



PROJECT #00139  
March 3, 2024

Dear Chairman Dell:

The Coalition recommends that the \$500,000 capital request for a Government Safety Complex study be **Denied**.

Is there a need for such a complex; what is the overwhelming public benefit for this one-time planning expenditure, and will such a facility require an ongoing and perpetual tax burden to the Stamford taxpayers? (*is this a solution to a nonexistent problem?*). I could not find any noted need for such a complex in the Master Plan.

Is the proposal for a state, regional or city facility? Why was this facility not considered when we built the police station?

**The taxpayers of this City are already tremendously overburdened.**

Property tax increases in Stamford have generally exceeded the increase in the Cost of Living Index. We recently built a regional school on Strawberry Hill Avenue, a police station, and are embarking on a questionably affordable school reconstruction program. We have agreed to expensive new police and fire labor contracts without having reserved properly for the retroactive payments necessary. The audit expense and rising costs of litigation will overwhelm the taxpayers. And, as a result of the revaluation, property tax increases had to be spread over two years and now the full phase-in will be reflected in our tax bills.

We do not adequately maintain public buildings and our roads are in deplorable condition. We have resorted to bonding for operational expenses, as the master plan review. As a best practices policy, bonding should be reserved for needed capital expenditures for the purpose of making large one-time capital expenditures with high average useful lives that become financially affordable by spreading out the cost burden over a reasonable period of time.

We need municipal restraint, only common sense capital and operational expenditures, and consideration for taxpayer affordability with proper capital triage, especially in this high-cost inflationary environment. In light of the crushing burden on taxpayers, is this really a project that we should be entertaining right now?

Respectfully,  
Barry Michelson  
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