

**INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF UPPER BROOKVILLE
P.O. BOX 548
OYSTER BAY, NY 11771**

TERRY L. THIELEN
Mayor

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April 7, 2011

Dear Residents of Upper Brookville,

You may have recently received a letter from the Old Brookville Police Benevolent Association, the union that represents most of the members of the Old Brookville Police Department. I was disappointed by its unfounded accusations and feel the need to respond.

To be clear, neither I nor the Village Trustees have relinquished or “abdicated” our responsibilities. To suggest otherwise is just wrong. Trustee Schwerin has been our active representative in all discussions with the Old Brookville Police Department. Policy is set by our Board of Trustees as a whole, and I, as your Mayor, remain deeply involved in every decision.

The financial situation now facing the Old Brookville Police Department was triggered by the recently announced withdrawal of the Village of Muttontown from the seven village consortium covered by the Old Brookville Police Department. More importantly, Muttontown’s decision to leave is a result of differences among member villages about escalating costs, unfunded liabilities and the sustainability of the Old Brookville Police Department.

Muttontown’s departure leaves a 26.4% loss of revenue for the proposed 2011-2012 OBPD budget. Assuming a staff of 50 (39 officers, 7 communications operators, and 4 clerical staff), at least 13 positions must be eliminated from the Department to meet that shortfall. Since Civil Service rules typically mandate that the least tenured and generally lowest paid employees are cut first, there may be a need to eliminate more than 13 positions. I must reiterate that these cuts will be the proximate result of the loss of revenue. They have nothing to do with Upper Brookville’s contract proposals.

Upper Brookville is aware of the challenges facing the Department. We have proposed to pay the same amount for operations as we would have paid under the adopted 2011-2012 budget absent the unexpected revenue shortfall. Further, we have not sought to charge the OBPD next year for use of the current police headquarters building, which belongs to Upper Brookville. We await a response from the other villages to our proposals. In the meantime, we are acting in the interest of our residents by discussing other options for affordable police protection services.

The Board of Trustees has scheduled a Special Meeting to discuss the issue of police protection with our residents. The meeting will be held in the Conference Center at Planting Fields Arboretum on April 21st at 7:00 p.m.. The Village web site www.upperbrookville.org has posted explanations of current and future costs. For those who do not have access to a computer, please visit the Village Hall during regular office hours and request a hard copy of the web information.

In closing, I would like you to know of our sincere desire to enter into a reasonable contract with the Old Brookville Police Department. We look forward to fruitful discussions to that end, but we will not countenance unfair, inaccurate, and biased claims.

Thank you,

Terry L. Thielen
Mayor