfelippo Joins Attorney General in Announcing Police Grants

Sanfelippo also named to two study committees on juvenile detention facilities

West Allis, Wis. – Today, Representative Joe Sanfelippo (R-West Allis/New Berlin) joined Attorney General Josh Kaul and other Wisconsin law enforcement officials at the West Allis Police Department to announce the awarding of grants to help police departments combat drug trafficking. This grant funding comes from a \$1 million appropriation passed by the legislature last year that Sanfelippo co-authored in response to the growing opioid crisis. Local law enforcement agencies are directed to use these funds to support new efforts to investigate and pursue drug trafficking, including providing expanded training and hiring new police officers.

As part of the grant program, the West Allis Police Department will receive an award of \$23,587 to use as part of its ongoing enforcement actions to combat drug trafficking in the Milwaukee area. In recent years, the WAPD has been increasingly active in multijurisdictional drug trafficking investigations resulting in multiple arrests and the confiscation of millions of dollars of drugs and cash. This grant provides them with much-needed resources to expand on those efforts.

“I want to thank Attorney General Kaul and the Wisconsin Department of Justice for recognizing the important work that the West Allis Police Department has been doing as it continues to face real challenges with opioids and other drugs on our streets. These illegal drugs have a devastating impact on thousands of lives, and we must continue to provide treatment resources to those suffering with addiction. At the same time, the people trafficking in illicit drugs must be held accountable. The resources provided by these grants will go a long way toward helping our local police keep drugs out of our communities,” said Sanfelippo.

Rep. Sanfelippo was also named to two committees focused on detention facilities for juvenile offenders, including many youths involved in drug-related crimes. The Juvenile Corrections Study Committee and the Juvenile Corrections Grant Committee will focus on exploring new plans for dealing with juvenile offenders, including improving safety within detention facilities and reducing recidivism.

“I want to thank Assembly Speaker Robin Vos for appointing me to these two important committees. There needs to be a wholesale reconsideration of how we handle juvenile criminals in our correction system,” said Sanfelippo, adding, “We have to do a better job of reducing violence in these detention facilities and creating better support systems once these youths get out to help them break free from a never-ending cycle of crime.”

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The [15th Assembly District](#) includes most of West Allis and the Northern half of New Berlin.