

Rye Police Association, Inc.

CITY OF RYE

P.O.Box 246



NEW YORK

Rye, NY 10580

5/26/2010

Mayor Doug French & Rye City Council
City Hall
Rye NY 10580

Dear Mr. Mayor and City of Rye Council members,

I would like to first thank you Mr. Mayor for attending our last PBA meeting, I believe it was a first step in bridging the void that I believe exists between the members of the PBA and the offices of the Mayor/City Council. If you are not aware yet this is Officer John Hannah's last week of work. This will bring the number of retired officers in the last 4-6 months to four (4) Officers, Sgt. Rigano, Det. Olivier, Officer Chittenden and now Officer John Hannah. The Police Department will be at 34 members down from 41 just a few years ago. I cannot convey to you all how important it is to fill in these vacant slots. The lowered personnel will have detrimental effects on the security of the Community, basic Police Officer safety and lowered Police response times to inservice Police calls. I have filed a grievance concerning the "work force" issue and I respectfully CC'd you Mr. Mayor to keep you apprised of this very serious situation. I have been told over and over from City Hall officials of the dire financial constraints, But at what cost? Does the Office of the Mayor and City council find it acceptable to put Officers in jeopardy? For example this past Sunday morning we assisted the Jurisdictions of Portchester and Rye Brook in a apprehending a violent felon, that started with a vehicle pursuit, cars crashing into St Mary's cemetery, a foot pursuit into the cemetery resulting in an Officer breaking his ankle attempting to apprehend the criminal. The violent Felon was eventually Taser'd by Rye City Supervisor Sgt. Craig along with the assistance of Officer Michael Anderson. This apprehension was successful because all three jurisdictions worked together, without each other we would not have had the personnel to set up a perimeter and apprehend the violent felon. The City of Rye's practice of allowing our departments manpower to dwindle to bare minimum number's, to levels where we cannot even operate safely and successfully in the face of violent criminals. I tore my Knee in a foot pursuit in early December 2009 assisting ICE apprehend another wanted violent felon. I was out of work for over 3 months, my squad was short 1 officer because of my injury that day until I returned this year in March. The Point I am trying to make is Someone is

going to get seriously hurt and the PBA membership and Community will ask you all was it worth the money savings? What is a numerical value of an Officers safety? Or a Rye residents safety.

The Remedy the Rye Police Association respectfully seeks

The City of White Plains unfortunately laid off 12 experienced Police Officers. The average experience of these officers are @ 2 1/2 years of service, these are seasoned officers. I have suggested in the not so far past that it would be a savings to the City of Rye to hire experienced Police Officers from other jurisdictions (I was hired in this manner along with 1/3 of the Rye Police Department). Its saves in costs such as sending new recruits to the Police Academy to be trained over a 5 month period, also these Officers could be hired at second grade pay, not top pay, saving more monies to the City. These new officers if hired would be already road ready, new recruits take almost 2 years until they are on their own. These new Officers would be contributing 25% to their health benefits, just as other members of this department have done so since 1991. I respectfully request that you Mr. Mayor and the Ladies and Gentlemen of the City Council please explore hiring 4 (four) of these experienced Ex-White Plains Police Officers. By doing so we will be able to restore Officer and Resident safety levels to acceptable levels. The potential new Officers would also allow the Department to Promote a long vacant Sgt's position, a Vacant Detective position and now two Police Officer positions.

I thank you for your attention on this matter, the Members of the Police Association anxiously await your response. Myself and the members of the Executive board are available to meet with all of you, in good faith dialogue, in oder to achieve an amicable resolution. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Police Officer Franco Compagnone
President; Rye Benevolent Police Association

Cc: Michael Anfuso, Michael Kenny, Scott Craig, Julio Rossi, Tom Troetti