

MAYOR  
CAROLINE  
SIMMONS



CHIEF OF POLICE  
TIMOTHY SHAW

**STAMFORD POLICE  
DEPARTMENT**  
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To: Fiscal Committee Board of Representatives  
From: Timothy Shaw, Police Chief, Stamford Police Department  
Date: May 1, 2022  
Subject: Defunding Budgeted Police Officer Positions

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We are at a pivotal point in policing here in Stamford and nationally. Police Officer and key law enforcement management positions are required to provide for proper policing oversight and accountability.

The Stamford Police Department budget submitted is a fiscally responsible budget that accounts for necessary uniform police officer and management positions. Current open budgeted positions have not been filled because there are no active promotional lists. There has not been an opportunity for Lieutenant or Captain promotions until last week when the testing results for those ranks were certified by Human Resources. Supervisor promotions are important to the proper functioning of the department and they increase morale and give the officers something to continue to strive for as they progress in their careers. Now that promotional lists have been recently certified, police supervisor positions will be filled.

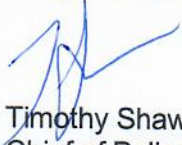
Crime has been on the rise nationally and the types of crimes experienced have changed. With an already \$500,000 cut to the police budget, losing additional funding for law enforcement positions can only have a negative impact on crime and resident and police officer safety.

Cutting budgeted police officer positions will also have a direct impact on the management and oversight of the department in the patrol division, community policing and many other important initiatives such as mental health, cyber security and quality of life concerns, which are led by those in management positions. With over \$750,000 in additional cuts, we will struggle to adhere to this budget as we move forward.

The Assistant Police Chiefs, the Director and I have promised to make positive changes to policing to improve oversight and accountability. We have also strived to improve our community-policing model so that the department and police leadership mirrors the diverse Stamford community. We must adapt to changing times and the changing needs of the Stamford community.

As the Chief of the Stamford Police Department, I implore you to not take funding away from uniform police officer and management positions as proposed. Residents are asking for more of a police presence, not less. We do not want the Stamford community to experience what other cities have experienced. Stamford is the second largest city in Connecticut and we want to maintain the safety and security of our residents and continue to be the safest city in New England and Connecticut based on our population.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Timothy Shaw', is written over the printed name.

Timothy Shaw  
Chief of Police