

Debra Thompson

From: rickgbraun@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2021 8:11 AM
To: Assembly
Subject: Police Training

Greetings,

It seems that every day there are news items about inappropriate, dangerous and even deadly police actions throughout the country. When these incidents are investigated, the cause is often attributed to "a few bad apples" or poor police training. These problems have many causes and I don't have the education or knowledge to get into all of them. Petersburg Borough has a huge liability if it's police officers act in an unprofessional or unsafe manner. More importantly, Petersburg citizen's constitutional rights, health and safety are at great risk when police act inappropriately.

Petersburg has been very fortunate and not had many problems with bad police work. I commend our police department, the assembly and borough management for all their efforts to keep us safe. My request is that the borough look closely at the training our officers receive. Are they properly trained in constitutional rights, criminal laws, de-escalation skills and dealing with people with mental health issues? This is a very short list of the many skills police officers should be expert in.

My concern is that some of our officers get only the minimum amount of required training before being placed in circumstances that put them and the public at extreme risk if they react badly. Our police should be encouraged to constantly upgrade their education and training. They should be sent to training academies for courses that can't be taken on-line. Their pay should be increased based on their level of training. This is behind the scenes hard work that no one will notice unless it is neglected and we have a tragic incident.

Rick Braun

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10