Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Prevention Program for Union City would keep youths out of potential trouble

For Immediate Release
July 27, 2007
(201) 222-2828

Contact: Olga Alvarez

(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Albio Sires voted for the Fiscal Year 2008 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations bill, which included $200,000 for an Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Prevention Program for Union City.

"As we have seen gang violence increase throughout the nation and in densely populated areas like Union City, programs like these provide young people with an alternative to joining gangs," said Congressman Sires.

Union City young people must address numerous pitfalls on a daily basis like poverty, drug and alcohol use, and limited anger management skills, which often turns young residents into willing candidates for gang recruitment.

Union City plans on implementing a comprehensive, coordinated program of community-based after-school, weekend and summer arts and recreation programs for at-risk minority youth. The project would complement the state-funded School-Linked Youth Services Program at Emerson High School and Union Hill High School, providing at-risk youth with a positive alternative to gang membership and youth violence.

(####)