

Town of Somerset

A Resolution Sunsetting the Town of Somerset's Security Program

Resolution No. 24-3-1

Introduced: March 4, 2024

Adopted: April 1, 2024

Effective Date: May 1, 2024

A Resolution Sunsetting the Town of Somerset's Security Program Utilizing Secondarily-Employed Off-Duty Montgomery County Police Officers, Effective May 1, 2024

WHEREAS, the Town of Somerset established a security program utilizing Montgomery County police officers for the purpose of enhancing public safety within the town limits; and

WHEREAS, the Town's volunteer public safety committee has diligently researched and gathered data on the effectiveness of the security program over the past year; and

WHEREAS, as described in its October 18, 2023 memorandum, the Public Safety Committee~~the public safety committee~~ has concluded that the current security program is not effectively deterring crime within the Town of Somerset; and

WHEREAS, the Traffic Committee, in its September 22, 2023 memorandum, concluded that "the policing program is not increasing stop sign compliance or general traffic safety in any measurable way"; and

WHEREAS, alternative holistic methods such as public awareness campaigns, individual crime prevention actions by residents, infrastructure improvements, and targeted programs for speeding and stop sign violations have been identified as potentially more efficient and effective in enhancing public safety and utilizing town funds; and

WHEREAS, the Montgomery County Police already provide a robust police presence in the Town of Somerset, and the Town appreciates their efforts, as well as the efforts of all law enforcement officers to protect our community; and

WHEREAS, the Committee has submitted a formal recommendation to the Town Council recommending that the program end; and

WHEREAS, numerous residents of the Town of Somerset have expressed their support for ending the police program within the town;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Town Council of the Town of Somerset that the Town of Somerset's security program utilizing Town-employed Montgomery County police officers shall be sunset, and all associated contracts and agreements with the Montgomery County Police Department shall be terminated, effective May 1, 2024; and

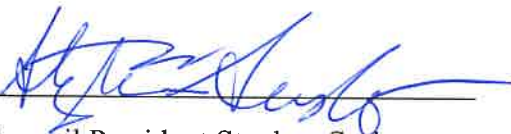
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Somerset Town Manager is hereby directed to provide notice of this resolution to the Montgomery County Police Department and all participating officers.

This resolution shall take effect on May 1, 2024.

Certified and adopted by the Council of the Town of Somerset on this 1st day of April, 2024.



Mayor Jeffrey Slavin



Council President Stephen Surko

Attest:



EJ Hardwick, Town Manager/Clerk-Treasurer