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Mayor and Council of Mount Arlington
419 Howard Boulevard
Mount Arlington, NJ 07856

Delivered via federal express to the above address and email to the following recipients:

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To the Mayor and Council of Mount Arlington

Two weeks ago, I was contacted by David Rubenstein, a fellow faculty member at the University of Phoenix. Mr. Rubenstein explained another colleague had recommended my services as a policy analyst to objectively critique a policy proposal to disband the Mount Arlington Police Department. Before this phone call, I don't recall having had any interaction with Mr. Rubenstein.

As I had a full calendar, I was reluctant to tackle another project, but Mr. Rubenstein's impassioned plea convinced me otherwise. I knew from the outset that this grassroots movement was subsisting on donations and compensation for my efforts would not be likely. I agreed only to review the report, once it was released, and would decide at that juncture whether I felt I had anything of value to offer in response. I then, in turn, solicited another colleague, Luis Martinez, M.Ed., to assist me in this venture as my expertise is primarily in criminal justice policy analysis and Mr. Martinez has expertise in police operations.

When the report by Blue Shield Consultants was released, I realized that Luis and I could be of assistance to both Mr. Rubenstein, as well as to the Mayor and Council as the Borough faces the important and potentially community-altering decision of whether to maintain or disband the existing police force. I have no personal stake in the outcome of this controversy, beyond my commitment to upholding the standards of evidence-based crime policy.

Accordingly, please find our Policy Proposal Evaluation which not only assesses the validity of the findings in the Blue Shield report, but which also offers its own independent recommendations, based on the ascertainable facts, retrievable data, and applicable research in the field. I hope that you find it useful in your decision-making process. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely

Coleen M. Cusack, Esq.

CMC/mmi

cc: file

Mayor Arthur R. Ondish

Council President John Driscoll

Councilman Robert Stone

Councilwoman Kerri Ann Mulligan

Councilman Robert Sorge

Councilwoman Maureen Cerasoli

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