

Barre, VT - Today Rep. Peter Welch announced \$282,000 in federal funding for the Barre City Police Department's drug prevention efforts. The funding will allow the city and its regional partners to expand drug prevention and drug enforcement programs.

Welch announced the funding while participating in a roundtable with Barre Police Chief Timothy Bombadier, Montpelier Police Chief Anthony Facos, and Captain Tom Nelson, commander of the special investigations unit at the Vermont State Police. Before the roundtable, Welch was briefed on local law enforcement issues while touring downtown Barre in a police cruiser.

"One of my top priorities in representing Vermonters and Vermont communities is to connect federal resources to local needs. Chief Bombadier approached me last year about Barre's efforts to combat drug crime and I am pleased we were able to help address this regional need," said Welch. "I will continue to work with communities around the state to support efforts to combat drug problems with active prevention and tough enforcement."

Chief Bombadier added, "This federal funding will help the City of Barre and our regional partners bolster our ongoing effort to combat drug use and drug crime in the City and throughout the region. The support will have far reaching effects not just in Barre, but throughout the region with our joint efforts with the Montpelier Police Department and the Northern Drug Task Force with the Vermont State Police."

The Byrne Grant from the Department of Justice was originally requested by Welch in, H.R. 3093, the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008. The funding was then included in the Omnibus appropriations bill and signed into law by the president.