

Rye Police Association, Inc.

CITY OF RYE

P.O.Box 246



NEW YORK

Rye, NY 10580

December 17, 2010

On Wednesday December 15 2010 the New City council in the presence of the New City Manager, New Corporation council and New City Comptroller voted in favor to a .97 % tax increase. Even though for two consecutive weeks the Police and members of the Association, Library and Recreation department officials responded in force in opposition. I stand corrected the Library representatives were not there this last council meeting because they already met with the Honorable Mayor and several other councilmen and came to an amicable agreement. How convenient, I sent a letter to the City council several months ago to set up a meeting with our Executive board, yet we were sent a letter back by the Mayor denying us of that opportunity on the basis that we are to deal with the New City manager. So in the case concerning the Library I guess the Mayor made a command decision to handle it himself, great.

The New City manager and New City council decided for the first time not to hold a Police workshop, a forum where these cuts they made would have been discussed in length. This is not transparency, they did not want the members of the Police department and Association to know their master plan. A plan to cut a **Lt's position** (Lt's have no plan of retiring in the near future, resulting savings of \$21 thousand not \$150 thousand and are protected by Civil service law), **Training** that we barely already have (\$30 thousand budgeted in 2009, \$25 thousand budgeted 2010, Police department spent only \$9 thousand total for both years, Commissioner Connors gave \$45 thousand back to General fund), **Uniforms** that were are already several orders behind (over the last 8 years the City has encumbered 3-4 years of uniform orders and sent them back into the General fund, thanks once again to Commissioner Connors), a **Detective position** (recent retirement of a Detective, task now to be performed by Det. Wood on top of his Dare/youth workload), a **Sgt. position** (recent retirement of a Sgt., tasks now performed by several junior Patrolmen, grievance filed) on top of the already 6 Police officer vacancies the last 4 years. The Police department is not represented by just the Police Commissioner but it includes the members of the Police Association, any workshop with our presence would have avoided any Collective Bargaining Agreement violations and safety issues. What was the end result? The New City manager having a meeting to "buy out" one of the Lt.'s and not knowing or being fully apprised of the Civil service law, how awkward. Or the New City manager having a meeting with the Board of Education and cutting the Dare hours in half without any feedback from the PTO's, parents, Parochial schools and Det. Wood. *This is the well thought out plan the Mayor references at this last meeting?* These supposed well thought out ideas concerning the Police budget were email transmissions between the City manager, Mayor, certain City council members and the Police Commissioner, their personal chat room workshop. What happened to their campaign promises to be more transparent? Private workshops and no heads of the departments allowed by order of the New City manager to attend the last two weeks concerning the budget. This is a great new fresh start to the tenure of all these freshman politicians and new City manager, Rye residents should be very worried. Culross had all department heads at these final budget meetings just to address the publics inquiries if any arose, not hide them locked away in their respective offices far from the debate. They will all pat themselves on the back and call their constituents form neighboring communities, proud that they have for the second year in the a row the lowest taxes in the county, congratulations. At what cost though? These Police budget cuts will be realized immediately. It has already effected the Police workforce for the last year and a half in the form of response time and safety. Ultimately Rye residents will suffer because of these detrimental cuts to their Police force.

Lastly there is no mention in this budget concerning what the New City manager and New City council planned regarding the 2 year contract lapse with the Rye PBA. The Police Association with the help of a New York State mediator has repeatedly made reasonable below average contract proposals. We have proposed a 2.5% raise for 2009 and a 2.5% raise for 2010, yet it was rebuffed repeatedly by the City labor attorney. The New City manager is on the record several months ago at a council meeting that the City could have to pay in upwards of 3% or more per year if the City lost in arbitration(not including labor attorney fees). Yet even knowing this possible outcome the New City manager and Labor attorney decide to go the arbitration route and not negotiate in good faith. What will it cost the City to go to arbitration? It will cost the City around 1%, the same amount that it would cost the New City manager and Labor attorney to settle the contract today. Is the New City council fully apprised of these past contract proposals made by the Police Association and New York State mediator? This is all happening in the midst of hiring a new Corporation council as a freelance contractor, attempting to save \$55 thousand dollars, when hundreds of thousands of dollars has been paid to their Labor attorney the last 4 years. If anyone doubts our numbers they can easily FOIL this information just at the Association did and review it for themselves. The Mayor disassociates himself from this whole process on the basis of rules in the City charter. Thereby allowing this faulty expensive process when it comes to dealing with the Police Association to continue at the cost of the Rye taxpayer. Meeting informally with the Library and coming to an amicable resolution is ok but when it comes to the Police Association the Mayor does the Heisman trophy pose. The Police Association looks forward to the New City councils scheduled February 2011 Police orientation/budget workshop, after the fact.

Sincerely,

Franco Compagnone

President: Rye Police Benevolent Association

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