



## FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE GREEN BROOK LODGE #23

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Residents of Green Brook,

Issues have arisen in the township that will have a negative impact on our community and must be addressed immediately. On April 26<sup>th</sup> 2010 your elected officials and the administration whose policies they follow believe that to save the township money, they should lay off 2 police officers with 10 plus years of experience combined. The township committee, in an attempt to conceal their efforts, was prepared to vote on a budget that would have eliminated these officers' jobs, giving them less than 24 hours notice. Together, with the support of you and your neighbors, we were able to preserve these vital jobs at the last township committee meeting in spite of an acquiescent Chief of Police. Although we won a minor victory, the battle is not yet over. Your elected officials intend to go through with the layoffs at a May 24<sup>th</sup> 2010 vote; layoffs we believe will be detrimental to the community's safety and quality of life, while greatly increasing the police department's overtime budget.

A similar proposal was attempted to eliminate dispatch from the police department and soliciting the services of Somerset County Communications. The FOP strongly opposed those measures due to the detrimental effect it would have had on the community and the police department, similar to the effects of the present proposal. With the help of the community, we were able to stop the Township Committee from passing that proposal; one that the Committee admits would have been a mistake after seeing first hand how important dispatch was during the recent flood.

The Green Brook FOP is once again asking for your help. We are attempting to stop the committee from making yet another decision that they will later find was a mistake; a mistake that will cost the residents of Green Brook in dollars and security, and two experienced officers their jobs. Although the township committee claims to want alternative solutions to the budgetary deficit, the Green Brook FOP in an attempt to save their members' jobs offered proposals that would have saved the township substantial dollars but the administrator and Mayor would not commit to keeping the officers for any concession offered by the FOP. Facing this situation, the Green Brook FOP is asking for the residents to come and support their officers at the Green Brook Township Committee Meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 7pm, and tell your elected officials that their votes rely on sound decisions that don't risk the safety of the residents they serve.

As members of the Green Brook FOP, we believe the following:

- Short Notice was again used on April 26<sup>th</sup> as a tool to limit resident input. The Township provided six hours notice to these 2 Veteran Officers in order to deter public reaction
  - The Township used the same tactic twice to attempt to dissolve our local Police/Fire/EMS dispatch center.
  - Numerous ideas to save money, and cut costs without layoffs have been ignored and dismissed without discussion.
- Cutting 2 of the 16 Patrol Officers will slash the Patrol Division by 12.5%, resulting in the elimination of the Traffic Safety Bureau; DARE program, and School Resource Officer in a futile attempt to compensate for this loss. Future cuts will result in either cutting or eliminating the Detective Bureau. Should this happen all criminal investigations (home/business burglaries, Identity Theft, Credit Card Fraud, etc) will be compromised.
- The police department will have 2 officers eligible to retire in October 2010, a 3<sup>rd</sup> officer in less than 12 months, and a total of 8 Officers within the next 36 months. We need these 2 Veterans to help lead the Department into the future.
- Contrary to what the Township Committee has stated, Police salaries only account for approximately 6% of your total Property Tax Bill.
- The Township of Green Brook has no long-term plan to attend to the future losses due to retirement.
  - Typical time to train a new officer is at least 1 year.
  - Laying off these Veteran Officers now will result in Green Brook losing 10 of its 23 Police Officers over this 3 year span, plus the additional time of training adequate replacements.

We urge all residents to attend the Township Committee meeting at **7pm on May 24<sup>th</sup> 2010** in order to be fully informed on the tremendous impact that these cuts will have. As this will be a public forum, all residents will be provided an opportunity to speak, and ask any questions that they may have about the potential decrease in the quality of life for you and your neighbors. If you cannot attend, please feel free to contact Mayor Kenneth Herrmann at Town Hall, 732-968-1023, to voice your concerns.

We strongly believe that your input needs to be taken into consideration in all public safety matters. Once again, we would like to thank all of the residents of Green Brook for their continued support in our effort to maintain your safety. We hope to see you all on May 24<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall. Feel free to visit our informational website at: [www.greenbrookfop.org](http://www.greenbrookfop.org).