

Editor

Stamford Advocate

Safety at Stamford Public Parks

The Police Commission would like to thank both the Mayor and the Board of Representatives for their efforts toward making our city parks safer and more enjoyable for all our residents. The Mayor's Office has been working with the Board of Representatives, the Parks & Recreation Commission and citizens representing various neighborhoods.

At issue is how best to provide the most pleasant experience in our parks for the general public which encompasses both safety requirements and a quality of life experience. It is our position, that to manage our parks in the most efficient manner, it is necessary to have the right management structure in place so that any available resources can be applied most effectively.

In this specific case, we believe it is imperative that the Stamford Police Department (SPD) has oversight of the hours as well as the area of force deployment for the SPD and any Parks Police Officers hired as an additional workforce. Further, we believe it critical for a centralized administration of this taxpayer funded workforce to determine the hours and areas patrolled for all law enforcement personnel, as well as provide team members the necessary tools for proper tactical execution of the deployment strategy. The right management structure is a critical element, in most if not all, organizational initiatives.

The Stamford Police Department is responsible for keeping the City of Stamford safe. Any police personnel and force multipliers must report through the police department chain of command to make sure proper procedures are followed; and, ensure all resources are applied effectively. There needs to be accountability in the chain of command with the Chief of Police ultimately responsible and accountable for results. The Chief and his team need visibility into the supporting teams' schedules and activities and the authority to direct those efforts to ensure compliance and coordination.

We support the Mayor's and Board of Representatives efforts to make our parks safer and encourage all elected officials to work together to create the management structure where the Parks Police report through the Stamford Police Department chain of command.

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