

**William E. Cox
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Tel: 344-3914

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Editor
Daily News
Apollo Drive
Batavia, N.Y. 14020

Dear Editor,

Would you kindly allow me to provide this letter to all First Ward residents of the city?

The consolidation of the City Police Dispatch function with the County's Sheriff Dispatch operations will be decided by City Council in a very few days. The purpose of this consolidation is to reduce the operating costs of the city and have this reduction reduce future tax increases.

This proposed consolidation is much more than a black and white decision on costs. It needs a great deal of consideration and most of all, it needs input from citizens from all city wards. Our Chief of Police Darryl Sehm and Lt. Eugene (Geno) Jankowski both voiced their disapproval of the original proposal to City Council as submitted, citing examples of their concerns. A lot of discussion has occurred since then but a new proposal has not been given to council members. Our police department will still be on patrol helping us and we will still have our detective force responding and investigating crimes. Do you want the police station to close or remain open and what is it used for? You need to read the report to help answer these questions.

Citizens are able to sign up to speak out on any topic during council meetings, but we need a formal public hearing on this proposal, because it affects all of us in different ways. Please come to the next council meeting and speak up for what you want to happen. The proposal calls for closing our police station about 14 hours a day from 4:30 PM to 7 AM Monday through Friday. It also calls for closing it 24 hours a day on Saturday and Sunday. There are lots of issues. How safe do you feel and does your family feel after 4:30 PM if our police station closed are just two of them? These are some of the questions you need to ask yourself, your family, your friends, and neighbors.

I strongly encourage you (and all citizens of the city) to read this report in its entirety. It will be posted on my website (www.cbgbny.gov) today by 5 PM. Just click on City Police Dispatch and you will be able to read and/or print it. Please e-mail your questions and concerns to me at bill.cox@marktecprods.com or call me at 585-344-3914 (H), my office 585-344-4102 (answering machine is on after hours) or my cell at 585-356-5430.

City manager Molino and Chief Sehm have allowed me to be at police headquarters this Friday to monitor the police dispatch operations from 2 PM to 10 PM. I want to get a better understanding of what our dispatch operation does, the things dispatchers do in addition to answering calls, monitor how many calls are received after hours on one shift, and what kind of incidents occur. It will enable me to understand one part of our police operations better and assist me in representing you. I will provide a report to city manager Molino and City Council what I learned as a citizen. I would like to receive your input and include it in my report; would you kindly call me. I encourage all of you to call your City Council Ward representative and Council Person at Large representatives. You really need to do this on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday because we are out of time. Their telephone numbers and e-mail addresses are on the City of Batavia website (www.batavianewyork.com). One of their jobs is to listen to your concerns. I don't have the privilege of representing you until January 1st, but this proposal is too important an issue to wait to act.

Sincerely,

Bill Cox
Council Person Elect
First Ward