

JOINT  
LEGISLATIVE, FINANCE, AND ADMINISTRATION  
AND  
SAFETY ADVISORY AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE

A G E N D A

**February 17, 2011 - 6:00 P.M. - Conference Room - City Hall - City of Dover**  
*Public comments are welcomed on any item and will be permitted at appropriate times.*  
*When possible, please notify the City Clerk (736-7008 or e-mail at*  
*[CityClerk@dover.de.us](mailto:CityClerk@dover.de.us)) should you wish to be recognized.*

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

1. Proposals to Address Community Concerns
2. Public Comment Period (15 Minutes)
3. Adjournment by 7:30 p.m.

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# DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

**James E. Hosfelt, Jr.**  
**Chief of Police**  
**F.B.I.N.A.**



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February 4, 2011

City of Dover  
Attn: Ms. Traci McDowell, City Clerk  
PO Box 475  
Dover, DE 19904

Joint LFA and SAT Committee Members,

Over the course of the last four months we have met on different occasions so that we can plan the best course of action to deal with increased gang activity in and around our City. In addition to these joint committee meetings, I have been working with Mr. DePrima, Dover City Manager, and Mayor Carey on the best possible solutions to deal with this issue. As a result of these meetings I would like to offer the following solutions to the issues facing the joint LFA & SAT Committee.

The Dover Police Department is currently staffed at 89 officers and we have committed to hire two officers in March based on prior Council approval. These two officers will be attending the Delaware State Police Academy and will bring our staffing to 91 officers, one of which is being paid for by a COPS grant for the next 30 months. I am asking the committee to consider hiring two additional officers for this academy class, bringing the total police force to 93 officers. The next academy class is scheduled to begin as early as mid March 2011. With this in mind, I would ask the committee to consider the timeliness of this request due to the time needed to complete the hiring process. As you well know, based on prior discussions, the current police operating budget could absorb this cost through the remainder of the fiscal year, but I understand this will take a strong commitment by the committee and all of Council to fund this in FY 12 and beyond. The police department understands its role in serving the citizens of Dover, while also working within the confines of any budget established by the city and council and I do not believe this comes at the detriment to other needed services within the city.

The Dover Police Department continues to teach the DARE curriculum in the Capitol School District, but we intend to phase this program out at the end of the school year. We are preparing to begin teaching the Gang Resistance Education Program (GREAT) in its place. This program not only teaches children the dangers of gang affiliation and involvement with illegal drugs, it also covers various life lessons for both students and parents alike. The program has a four prong approach, which includes six classes in fifth grade, 13 classes in sixth grade, mentoring during the summer months and classes geared towards the entire family. Obviously, this program can only work with the support of the Capital School District and various groups such as the Boys & Girls Club and the Housing Authority.

Throughout the next fiscal year (FY12) I will be looking into the feasibility of civilianizing three police positions within the department. These positions, Sex Offender Team and Red Light Enforcement, are currently filled by police officers. The positions could be filled with retired law enforcement officers, similar to what the State Police have done with these same units. Hiring retired officers is a necessity for these positions because each requires police certification and retired officers can maintain their certification with very little impact to the organization. Filling these positions with retired officers would be another way to increase available police staffing at a cost much less than hiring an additional officer.

As you well know from previous discussions, it will be August or September before any new officer is beneficial to the department. With this in mind, I recommend the committee establish a onetime "Police Chief" discretionary fund that could be used in a variety of ways. First, it would provide the police department with the ability to pay overtime for increased manning when situations dictate this necessity. Examples may be supporting the Downtown Dover Partnership with recurring problems on Loockerman Street or proactive measures used to offset increased violence in particular neighborhoods. Secondly, it could be used to fund non – traditional anti-gang activities that have been discussed in the community, such as supporting community meetings, parental gang education, sports leagues, etc. I am requesting that the committee recommend to the full council, the placing of \$40,000 in the latest proposed estimate of the budget.

In closing, I would like to thank the Committee members for their efforts in addressing these problems which affect our community. I believe the courses of action suggested above will point us in the right direction in dealing with the community's concerns. As always, I am available to answer any of your concerns and look forward to speaking with you at our next committee meeting.

Sincerely,

James E. Hosfelt, Jr.  
Chief of Police