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**ADVANCE COPY**

Dear Brookville Residents,

Most of you are aware of recent events involving the Village of Muttontown. Late last month, the Trustees of Muttontown, in spite of vehement protests from its residents, gave notice that they would not renew their contract for police service from the Old Brookville Police Department (OBPD) upon the expiration of this contract on May 31, 2011.

That is why I am writing you today. I would like to update you concerning ongoing developments regarding this situation, especially in light of the kaleidoscope of almost daily truths, twisted statements and plain old misinformation that has been disseminated by the media.

Although we have been contacted by all of the local newspapers, we have “stayed out of the fray.” Instead, your Trustees and I have devoted all of our efforts, energies and unprecedented amounts of time to the affirmative resolution of this situation.

*Let me begin by saying that the safety of the residents of our Village has been and will continue to be the hallmark of this administration.*

By way of background, the Old Brookville Police Department was created in 1949 to serve the five Villages of Brookville, Old Brookville, Upper Brookville, Matinecock and Muttontown. It remained a five-Village police department for over 40 years until the Villages of Mill Neck and Cove Neck came under its protection.

As one of the Founding Villages, Brookville has been a part of the OBPD for 62 years. We are firmly committed to its continued operation.

The OBPD is managed by a Board of Police Commissioners comprised of equal representation from each Village pursuant to an inter-municipal agreement. Your Deputy Mayor, Daniel Serota and I both serve on this Board as Commissioners.

There is an annual budget that is divided among the seven participating Villages according to the assessed valuation of each Village. Unfortunately, it is the position of the elected officials of Muttontown that the present model under which the police department has operated for over 60 years is “inequitable.”

The Mayor of Muttontown feels their Village should have greater control over the operation of the police department based upon its 25.4% budget contribution. Their officials also feel that the assessed valuation formula should be changed so that Muttontown would pay less and Brookville would pay more – even

(Over, please)

though Muttontown has a greater population, a greater assessed valuation and more roads to patrol than Brookville – or any of the other Villages for that matter.

As a result of Muttontown's departure, Upper Brookville has indicated to its residents that, in order to "avoid the burden of a budget gap, it might consider other options, including exploring alternative means of securing police service."

I would be less than forthright if I didn't say that as the largest of the seven Villages which support the OBPD, the loss of Muttontown will put severe stress on the OBPD finances. This stress would be deepened if Upper Brookville were to restructure its police protection services.

Obviously, the burden of filling the financial gaps will require us to find new ways in which to provide residents with the level of police service that we all have come to expect. And that is what we are working on right now.

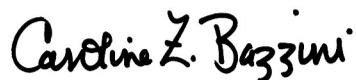
I remain optimistic that Upper Brookville will continue to receive police protection from the OBPD in some manner. In any event, as of June 1, 2011, the remaining five Villages are committed to moving forward with the operation of the OBPD as a five-Village police force – exactly as it had been for over 40 years. This commitment is founded in the knowledge and belief that the Old Brookville Police Department provides the most personal, professional and effective service available in Nassau County at a cost competitive with or lower than other police departments in the county.

There is a lot of hard work ahead. Everyone will have to do their part – the five Villages, the Police Benevolent Association that controls the contracts as well as the men and women of the Old Brookville Police Department.

I am pleased to say that so far, everyone has indicated their willingness to step up to the plate so that we can continue to achieve an effectively staffed and well-equipped department with a fair and reasonable operating budget. It is only in this way that our Brookville residents can continue to receive the same level of police services they have in the past at an affordable cost.

Finally, I would like to invite each of you to provide me with input so as to be guided by our residents in our efforts toward maintaining the professional police services that we have all enjoyed. For comments and questions, please contact me at [mayor@villageofbrookville.com](mailto:mayor@villageofbrookville.com). Be sure to include your name and street address.

Thank you.



Caroline Z. Bazzini  
Mayor

P.S. In an effort to keep you up to date on police matters, we will be posting information on our website on a regular basis, including, whenever possible, comments and answers to questions from our residents.