



MAYOR
MOUNT VERNON, NY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
BUREAU OF POLICE

2017 JAN 24 P 6:16

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MOUNT VERNON, NY 10550
(914) 665-2500

Richard Thomas
Mayor

Ronald Fatigate
ACTING COMMISSIONER

January 24, 2017

City Council
(Through the Office of the Mayor) 
Mount Vernon City Hall
Mount Vernon, NY 10550

RE: Strategic Investments in Public Safety

Dear Honorable City Council members,

This letter is to request that the Mount Vernon City Council authorize the funding of additional investments in the Mount Vernon Department of Public Safety. The Department is requesting funding for the following key personnel and technology that will greater enhance our ability to reduce crime, collaborate with federal and state agencies, and continue to implement 21st Century Policing.

There was an increase of 3,367 calls for service from 2015 to 2016 – 42,861 calls versus 46,228 calls respectively. Increased calls are a stress on the department particularly when there have been cuts to manpower and decreased investments in operations.

LICENSE PLATE READERS

The Department of Public Safety is requesting \$276,000 to purchase 10 fixed license plate readers and 2 mobile license plate reader units off the New York State Contract. Mount Vernon's perimeter is comprehensively covered by the current LPR system. Supplementing the existing system with additional units for the interior of the city will enhance crime prevention and resolution.

The extra monitoring will also have additional benefits as traffic, congestion, and vehicle movement around the city can be thoroughly studied aiding in future planning and urban development.

HIRE 12 ADDITIONAL POLICE OFFICERS

The Department is requesting approval to hire twelve additional police officers at a total of \$480,000. This will supplement the loss of 17 officers from the 2016 fiscal year as well as the 2 officers cut in the 2017 fiscal year.

The additional officers are necessary due to the anticipated reassignment of approximately 8-10 ranking officers that will occur when the Department of Public Safety creates two units.

1. Major Case Unit consisting of one sergeant and five detectives will be reassigned to the FBI.
2. School Resource Officers: The Department is creating a unit composed of 8 officers to rotate throughout Mount Vernon schools during the school day. 2 of the 8 officers have received D.A.R.E. training.

DATA ANALYSTS

The Department of Public Safety is requesting the creation and funding of two positions for data analyst at an annual salary of \$55,000 each. Data collection and analytics are essential to combatting crime and improving police-community relations.

The White House's Task Force on 21st Century Policing noted that "Data collection, supervision, and accountability are also part of a comprehensive systemic approach to keeping everyone safe and protecting the rights of all involved during police encounters. Members of the Division of Policing of the American Society of Criminology recently wrote, "While the United States presently employs a broad array of social and economic indicators in order to gauge the overall 'health' of the nation, it has a much more limited set of indicators concerning the behavior of the police and the quality of law enforcement.""

21ST CENTURY POLICING COORDINATOR

The Department of Public Safety continues to work to implement President Barack Obama's vision of 21st century policing which requires a full-time 21st Century Policing coordinator/Public Information Officer to monitor police-community relations.

VIRTUAL "IRON DOME"

The Department of Public Safety is proud of the growing relationship between Mount Vernon and federal, state, and county law enforcement agencies. As we continue to work closely with our partners in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Westchester County District Attorney's office, and other agencies, it is imperative that the Police Department migrate to its own separate IT network and infrastructure that is secure and separate from the city's.

Creating a virtual "iron dome" will allow the police department, and other public safety entities such as DPW, Buildings, and the Fire Department, to communicate securely and efficiently in a time of natural disaster and/or emergency.

Additionally, as we migrate to upgrade technology, the electrical system and wiring in the Police Department headquarters must be upgraded. It is currently of insufficient

strength to handle the amount of data and level of encrypted that the Department will be using in the near future. Our colleagues in other law enforcement agencies are urging the Department to address these IT concerns in the near future. We welcome the City Council's input, feedback, and participation in conversations as we continue to move forward.

Strengthening our technology is imperative to strengthening our relationship with other law enforcement agencies, securing data, and protecting the integrity of investigations.

Currently, we are requesting an allocation of approximately \$800,000 to address immediate public safety needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald Fatigate". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Commissioner Ronald Fatigate