



## Rep. Tom Emmer on Police House Video

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### **\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Hello, everyone. Sorry I can't be with you today, but I'm proud to send you a quick message to recognize the important step that is being taken to help serve and protect our St. Cloud community. Today we're here to celebrate the groundbreaking of St. Cloud's first cop house. Because of all of you, a cop house will soon be placed in the center of a St. Cloud neighborhood where crime rates are high and where an increased police presence is greatly needed. In fact, this particular house was involved in 99 calls to the police in just the last five years. The house will serve as a post which will allow our police officers to better work with and help those living in troubled areas. This St. Cloud program has been modeled after a similar program established in Racine, Wisconsin. Violent crime was at an all-time high in Racine, but this crime quickly evaporated with the creation of their first cop house. Racine's program was so successful, in fact, that violent crime dropped by 60%. And as a true testimony of its popularity, the city now has six total cop houses with a seventh on its way. I'm positive that St. Cloud's new cop house will have similar effects. Not only will this program keep our citizens safe, but it will help to build relationships between law enforcement and the community they serve. When St. Cloud residents see firsthand that our law enforcement is living and working among them, they will be reassured that Minnesota's police are truly committed to serving them. I'm incredibly excited to see the great improvements that will be made in our community because of this new program, and my office and I are honored to play a small part. I would like to thank Kathy Turner from Serratus IBM who worked hand-in-hand with our staff to cut through the red tape. And I'd also like to thank the Greater St. Cloud Public Safety Foundation and the St. Cloud Police Department, specifically Chief Blair Anderson, Commander James Steve, and Lieutenant Lori Ellering for their leadership on this fantastic project. Also, a big thank you to the generous contributions from the St. Cloud Rotary for helping this program come to fruition. Lastly, I want to thank those in the private sector who are committing their time and material to this project to better our community. Thank you and have a great day.

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For questions or corrections: mn06watch@gmail.com