



RUTHANNE FULLER
MAYOR

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

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May 8, 2023

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Dear Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) from June 30, 2022 Certified Free Cash, to Acct # 0120103-513010 Police Patrol Overtime.

As you will see in the attached request from Superintendent McMains, several factors contributed to this overtime request, including a current lawsuit against the State's Human Resources Division, and School Traffic Supervisor and Dispatch vacancies, among others.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

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City of Newton
Police Department

Office of the Chief of Police
HEADQUARTERS
1321 WASHINGTON STREET
NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02465

May 2, 2023

Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer
Executive Office, Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Maureen,

I respectfully request an appropriation of \$250,000.00 to cover overtime costs incurred during Fiscal Year 2023. For the entire fiscal year, we have had a minimum of five employees out injured on duty (111F). Therefore, these employees must be paid all contractual payments such as base wages, education pay, stipends and holiday pay but their shifts must be covered by overtime.

We are also currently unable to fill a Lieutenant vacancy due to a class action lawsuit filed against the State's Human Resources Division (Civil Service) which prevented a promotional list from being released. In the Patrol Bureau, a Lieutenant must be present for every shift (day, first, last) seven days per week, so there are a minimum of three overtimes per week to cover this position. Overtime coverage of this position has cost us about \$50,000.00 as of this date.

We have incurred about \$19,000.00 in overtime costs to date for the coverage of School Traffic posts because we have 13 School Traffic Supervisor vacancies.

We have five vacancies in Dispatch which are filled not only by other dispatchers but by sworn police and fire personnel. To date, we have spent more than \$300,000.00 on dispatch overtime coverage.

We currently have nine patrol officer vacancies and six student officers who were hired in January who will not be eligible to cover vacant positions until after their training is completed in August.

As you know, due to public safety concerns there are minimum staffing levels in Patrol and Dispatch so we have no other option than to fill these shifts by any means available to us.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Respectfully,

George McMains
Superintendent of Police

FIRST ACCREDITED CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT IN MASSACHUSETTS

