

OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN HENRY CUELLAR
28TH Congressional District of Texas
118th Congress

Event: Operation Stonegarden Grant Program Announcement

Date: September 1, 2023 @ 9:00 AM CST

Acknowledgements

- Good Morning and thanks to...
 - My brother, Webb County Sheriff Martin Cuellar
 - Laredo Interim Police Chief, Steve Landin

- We're here today to announce a federal grant of \$4,305,000 from Operation Stonegarden, a program I helped create back in 2008.

- This funding is a testament to our unwavering commitment to supporting law enforcement who work tirelessly to secure our borders and protect our communities.

- As the Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Appropriations, I am committed to ensuring you have the resources you need to carry out your duties effectively and safely.
- This federal grant will provide critical financial support for various aspects of law enforcement operations in our county.
- The \$4,305,000 will be used to:
 - Cover overtime and fringe benefits: This ensures our officers are well compensated for their efforts in securing our borders.
 - Fuel reimbursements: Essential to keep our patrol vehicles running efficiently...

- And to help maintain equipment acquired through Operation Stonegarden.
- These investments directly contribute to improved security in our border communities and faster emergency response times.
- And I'm proud to have worked closely with sheriffs across our district to secure this critical funding.
- Funding that also goes towards securing the U.S. border along routes of entry from Mexico with...
 - Overtime pay
 - Equipment
 - Communications technology and more

- In Congress, I fought for legislation that expanded the program to include travel corridors in counties not directly adjacent to the border, recognizing that security concerns extend beyond immediate borders.
- Year after year, I've used my position on the Appropriations Committee to advocate for increased funding for Operation Stonegarden, and our efforts have yielded positive results.
- In 2015, Webb County received just over \$2.8 million in Stonegarden funding.
- Today, that support has grown significantly, with the Webb County Sheriff's Office now receiving over \$4.3 million.

- In total, Webb County has received an astounding \$53,909,893 from Operation Stonegarden since its inception in 2008.
- During the last several years, the Sheriff's Office has used this money to pay for overtime hours and applicable fringe benefits for...
 - Laredo Police Dept...
 - Webb County Sheriff's Office...
 - Offices of the Constables Pct. 1-4...
 - Webb County Attorney Investigators, and...
 - Webb County Sheriff's Office radio dispatchers
- It's also funded 4 Mobile cameras for the Webb County Sheriff's Office...

- Licensed Plate Readers for the Webb County Sheriff's Office...
- Vehicles for Webb County Attorney's Investigators, Constable Pct. 3, and Sheriff's Office, and...
- Portable Radios for Constable, Pct. 2 and Pct. 4...
- So, I want to assure you that my commitment to supporting law enforcement officers is unwavering.
- I am dedicated to providing you with the necessary resources to carry out your duties in the safest and most efficient manner possible.

- I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Sheriff Martin Cuellar, the Webb County Sheriff's Office, Interim Police Chief Steve Landin, and all law enforcement personnel who work tirelessly to secure our communities along the southern border.

- **Working together, I will continue to fight for:**
 1. *Federal support that provides more for TX-28!*
 2. *Increased federal funding for these types of initiatives!*
 3. *And be your voice in Congress!*

- If you have any questions regarding funding opportunities, please contact, my Grants Coordinator, Randy Aguilar at:

Randy.Aguilar@mail.house.gov or call him at 956-812-1675

- Thank you and God bless.

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Additional Information:

Webb County Stonegarden Funding	
Year	Funding
2008	\$1,950,000
2009 Supplemental	\$1,412,481
2009	\$2,503,653
2010	\$2,831,537
2011	\$2,850,725
2012	\$2,600,000
2013	\$2,798,063
2014	\$3,300,434
2015	\$2,893,000
2016	\$3,300,000
2017	\$3,350,000
2018	\$3,600,000

2019	\$3,800,000
2020	\$3,805,000
2021	\$4,305,000
2022	\$4,305,000
2023	\$4,305,000
TOTAL:	\$53,909,893