

Mayor: Elizabeth Gamache  
Ward 1: Timothy Hawkins  
Ward 2: James Pelkey  
Ward 3: Aaron O'Grady  
Ward 4: Jeff Young



Ward 5: Ryan Doyle  
Ward 6: Chad Spooner  
Clerk/Treasurer: Susan Krupp  
City Manager: Dominic Cloud

November 14, 2013

To the Citizens of Greater St. Albans:

I am writing to respond to allegations by the St. Albans Town Selectboard that the City is not in compliance with the Police contract. The Town alleges that the City agreed to provide the Town School with a school resource officer, and then separately contracted with the school for the same service. This is not true and is not supported by the contracts themselves; the chronology of events; or the legal relationships between school districts and municipalities.

When the City was awarded the contract to provide police services in the Town, we proposed four officers that could cover the Town: three patrol officers and one detective. That is what the Town pays for and that is what we provide. By associating with our department, we also offer access to the full resources of the department, which include everything from a drug dog to the school resource officer assigned to BFA. The Town never paid for the existing school resource officer, as that is paid for with a separate agreement with BFA. But in the event of a large event in the Town requiring an all hands on deck approach, the BFA school resource officer would be available in the Town just like they are in the City.

After reflecting on the Newtown, CT school shooting and other factors, the Town School Board approached the City and inquired about adding an additional school resource officer. We agreed and signed a separate agreement with the School Board for those services. Under both school resource officer agreements, the officers are available to respond to emergencies outside of the school. As such, City and Town residents receive some additional benefit when school boards decide to contract for school resource officers with the police department. But the suggestion that Town residents are paying twice does not hold up to scrutiny. It's a separate agreement with a separate organization for a separate service.

The City understands and respects the fact that the Selectboard and/or Town voters just plain may not want the City to provide police coverage in the Town. There are very good arguments why a municipality may choose to have their own police force. Most of them boil down to increased accountability and control over the department. We also understand that the Town may not wish to have anything to do with the City until the water and wastewater issues are resolved. We understand and respect that position as well.

Either of the above reasons – or no reason at all – is reason enough to go with the Sheriff. But there is no cause to denigrate the ethics of our police department. They have repeatedly delivered the services required under the contract. I couldn't be prouder of the work they have done to reduce crime and increase public safety in both communities. If they're not welcome in the Town, we're eager to redirect our energies to the City.

Sincerely,

Dominic Cloud  
City Manager