

David G. Majenski

From: David G. Majenski [majic@abingtonpolice.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2009 3:43 PM
To: 'Phillip L. Warren, Jr. - Town Manager'
Cc: 'Terry Maze'; 'djamieson@abingtonmass.com'
Subject: Finance Committee Recommendation

Dear Mr. Warren,

As requested because of time constraints, I put together a brief/quick overview of the impact of the proposed budget cuts for the Finance Committee to consider. Please note that this in no way should be considered a "scare tactic" its' just reality for their edification.

Detective unit will be eliminated and the officers assigned to this unit will be placed back in uniform to replace the officers laid-off as a result of the budget cuts. To be clear, Finance Committee members must fully understand that elimination of this unit stops ALL proactive drug enforcement completely during a time when heroin is fully engulfing our region. More importantly, independent follow up to house burglaries, business burglaries, assaults, rapes, robberies, larcenies, and any other offenses that may need follow up are eliminated giving criminals, unless caught on scene, a free pass to commit crimes with ease. Please note that that it will be the first time in 50+ years that we will not have this critical component of the department. Detectives constantly collect, analyze, share information and visit places like pawn shops to help solve crimes. As you probably imagine, a majority of these cases are solved though follow up investigations by the Detective Unit, not by the Uniformed Patrol Officers that respond to the scene. Again this will be eliminated. It is a huge deal for the residents and will directly impact their quality of life permanently as once the gates are opened, you cannot close them or turn back time. Fore-warned in fore-armed and each member of the Finance Committee must be fully aware of the impact they will have on the future of the town. It is a huge deal and a cross road in the towns future. As such, this decision should be made with full understanding of the impact. I believe that it is the Finance Committee's moral obligation to make all residents aware of the impact of their decision.

Also please recall that during Chief my Budget Presentation, in the past ten years, Calls For Service have gone from 9,278 in 1998 to 29,931 in 2008. This is a 323% increase with a 10% (from 30 to 27) decrease in staffing since the late 1980's - early 1990's. Also, only the Brockton Police Department had more Criminal Complaints Issued than the 2,300 brought forward by the Abington Police Department in 2008 at Brockton District Court. Again, it is the Finance Committee moral and ethical obligation to fully and proactively inform residents of the impact of their decision.

The personnel reduction will also mean the loss of 25 auxiliary police officers. These officers patrol and assist the full time officers Thursday through Saturday without pay. Translated into hours, that is a loss of over 2500 free manpower hours to the town. These officers cannot and will not work if full time officers have been laid off. This has been a longstanding agreement between the union and auxiliary personnel and if ignored would lead to disharmony, frustration and a costly loss to the town when arbitration ruled.

Auxiliary Officers also routinely work parades, events, and town gatherings at a greatly reduced rate of the lowest step patrolman (straight time NOT overtime). When eliminated, the police department will have to force officers in to work these events and pay them their overtime rate, which in some instances is twice the amount paid to the auxiliary officers. Events like the Veterans Day Parade, Memorial Day Parade, Night Before the Fourth, Little

League Parade, Soccer Parade, Coombs Road Race ect will have their budgets greatly impacted. Again, I believe that it is the ethical and moral obligation of the Finance Committee to make each member of the respective organizations fully aware of this issue and the impact it will have on their organizations.

Sincerely
Chief Majenski

Cc: personal email file