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Newark Public Safety Director Meets with Congressmen Katko, Garbarino and Congresswoman Malliotakis at NYC Law Enforcement Roundtable

Newark Public Safety Director Brian A. O’Hara joined Congressmen John Katko and Andrew Garbarino and Congresswoman Nicole Malliotakis at a roundtable discussion with NYPD Commissioner Dermot Shea and other top New York City law enforcement today.

“I was honored to attend today’s roundtable as a representative of the Major Cities Chiefs Association,” Director O’Hara said. “I believe that combatting the issue of gun violence requires a full coordinated partnership between our legislators and local, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies, all working together to reduce gun violence—even before it happens.”

The meeting, held at the NYPD’s Detective’s Endowment Association in Manhattan, was aimed at addressing violent crime, officer retention, resource management and the role of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in supporting counterterrorism. Representative Katko is a Ranking Member of the House Committee on Homeland Security.

Agenda topics focused on topline themes of the rise in violent crime; migrant surge and its impact on non-border communities; challenges of maintaining department budget and resources; preparing and protecting from future terrorist attacks; and funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Director O’Hara stressed the need to increase the funding available to law enforcement agencies through the COPS hiring grants, as well as the need to ensure police agencies have the funds available to make meaningful reforms.

“Funding to ensure police are properly trained is essential,” Director O’Hara said. “The national reckoning around policing has created an opportunity to make reforms meaningful to those who need them most. However, if we defund police, these changes will not be made. Training and the

availability of officers assigned to engagement are typically the first line items eliminated when police budgets are cut because we can't further cut police who answer calls-for-service.”

