

It has been a while since I have sent out my last letter. Like everyone else the summer was way too busy and went by too fast making life a blur.

Over the last few days you may have read in the Orleans Hub and the Batavia Daily News about the Police Study for Orleans County. This study is funded by a partial grant that Orleans County applied for. The County paid for the amount of the project that the grant did not cover. The steering committee for which I was a part of, selected CGR to conduct the study.

On Wednesday November 15th at 5pm there will be a public meeting at the Medina High School Auditorium to present the findings of the study. In the study there will be five policing options. Four of the five options will show some type of impact on both the Village and County property tax structure. One will show a status quo, policing as it is now.

There are four of these public meetings that will include survey questions that can be answered through text message on a smart phone or a tablet that will be provided for those who do not have a smart phone. Also these meetings can be viewed live on Facebook at the Highland Planning page <https://www.facebook.com/Highland-Planning> . If you are watching the meeting on Facebook you will also be able to participate by answering the questions using a smart phone.

Once all the meetings have taken place all the answers will be collected and presented to the steering committee. When the committee meets, it will have to decide, depending on the answers provided, what options to move forward with. If it determines that the best policing option for the County is one of the four tax savings options, each Village will have their own public input meeting. From that meeting the Village Boards would decide how to move forward in the project. If any of the options indicates that the local Village police force has to be eliminated, there must be a Village wide referendum to eliminate the police department. If the Village residents vote not to eliminate their police force then that Village will not continue to participate in the option. If it is a positive vote, that Village will move forward in the option for police services.

I urge everyone to participate either in person or on line through Facebook to be involved in these public information meetings. Watch the other community meetings on the Highland Planning Facebook page to get an idea of what they think about the proposal. Read the study at the CGR website <https://cgr.org/orleans-police>. These meetings are to be informational not confrontational. When attending, please be respectful to the presenter and your fellow residents.

Thank you,

Mike Sidari
Mayor