

Rye Police Association, Inc.

CITY OF RYE

P.O.Box 246



NEW YORK

Rye, NY 10580

December 9, 2010

Dear Rye resident,

I am writing to you today concerning a very serious Public safety issue that will effect our future level of service to you and your family. On December 1st the Rye Police Association addressed the City Council to no avail regarding their tentative 2011 Budget. This budget had substantial changes to the manpower of your NYS Accredited Police Department . Only 4 years ago the City of Rye Police Department had an authorized strength of 41 officers as opposed to its current staff of 33. These proposed changes will have profound negative impacts on the capabilities of your Police department and the high level of service this community is accustom. Proposed changes are outlined below:

The Proposed elimination of 1 Lieutenant position reducing the command staff from 3 Lieutenants to 2, savings of \$7,000 (Difference between Lieutenant and Sergeant base salary). The City managers decision did not take into account Civil service law which would allow the Lieutenant to stay and bump a junior supervisor. The end results are that a Sergeant gets bumped to patrolman, savings of \$14,000 (difference between Sergeant and patrolman's base salary). Combined estimated savings of this process is \$21,000. This is a Questionable tactic that leaves the City of Rye exposed to potential litigation. Eliminating this position will dilute the effectiveness of supervision in the infrastructure of the City of Rye Police Department.

The Proposed elimination of Youth Detective and DARE: City Manager explains that DARE has been removed from the public schools as a shared decision by both the school district and the City of Rye. Det. Wood will handle youth related incidents on an "as needed basis". This reactive approach to the youth of the City of Rye is not acceptable. With the loss of DARE there is no proactive mechanism for interaction between the Police department and Rye's youth. This is clearly short sighted and a recipe for disaster. The City had combined the two positions Dare and Youth Officer many years ago and the Association has contested it from its inception, falling on deaf ears. The Detective Division has been reduced from 5 officers in 2008 (3 general investigators, 1 youth officer and 1 Detective Lieutenant). Current staff is 1 youth officer, 1 general investigator, and 1 Detective Lieutenant.

The Proposed 2011 Budget, the Marine Division will have a reduced staff during the boating season. It was only recently outlined by the City Manager at the last council meeting that the Full Time Police Officer assigned to lead this unit will do so from June to August (half the time needed to effectively manage the City of Rye's Area of Responsibility). Any Rye boat owner is well aware that the Rye Marina is active before and long after the months the City has allotted to patrol its waterways. This unit is mostly staffed by part time seasonal help (NY State Peace Officer status) requiring up to 4 weeks of training to be certified in their appointment. Officer Rossi supervised this unit's day-

to-day operation and coordinated all preparations for the City's obligations to the waterways throughout the year. The 2011 staffing has been cut in half, leaving no time to successfully oversee this vital program.

The Proposed budget cuts to \$12,000 dollars in Police training. Training is the basic foundation to our professional public safety services and readiness. Diminished Police training will result in terrible repercussions and potentially tragic consequences to you and your families. We are only as good and prepared as our Police training, if that is taken away we all suffer.

The Rye City Council has yet to vote on this tentative 2011 Budget. In years past, a budget workshop has been conducted on the major issues with each department of the City of Rye taking part, the Police included. This year they did not hold a Police workshop and made these radical decisions without concern for the impact on the community. The new City council called for transparency in their campaign promises yet no Police safety budget workshops were held. A city council member actually stated on the record that he was satisfied with email communiqués between the City manager and unknown parties concerning the Police budget therefore a workshop was unnecessary. The City manager explained that he made all the recommendations and restructuring decisions for the police department to the city council, but not one Police supervisor or union representative had any input. Over the course of the last 3 years the City of Rye Police Department has had over a 20% drop in manpower (loss of 2 detectives, 1 Sergeant, and 5 Patrolmen). These reductions and proposed changes to the Police department's structure will clearly effect our ability to adequately respond to the needs of this community.

The mayor stated several times that "hard choices" needed to be made. Mr. Mayor, there are "hard choices" and there are "bad choices", your 2011 choices are "reckless choices". A new City Manager & New City council with no Police experience or expertise whatsoever in "restructuring" the city's most important public safety resource is recipe for disaster.

Lastly we want to reassure you that all the members of the Police department will continue, to the best of our abilities, to perform the services that you have always expected from us. We apologize if in the future our services and response times seem to be diminished but fortunately you have the power to change that. Please for the preservation of your Public safety and Police service come support our cause this coming December 15th Budget meeting. You can also call the City Manager or you can email the City Council members, the number and emails are furnished below.

Sincerely,

Franco Compagnone

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