



## TOWNSHIP OF HILLSBOROUGH

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# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **A Single County-Wide Police Department Is Not Likely To Occur** *Hillsborough Still Interested in Police Regionalization on a Smaller Scale*

Mayor Carl Suraci asked the Township Committee, on Tuesday evening, for a general consensus to respond to the August 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to the Prosecutor's office regarding the "Prosecutor's Task Force on Regionalized Policing" final report. The Mayor proposed asking to explore other alternatives to the single county-wide police agency model since there is not sufficient interest from many of the Somerset County municipalities to enact the proposed regionalized model.

Earlier that evening, Mayor Carl Suraci, Committeeman Doug Tomson, Hillsborough Township Police Chief Paul Kaminsky and Task Force Vice Chairman Dr. Richard Celeste met to discuss the Task Force's final report, the opportunity for a public forum, and the level of interest from the other municipalities.

During that meeting, it was revealed that nearly 40% of the Municipalities in Somerset County have already declined joining the regionalization effort. This lack of participation from so many other municipalities is important because the projected savings and logistical plans for the regionalized police force were based on full participation of all 21 County Municipalities (19 local police departments) joining the Regionalized Force. With the less than 100% favorable response in advance of the August 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, the Task Force's county-wide model cannot be implemented.

In the Mayor's consensus, he asked for approval to respond to the County's August 1<sup>st</sup> deadline with Hillsborough's interest in further exploring shared services or a smaller-scale regionalized approach.

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“We are definitely interested in exploring other options and different types of consolidation or shared services that will result in taxpayer savings while offering comparable police services,” stated Mayor Suraci.

“However, at this time it appears that there will not be a single county police agency,” added the Mayor.

Committeeman Tomson concurred with the Mayor, voicing his disappointment that so many “towns came out against the proposal so quickly. We will continue to search for feasible alternatives”, added Tomson.

Suraci indicated a new study, utilizing the Task Force’s final report as guidance, would be required for those interested parties who wish to pursue a shared services type of arrangement. And, that Hillsborough would take the lead in such a study since it had representatives on 3 of the 7 sub-committees.

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