

To the Members of the Appropriation Committee

I am Steven Werbner , Town Manager in Tolland. Tolland has proudly been part of the Resident Trooper program for a number of years. We find their services to be professional and in line with the needs of our community. We currently have a Sergeant, three troopers and a fourth trooper who serves as a designated school resource officer. The 70/30 split in cost with the State is one we have accepted knowing that a good deal of the troopers time is spent in training and other State assignments. The State Police do not backfill for outages and therefore on a significant number of shifts we have one or no one assigned and rely on troop C for coverage.

The Governors proposal to have towns fund 100% of the cost would cost us an additional \$270,000. The average cost of a trooper with benefits is \$190,000. These types of cost for limited amounts of coverage are not justifiable. To react to the proposal will necessitate that we look at alternative methods of providing police service and possibly reduce the number of troopers assigned by two which will eliminate the school resource officer. Options of the Town hiring part time officers or constables is fraught with legal implications, personnel concerns, insurance concerns etc.

It is my understanding that state wide this change saves the State four million dollars. It would seem to me there are less onerous ways for the state to recoup that amount of money with dismantling one of the longest examples of state/municipal cooperation . I thank you for your consideration of this matter and look forward to your support in opposing this proposal.

Sincerely,

Steven Werbner
Town Manager