



**Benjamin M. Gering**  
President Local #387

# PRINCETON TOWNSHIP POLICEMAN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION LOCAL 387



The members of the Princeton Township Police Department PBA 387 are sworn to protect the Princeton Township Community and provide you with professional police services. As responsible members of the community we also feel that it is our duty to inform you about potential public safety concerns we have in regards to consolidation. While we respect the Consolidation Commission's efforts to research this topic, we believe that the cost savings are minimal while the negative impact on services and public safety will be significant.

- According to the consolidation study the alleged savings for tax payers for a combined municipality could be \$200 a year. However, this savings comes at the price of losing 9 police officers, decreasing the force to merely 51 officers. According to National Standards a consolidated Princeton should have a police department of a **minimum** of 66 officers.
- Currently, Princeton Township tax payers pay approximately \$2.00 a day for 24hr police service. (*Current price of a Starbucks Grande Coffee \$2.09*) Under consolidation your police services cost will increase by **30 %**.
- Up to a 50 % reduction in dispatch services during daytime hours. Currently between the Township and Borough there are three to four 911 operators working during peak hours. In a consolidated police department that number will be reduced to two. Dispatchers answer both your emergency and non-emergency phone calls to the Police Department.
- Princeton Borough Police historically has a higher call volume than Princeton Township. This means that more Police resources will be dedicated to the downtown district and your neighborhood will lose the following:
  - Ability to address neighborhood speeding complaints
  - Officers to patrol your neighborhood
  - Follow-up and investigative services, and
  - Slower response time to calls for service
- Princeton Township currently has a Traffic Bureau, a Community Services Bureau and a Detective Bureau. You do not need to consolidate to receive these services as the commission has reported.
- Princeton Township Police Department is accredited by CALEA and the NJ State Chief's Association, which decreases the Township's liability and insurance cost. Under consolidation this certification will be immediately lost.
- Transition costs for the police department alone will be significantly higher than reported in the commission's report.

The members of PBA 387 recognize the fact that we do not have a vote in regards to consolidation. However, it is our responsibility to inform you, the tax payer, that you will be negatively affected by the changes to police services as part of consolidation. We are professional men and women who are committed to serving the Princeton Township Community and have done so since 1927. The Princeton Township Police Department will continue to serve you to the best of our abilities. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Respectfully,

The Members of Princeton Township Police PBA 387