



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

Byram Township



SUSSEX COUNTY
NEW JERSEY



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Byram Township Manager, Mayor and Council
Byram Township Building Subcommittee
10 Mansfield Dr
Stanhope, NJ 07874

Dear Members:

As Chief of Police charged with the general direction and control of the Police Department and my responsibility to the Town Manager, Mayor and Council I present to you a detailed report of disadvantages of a Municipal/Police facility at the Byram Plaza Shopping Center.

Location to the Byram Township Schools

- The current location and high visibility of the Police Department serves as a significant deterrent to possible illicit activity. Located in the immediate vicinity and along the same single access road to the schools, everyone traveling to and from the school pass by the Police Department.
- The current location is extremely advantageous for minimizing emergency response times and for enhancing the overall school security posture. With the Chief of Police, Lieutenant, and Detective typically working at Police Headquarters during the day throughout the week, an emergency during school hours will result in multiple officers immediately responding to an emergency well above the typical response from field patrol units. In this situation, a response time in under a minute would be the standard.
- The above response time frame is important because according the FBI, between 2000-2013, 69.8% of active shooter incidents where the duration of the incident could be ascertained ended in 5 minutes or less.
- These responses are not only for major school lockdown situations. Officers trained in emergency first aid and trauma wound care like stopping major bleeding in case of accidental trauma will again be able to arrive at the school in under a minute. Death can occur from an arterial bleed in under 3 minutes.

Manpower Issues

- A public shopping area with thousands of people coming and going makes it extremely convenient for nonresidents and transient people to report incidents and inconveniences that Byram Township does not have jurisdiction over. While the PD never discourages the public from reporting anything that effects them or their community, an increased convenience to the transient population will surely increase walk-in complaints. These complaints will be required to be investigated and addressed. Officers will be consistently called off the road for these complaints, taking up our already minimal resources that could better serve the residents of the Township.

Mansfield Property

- With the Department of Public Works not moving to the Plaza, the Police Department will lose immediate and regular access to the services they currently provide us. The DPW, secure impound lot, impound/storage trailers, fuel pumps and the animal shelter serve as vital assets to our day to day operations. They are currently located right next to the Police Department and are resources we use very frequently, if not daily. Fleet maintenance is done on a regular basis by the mechanic and the availability of his immediate presence to attend to such items as jump starting a vehicle, fixing a light, replacing wiper blades and fuses on in service vehicles would be lost.

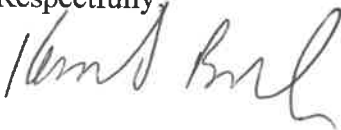
Security

- A shopping center is a very accessible public area with thousands of people having free access to the surrounding areas. Our current location (Mansfield Dr.) allows for security initiatives to be implemented with relative ease. This includes the safety of officers in their daily operations as well as victims, witnesses and accused individuals. At our current location, it is difficult for potential perpetrators to track the routines and locations of our officers throughout their shifts. In a public setting such as the Byram Plaza, this could be easily accomplished because the perpetrator would blend in with the surrounding customers of the plaza.
- Response times out of the plaza would also be slower because of increased vehicular and pedestrian traffic in the area and multiple ingress/egress areas.

Address Change

- A change in address will result in increased expenses and manpower hours to update business cards, stationary, etc.
- A change in address will also require updating to an unknown number of computerized records and Government databases such as UCR (uniform crime report), superior court systems and municipal court systems to name a few.

Respectfully,



Chief Kenneth Burke
Byram Township Police Department