

**The Truro Police Department**  
**Request to Add Two Additional Patrol Officers in FY15**

The Truro Police Department seeks voter support to add two additional Officers this year for the following reasons:

**1. Citizen Safety**

- In 2013 with two Officers off our roster, our town had 397 "Single-Officer" shifts with no backup.
- When the single-Officer is tied up on a call and another citizen needs help, we can have
  - Significant delays in responding to calls for assistance
  - Additional delays of 8-10 minutes' waiting (at best) for mutual aid from another town's PD.
- If we had our full complement of 12 Officers, that number would have dropped by approximately **31%** to 279 single-Officer shifts. With the two additional Officers we are requesting, that number would have dropped by **approximately 70%** to 128 single-Officer Shifts.

**2. Consistent Professional Standards**

- We have many policies and procedures that require two Officers to respond to normal calls for service (domestic violence, obtaining restraining orders, arrests, emotionally disturbed people, car accidents, alarms, processing prisoners, death notifications, and more.)
- With only one Officer, we violate our own policies and professional standards.
- A professional Police Department should not decide arbitrarily to follow some of its policies some of the time. We have to follow all of our policies all of the time.

**3. Officer Safety**

- Single-Officer shifts requires us to ask our Officers to work long additional hours, often double shifts over many days, and in some cases all or part of that alone. We need our Officers to be sharp, focused, and ready for their shifts, and to be enthusiastic members of the Department. Long-term fatigue and stress caused by extended duty on single-Officer shifts does not serve Truro nor the Officers well in the long term.

**4. Smooth Operations Under Unforeseen Circumstances:**

- Many legitimate but unanticipated circumstances cause Officers to be pulled off the schedule. These circumstances include State-mandated training, specialized training, court appearances, injuries, illnesses, family medical emergencies, military leave, specialized duty call-outs, and loss of personnel through retirements or resignations. Only two circumstances are predictable: vacations and retirements (and sometimes the retirements are unpredictable.) In the next six years, we face seven retirements including the Chief, two Sergeants, the Administrative Assistant, and three Despatchers.
- Truro PD needs to have Officer coverage sufficient to handle predictable reasons for loss of staff and to handle some unforeseen circumstances without major disruption to the services we provide to the citizens and visitors of Truro or to the Department.

**Hiring two additional Police Officers this year is the right thing to do for the right reasons at the right time.**

PLEASE support this request with your **YES** vote at the Annual Town Meeting and at the Ballot Box.

**Thank you in advance!**

*Kyle Takaljian*