

Dear Fellow Residents,

I have been approached for some time now by numerous concerned residents many of whom are supporters of the savemapd campaign. **I am responding to this request and speaking only my personal opinion and not on behalf of Mayor and Council.** As the Liaison to the Police Department I deemed it necessary to reserve my opinion until the study became public and have held true to my word. I have always felt it was imperative to first have all the pertinent facts and findings before one forms an opinion and/or makes an educated decision. Now that I have thoroughly reviewed the study, in addition to my position and experience as police liaison, I owe it to the residents to voice my personal opinion on this contentious issue. As your Councilwoman and Police Liaison, I feel it is my fiduciary responsibility to communicate in a timely manner to the residents and taxpayers who trust and expect that I will protect their best interests, as well as their safety.

I have resided in Mount Arlington for almost nine years and have served as your Councilwoman for five, with one year remaining of my current term. I have had the opportunity to work closely with the Police Department for the past 8 years on numerous committees and community events, and have also served as the Police Liaison for the past two years. I hold the Mount Arlington Police Department in the absolute highest regard and feel that we are blessed with an exceptional police department whose dedication and professionalism is unparalleled.


While municipal costs are certainly of the utmost importance and certain shared services is the wave of the future, I am not convinced that contracting out our police services is a prudent decision. While it is wise to consider cutting municipal costs and considering shared services, however, in my opinion there are other areas that are more conducive to this type of arrangement.

I feel that the Blue Shield Consulting Police Study is lacking in many facts and figures as well as the proper supporting data. Also, there were no references to where the limited facts and figures were obtained. I had expected a far more in-depth and complete report especially considering of the cost of the study (\$43,400). At this point in time, I firmly believe it would be advantageous for the Council to request a much more thorough report at no additional cost. I look forward to a more in-depth report and future discussion of the open public meetings in the future so that any decision that I am a part of making will be in the very best interest of the residents of Mount Arlington.

I urge you to attend the open public meeting on Monday, 10-22-07 @ 7:00 p.m. at MAPS school to discuss in detail the findings of this study, as the bottom line is this: what price do you put on safety? **YOUR VOICE COUNTS.**

Respectfully yours in service,

Councilwoman Kerri Ann Mulligan

  
10-18-07