

PSC/Security Subcommittee –Draft Proposal for TOCC Police Force

1-4-2009

1. Background

- a. The increasing and on-going urbanization of the Bethesda/Chevy Chase area has changed the Town's environment, making it very different from what it was 20 years ago, and calls for a re-examination of Town security.
- b. The recent focus on safety, for example, within the survey, calls for the Town to address our residents' security concerns.
- c. Potential crime increase b/o economic downturn (see W. Post 12//28/08)
- d. Metro enabled crime.
- e. Authority to hire our own force to enforce laws exists in our Charter.
- f. Current security operations:
 - i. MCP -- off-duty MCP (260 hrs/mo; managed by Todd Hoffman with John D'Albora);
 - ii. Private security firm (50 hrs/wk, 10pm-5am).

2. Rationale for TOCC Police Force

- a. The Town does not have security expertise to define how best to meet our requirements, e.g., encroaching Bethesda development, crime via Metro.
- b. Our own force will provide experienced and dedicated coordination of security operations--both personnel, (for example, the overnight security company), and technology, (for example, speed cameras to, in particular, reduce the frightening speeding on our border streets).
- c. It will provide visible services to the Town, with emphasis on service, not aggressive policing.
- d. The visible cop on the beat means the TOCC police would be in tune with the residents, understanding the needs of the community, creating a TOCC policing style, (vs an MCP style).

3. Budget

- a. Elements: salary, benefits and insurance, car, uniforms, office space, equipment, communications.
- b. 1st year budget estimate: \$150,000
- c. Recurring budget estimate: \$100,000

4. Next Steps

- a. Develop job description for the position of TOCC police chief.
- b. Review and define recruitment steps – (Note: International Assoc. of Chiefs of Police book on recruiting).
- c. Initiate Recruitment process: headed by Town Manager, with advisory committee of PSC/Security Subcommittee members, Roy Gordon (Village Police Chief and TOCC resident), and others.
- d. Develop and vet a Pro Forma budget.