Funds to be used to combat increased drug activity in the area

Rep. Peter Welch announced $100,000 in federal funding for the St. Albans Police Department at a press conference Tuesday morning in Houghton Park.

The Welch-secured Community Oriented Police (COPS) grant will be used to fight increased drug activity in the region. The funds will help the St. Albans Police Department upgrade and improve communications equipment and make use of Mobile Data Computer Terminals.

Welch was joined at the announcement by Police Chief Gary Taylor and several other members of the Police Department, along with Mayor Marty Manahan and Chad Spooner, who leads a neighborhood watch program in the Houghton Park area.

Welch said, "Though we are fortunate to live in a comparatively safe state, the recent rise in drug-related crime in some Vermont communities is troubling and further demonstrates the need to fully equip our law enforcement professionals. These funds will bolster the St. Albans Police Department's ability to keep this community safe and address the scourge of drug-related crime."

Chief Taylor, "These funds secured by Congressman Welch allow the St. Albans Police Department to make critical upgrades to our communications infrastructure. These new tools are effective and necessary as our as our department continues to make progress in reducing drug-related crimes here in St. Albans."