

**William E. Cox
Councilman Elect
109 Elm Street
Batavia, N.Y. 14020
Home: 585-344-3914
Cell: 585-356-5430**

November 18, 2007

Dear First Ward Voters,

Subject: Do you want a police station that remains open 24/7?

How important is the police station to you? How important is it to you for it to remain open 24/7?

This is an important decision to us all as a group and as individuals. There is a cost-reduction proposal on the council agenda right now to consolidate the police dispatch. This calls for closing the police station 14 hours a day all week long and close it completely on weekends. Consolidating 911 is good idea, closing the police station most of the time is another situation. This proposal will be acted on within a few days.

City council was presented a cost-reduction proposal from the city manager on Monday evening. City manager Molino was given the task of “finding ways to cut operational costs.” He did the research and submitted his proposal to council as requested. City Council needs your input ASAP.

It has major ramifications and it involves our safety and security, both physically and mentally. City council discussed this proposal Monday and the vast majority of council people (8 out of 9 council people) initially wanted to approve this proposal that involves applying for a one-time grant of \$200,000 to help offset the cost of the proposal. The proposal closes the police station most of the time. There is no public hearing scheduled about this at this time so you need to come to council and speak out on it as an individual topic, which you are allowed to do.

The public needs to speak out on this important and controversial proposal. I am not advising anyone what position to take; it is my objective to inform the public that this is going to happen, that it will happen very soon. If you care about the police station, you need to tell council right now what you want to happen or not happen.

There are many non-financial issues that the chief of police presented. I have posted the entire proposal for you to read the numerous issues regarding it. If you want the police station to remain open you need to know what they are. The chief of police tells you in this report what they are and how it will impact our citizen’s safety and concern. They include pulling patrolmen off the streets to assist with an arrest when they get back to the

station – right now the dispatcher serves as a backup to assist him in multiple ways. This makes our streets less safe for the several hours he needs to book a person and do the report. If the station is closed, what does the victim of a crime do at 11 PM? He needs to go to our police station right then, not at 7 AM the next day.

The police station stores a lot of critical supplies and weapons. Do you want the police department ammunition, several machine guns, computers, and other things left in a building that is vacant for 14 – 24 hours a day? The sheriff's new building was vandalized with computers and other things stolen before it was even opened. There are other issues as well.

The cost to keep our dispatch open "as is" is 12 cents a day per taxpayer. This is \$43.80 a year per tax payer. This is the amount stated in the proposal given to city council.

My concern is that when the chief of police states publicly to city council that he is opposed to this plan that raises a significant red flag. When the second officer in command is opposed to this plan there is another red flag. When the village of Le Roy, which was offered the same plan, decides to not participate with the sheriff's department that raises a red flag. The issue is not whether the proposal is right or wrong. It is about your understanding and weighing in on a critical public safety issue before city council makes a decision.

I encourage you to visit my website that I set up to inform you of hot topics (www.cbgbny.org), call me, or go to the next council meeting and speak out.

Sincerely,

Bill Cox
Councilman-Elect
First Ward