

Government Study Committee

Police Department Response 2010

- 1) The old slogan, "To Protect and Serve" still holds true today but the mission of Police Departments nationally has changed dramatically post 9/11/2001 and complicated our effective delivery of services. Our job/mission here in Hingham is the safety of our citizenry and the security of their property, but our obligation is to deliver all services in a professional, proactive and community oriented manner without profiling. Our philosophy is that no partnership is too great or too small and every individual deserves our undivided attention to her/his issue or problem. Solving problems is our goal, prior to the need for removal of offenders (arrest). Post 9/11 we have expanded our local partnerships to include participation in the Metropolitan Law Enforcement Council (METRO-LEC), a group of 42 Cities and Towns participating jointly to support each other during any major crimes or incidents, the State Joint Terrorism Taskforce (JTT) and the Federal Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council (ATAC). We are obliged to participate in these efforts, as they all serve to keep our community safer from those who would do us harm by sharing information as never before.

- 2) We are accountable internally to the Board of Selectmen and externally to the District Attorney, Attorney General and the Courts of the Commonwealth.

- 3) Funding, political/community support & well trained personnel

- 4) A better process from which to build our budget (which appears to be happening?). The removal of the Department from Civil Service and enhanced funding.

- 5) The growth of the community, both in population and expanded commerce as

outlined in our "Development Impact Analysis." More Officers will be required to adequately maintain our expected level and delivery of services.

6) The Federal Government has tasked us with better training our Officers for the purpose of Homeland Security, as they have recognized that the "Boots On The Ground" locally, is our best source of information and thus our best defense.

However, we have not received any funding toward this goal. We continue to seek grants and free Govt. training, when available, but we have absorbed all the costs associated with the initiatives described in #1. Thank you for your continued service to our community via this important committee.