



## PETER SPALTHOFF FOR MAYOR

“People Before Politics”

[www.peterspalthoff.com](http://www.peterspalthoff.com)

Press Release

5.25.2009

While I did not have the luxury of having all of the information that the alderman had before them when they came to the decision that they did in cutting the police budget, I do know that common sense should have prevailed and I believe that it didn't. To me doing anything with the police budget that might cause the City to lose an officer just doesn't show that good common sense nor good judgment was used in their decision making process.

Chairman Blake noted that “a series of fiscal crises have hit our economy”. He couldn't have been more on target with that observation. In understanding that to be factual, we all have to realize that statistically with a bad economy will come more trouble in the way of crime. When that happens, what do we do in Milford when we do not have the proper level of police protection that we require? Who explains to a victim that the response time to their cry for help was poor because we did not have the proper compliment of police officers in the City? How do we honestly justify the possibility of losing between one to three police officers from an already understaffed force? I do not believe we can and I would strongly urge the aldermen to reconsider their action on the police budget for the good of the community.

This is not meant to be a “**the sky is falling**” hysterical warning. It is meant to be a wake up call to everyone in the City. While we have by far and away one of the best Police departments in the State, they are only as effective as they can be in the time of trouble if there are adequate numbers of them. Eliminating one of them on the prospect of president Obama's stimulus package is risky at best, and foolish to say the least and the possibility of losing one or two more because their union did not agree with the Mayors budget request truly poses a danger to all of us.

Chief Mello in his budget presentation addressed some very striking and serious statistics that should have struck a nerve with every alderman especially those who voted for the budget cut. First he noted that the City had 110 officers back in 1981 and today we have only 109 officers. Second, the calls to his department have risen over 40% in the last ten years and mandates of training requirements on his officers have increased dramatically. That results in less time for the officers to be on patrol which is a real detriment to our City. Those items alone should have had the aldermen looking for ways to make certain that the potential for police cuts would not happen. The police department has done more with less for years and if the Aldermen can't find any other areas in their budget to cut, they should not be putting the chief in the position of having to lay off or not hire officers.



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The final issue I would like to address is that the Chief noted having to call on the State Police and other local municipalities to assist the Milford PD with our policing issues, at the Mall, the Pilot service station complex and at Wildemere Beach. While we have a commendable reciprocity program in place with our local PD's and State Police, the very thought that we would have to call on them because we do not have the proper contingent of police officers in our own City is very disturbing to me as it should be to everyone. In these troubled times the thought that we may have a reduction in the police department is not only disturbing, it is senseless.

This should not be a Democratic or Republican issue that it appeared to be with the aldermen voting the party line (save one). It **MUST** be a Milford issue. Somewhere along the way we need to have faith and trust in those leaders that we hire to run the various departments and support them with their assessments and requirements. **No**, that doesn't mean the Aldermen should approve any and everything they ask for but, they need to be supporting the things they ask for that are in the best interest of our tax payers. More police officers **ARE** in the best interest of Milford. The money that we would save here is not in my opinion worth even the thought of one Milford citizen who might be adversely affected because we do not have the right compliment of police officers.

As the Independent candidate for Mayor in Milford I want to make sure that everyone knows where I stand on the issue of Public safety in our City. This is clearly a safety issue and one that needs to be addressed not just as a service but as a right for all of us. I do not believe the elimination of one or two police officers is worth the \$5.00 or \$10.00 dollars a year that the aldermen are trying to save each tax payer by reducing the Police budget. Our safety is way beyond that. We should be demanding, not asking, our aldermen to make sure that we are protected adequately with the proper Police manpower. Cutting the Police budget as they have could very possibly mean the loss of an officer. I believe that it is **NOT** a prudent decision that was made on behalf of the citizens of Milford and should be reviewed and corrected.

Peter L. Spalthoff  
Independent Party Candidate for Mayor