

**FRANK BURNS, MEMBER**  
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*June 13, 2024*

Josh Shapiro  
Governor of Pennsylvania  
508 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

**RE: Request to Add State Police Substation in the City of Johnstown**

Dear Governor Shapiro:

As the City of Johnstown struggles under the weight of a devastating mix of poverty and crime, fueled by a huge transient public housing population coming largely from Philadelphia, I am asking for your help to bring things under control by establishing a State Police Substation in the city.

Everyone who lives here and is law abiding citizen can attest to how bad the situation has become. It is no coincidence -- nor was it a big surprise to us -- that after a prisoner escaped from and eluded police in Philadelphia in February, a Fugitive Task Force found and arrested him in Johnstown, 200 miles away.

In Johnstown, where a relative surplus of public housing is one of the main suspected drivers of a 38.7% poverty rate (more than three times the state rate), and where community fallout from the massive influx of low-income, transient public housing residents has seriously strained the law enforcement system, I believe it is economically fair and morally right for the Commonwealth to create a strong and steady state police presence to augment the city police force.

As of last fall, the Johnstown Police Department had 31 active-duty officers, 10 short of the 41 budgeted. This staffing shortage comes as the city battles one of the highest crime rates in the state, where the chance of being the victim of a violent or property crime is 1 in 24.

By immersing myself in Johnstown's neighborhoods and listening to people who live with and fear the crime problem, I know they would appreciate and feel safer with a State Police substation in the city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank Burns".

Frank Burns  
State Representative  
72<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District