

# Proposed Police Mergers In Somerset County Not Cost Effective unless Done thru the Sheriff's Office

## Police Mergers are not Cost Effective unless it is done through the Sheriff's Office.

Why does the Somerset County (or any other county in NJ), Prosecutor and Freeholders want to establish a high cost county police force when every county in NJ already has a cost efficient county law enforcement agency established under the **State Constitution** called the **Sheriff's Office**?

Any Township Police Mergers should be done through the Sheriff's Office. Creating another county police force is not only stupid, but is a duplication of services which already exists through the Sheriff's Office (an existing county police force) and would be very costly like Nassau County in Long Island and Bergen County in NJ. The people can elect the Sheriff unlike a county police force, which is not accountable to the people (see County Police vs. Elected Sheriff Topic 4 at <http://www.njiat.com/local-government.html>). Also, the Sheriff's Office is the most cost effective—this has been admitted by the Hunterdon County Shared Services Coordinator in 2010 and supported by many high ranking NJ State Police, other law enforcement personnel and military officers—see National Sheriffs' Association, Sheriff's Association of New Jersey & PA Sheriffs' Association.

## Mergers of Individual Twp. Police Departments on a Contractual Basis with the Sheriff's Office

Mergers of individual Twp. police departments could be done on a contractual basis with the Sheriff's Office or the Sheriff's Office can supplement local Twp. police departments thereby allowing the township to reduce the force through attrition. This would be done on a contractual basis with each township; in other words, each township would pay for their own cost and would determine how many Sheriffs' Officers they want to contract out for. Essex County Sheriff's Office helps supplement local Twp. police departments. Essex County Sheriff's Office has a **Reserve Deputy Program** (20 hours are donated each month by the Reserve Deputies, who are fully certified).



See the Police/Sportsmen Tab at NJIAT, a non-profit educational corporation, located at <http://www.njiat.com/sportsmen.html> and go to topics 3, 5, 6 and 7 for further information on mergers with the Sheriff's Office taking place around the country and to read the 7 page summary Contracting Out Services of the Hunterdon County Sheriff's Office that can be used as a guide for any county or State.

There is a lot of pressure being put on the Somerset County Sheriff to keep his mouth shut—this happened to the previous Somerset County Sheriff when he suggested any Twp. police mergers go through his office and actually save the taxpayers' money.

The Proposal has more to do with the Freeholders and the Somerset County Prosecutor having control, not public safety or saving the taxpayers money. This was admitted by a former Somerset County Freeholder, who is an Assemblyman, to a county committee person at a political event in Hunterdon County. This is very shameful, a disregard for the Constitution and a breach of their fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers. If the taxpayers want to save money, use the Sheriff's Office!

Note: All counties should have their Department of Public Safety (DPS) under the Sheriff's Office.