



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 12, 2015

Wilmington Chamber Board Passes Resolution in Support of Staffing Recommendations in 2014 WPD Patrol Staff Study

Wilmington, N.C. — At their regularly scheduled meeting on February 11, the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce board of directors expressed support for the findings in the 2014 Wilmington Police Department Patrol Staff Study that calls for increasing staffing levels at the WPD by 26 new officers and 8 detectives.

Based on guidelines developed by the US Department of Justice - Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and Michigan State University, effective law enforcement is best achieved when officers average no more than 60% of their time spent on calls. Achieving that ratio allows for a proactive approach to community policing, including community outreach and engagement with youth, more officers participating in programs such as the Police Athletic League (PAL), Midnight Basketball, walking foot beats, community meetings and targeted focus patrols. Improved staffing levels would also increase officer safety and help reduce the chances for critical incidents.

The resolution passed by the Chamber board of directors is attached.

For more information, please contact Scott Czechlewski at (910) 762-2611 ext. 216 or czechlewski@wilmingtonchamber.org.

About the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce

The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce is the largest membership-based business association in Southeastern North Carolina. The Chamber's mission is to ensure economic prosperity throughout our region. This is accomplished by: creating a diverse, inclusive organization that serves as a strong voice for businesses in the Greater Wilmington area; offering unique membership benefits, services and education; and challenging government officials to address long term community and business interests.

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RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE WILMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT 2014 PATROL STAFF STUDY FINDINGS TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF UNIFORMED OFFICERS AND DETECTIVES

Whereas, the types of services a police department provides changes as a city grows, creating a need to examine staffing levels to determine whether or not the WPD is meeting the demands of the community; and

Whereas, the 2014 WPD Patrol Staff Study was based on guidelines developed by the US Department of Justice - Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and Michigan State University; and

Whereas, the WPD averages 175,000-180,000 calls for service per year; and

Whereas, for effective law enforcement, only 60% of an officer's time should be spent on calls; and

Whereas, averaging no more than 60% of time spent on calls allows for a proactive approach to community policing, including community outreach and engagement with youth, more officers participating in programs such as the Police Athletic League (PAL), Midnight Basketball, walking foot beats, community meetings and targeted focus patrols; and

Whereas, improved staffing levels would increase officer safety and help reduce the chances for critical incidents; and

Whereas, the study found that an additional 26 officers and 8 detectives are needed to achieve the recommended call ratio; and

Whereas, the estimated cost for 26 new officers in the first year will be \$2.9 million, which includes training, salaries, a vehicle, etc., with a recurring cost of \$1.6 million annually; and

Whereas, the estimated cost for 8 detectives is \$524,800 annually.

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Directors of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce considers more effective law enforcement a priority and supports the Patrol Study findings to increase staffing levels at the WPD.

ADOPTED by the Board of Directors this 11th day of February, 2015.