

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT FROM MAYOR JOSEPH MATURO, JR. RE: POLICE UNION OVERTIME

During the last two years, my administration has been certainly monitoring the amount of police overtime that our Town has had to pay, both with respect to the financial ramifications of those dollars for the taxpayer but also just as importantly the amount of hours we have asked our officers to work during this period. This was discussed recently at a general meeting of Local 1662 of the Police Union which I attended. While Union President Nappe seems to be expressing that his members are overworked and desiring of less hours, it was not the sentiment that he expressed to me during that discussion. After hearing the union's concerns, I offered to consider trying to hire 3 or 4 floating officers who would be assigned to work only available overtime shifts, which would relieve his membership of some of this overtime duty. I have also been working on civilian dispatching which would release more officers for street duty and also cut down on overtime. Both of these were not acceptable to Union President Nappe since these would affect the overtime wages for his union. To minimize the amount of overtime for our officers without reducing their wages is impossible.

In addition during the last two years, I have worked to have the Civil Service Rules modified to expedite the hiring of certified officers without the delay of schooling and certification. We have a number of transferred certified officers working within our department currently.

We have to remember that since 2011 this department has had 5 officers arrested; in addition to that, 8 other regular retirements, 1 disability and 5 resignations. We have been working tirelessly to keep up with these numbers and will continue to aggressively get our department staffed accordingly.

I am still proud of the men and women of our department who are protecting our citizens doing a fine job despite all of the problems within their department. I believe in the present direction of our department and applaud all our officers working tirelessly to make this the best police department in the state.

For more information, please contact the Mayor's office at 203-468-3204.