



Mansfield Township Police Department

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Community * Duty * Integrity

Richard C. Bendel
Director of Public Safety

July 31, 2008

To the Editor:

I have just completed reading your article in regard to charges that some municipalities face for State Police services. As the Director of Public Safety for Mansfield Township and having the responsibility for directing the operation of the Police Department, I am deeply concerned about the inaccurate information that has been released by the State of New Jersey in regard to this issue. I am especially troubled that this information will unduly upset our residents and paint a false picture about the services that we provide.

The Mansfield Township Police Department has been a full time law enforcement agency for approximately 14 years, relying on the State Police for part of that time, only for assistance with the investigation of serious crimes or motor vehicle crashes. On June 15, 2007, with the approval of the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office, we assumed full responsibility for the investigation of ALL incidents (with the exception of those occurring on Interstate 295 or the New Jersey Turnpike which are State Police jurisdictions) which occur within the Township. Since that time, the State Police has had NO patrol or response obligations in Mansfield Township.

The Mansfield Township Administrator has already made contact with both the State Police and the State Department of the Treasury to correct this grievous error. I want to assure the public that the Police Department will continue to provide full, professional, police services for the residents of Mansfield Township.

Richard C. Bendel
Director of Public Safety