Village of Head-of-the-Harbor

DOUGLAS A. DAHLGARD *Mayor*

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Village Administrator/Clerk

PATRICIA A. MULDERIG Village Treasurer

CHARLES M. LOHMANN
Police Chief

June 18, 2020

Dear Friends,

Currently, the nation is consumed with issues of pandemic response, economic recovery, and social protesting for police reforms. Discussions of these topics tend to result in differences of opinions that can be heated. In Head of the Harbor government, our politics are focused – we'll do what is best for the Village.

On that note, I want to say a few things about our Village police officers. Many of our residents have come to know our police officers when they have responded to a "911" call, or responded to direct inquires at the police station regarding parking or security issues. Maybe you've been asked to slow down in the Village as a safety matter. Perhaps, you have attended Harbor Country Day School and met Police Chief Charles Lohmann as he does safety inspections and talks to the students. Other residents have seen the police drive by as they continuously patrol our roads.

Head of the Harbor's police force is fully trained in police operations by Suffolk County and by our Village. Each of these dedicated professionals is interviewed and vetted by our Chief of Police Charles Lohmann, who also serves as a Detective Lieutenant with the Suffolk County Police.

All our police officers are EMT trained and are the first responders in the Village to all emergency calls together with the St. James Fire Department. They interact with our highway department on any road problems such as a fallen tree or power lines during a snowstorm.

Head of the Harbor, the Nissequogue Police Department, and Suffolk County Police work together to provide additional support when needed. During a recent political protest in Smithtown, Head of the Harbor assisted the County police and three days later supported the Nissequogue police during a similar matter.

The Village police are paid on an hourly basis. The Village is small with no commercial tax base so we cannot afford to pay the rates paid by the County. Why do our police work here? You have

to ask them directly- but most likely, it is because we appreciate and respect them and they respect their colleagues and are filled with admiration towards Chief Lohmann.

Recently, the Board of Trustees noticed that the current social unrest in our nation suggests a review of the equipment for our police department. The needs include several body cameras, upgraded handheld radios and one police cruiser is due for replacement. The Board of Trustees will have to figure out how to fund these expenditures in a year where the revenue from non-tax sources has been reduced by the pandemic.

In this environment, it is easy for a police officer to feel unwelcomed. Please help show our police that we do not feel that way, that we appreciate and respect them, and we want them to continue to protect and serve in our Village.

Very truly yours,

Douglas A. Dahlgard

Mayor