



Town of St. George

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MEMO: To Knox County Law Enforcement Funding Task Force

FROM: John M Falla, Town Manager

DATE: August 20, 2003

SUBJECT: Task Force Draft Report

Thanks for providing a draft copy of your report for review and comments. The area of law enforcement has always been a confusing one for me, mostly due to the fact that there are three (3) levels of law enforcement (*state, county and local*) that can at any time be responsible for the same situation. I agree with your theory that all communities benefit from the presence of any level of law enforcement. However, I do have some questions.

My questions or concerns seem to focus on the definition of "full time law enforcement departments", and are as follows:

- Does "full-time" mean 24-hour-a-day coverage? If "full-time" is 24-hour coverage, would a lesser credit be allowed for a town providing local law enforcement on a part-time / seasonal basis or through contract services? Does the patrolling by only "full-time" law enforcement departments provide a benefit to all communities?
- If a full or lesser credit is allowed for a town with contract services, would those contract services have to be with the County Sheriff or could they be with the State Police?
- Using the example of "the drunk driver picked up in Rockland is no longer a risk to residents of South Thomaston or St. George", should the islands of Knox County be given special consideration because of their geographic isolation? Should they be exempt from the additional assessment as well as not be allowed any credit for having contract services?

Thanks for taking your time to tackle this difficult issue and the opportunity for others to provide comments on your draft report.