

TO: Citizens of Abington

FROM: Richard J. LaFond, Town Manager  
Maureen Jansen, Chair, Board of Selectmen

SUBJECT: Update - Police Department Staffing

DATE: August 11, 2016

Due to various factors including sick leave and retirements, the Abington Police Department has been experiencing staffing challenges. Of our 27 budgeted positions, we currently have 16 positions that are filled and medically fit for duty. While this causes strain on departmental personnel and administration, the town – through our Police Chief, has worked successfully with the Abington Police Union to implement unprecedented staffing changes that will help alleviate a significant degree of that strain. This includes utilizing existing, full-time staff more broadly; employing our current, part-time officers more hours; and working with outside law enforcement agencies for mutual aid if necessary. The department is working diligently to hire and train new officers to fill vacancies – including the two School Resource Officers positions added to the department this past June. These two new hires are scheduled to graduate and report to duty from their respective academies in August and September of this year. We are also currently scheduling an additional three officers to attend upcoming police recruit academies and anticipate that they will be ready for duty in early 2017. We are pleased that the performance of the department remains at a very high level due to the professionalism and commitment of our Chief, Deputy Chief, Lieutenant, as well as the entire staff of Sergeants and Patrol Officers. We have every reason to expect – barring long term illness or injury – that the Department will be fully staffed once again in the months to come.