

TOWN OF VINALHAVEN
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received
8-20-03

August 18, 2003

Law Enforcement Funding Task Force
c/o Virginia Lindsey, County Clerk
62 Union Street
Rockland, Maine 04841

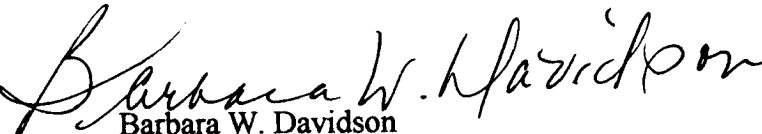
Dear Sir or Madam:

We find it absurd and quite frankly presumptuous of the task force to even consider assessing the islands of Vinalhaven and North Haven an additional credit because of the "value to all county residents" provided by the local police departments of Camden, Rockland, Rockport, and Thomaston. Just how do you justify this notion?

We do not even receive a direct benefit from the Knox County Sheriff's patrol, let alone the neighboring police departments. In addition to the Assessment for Patrol included in our County Assessment, we budget an additional \$61,442 to pay for a deputy to come to Vinalhaven. We have to provide housing (including cable television), office space, a pager, telephone service at both the apartment and the police office, and gas for the Knox County vehicle.

There is no way that Vinalhaven will agree to pay this additional credit. Given this theory, we should not have to pay the basic Assessment for Patrol, as we receive zero benefit. Because we pay for our deputy, we are really paying for our own police department. We do not agree that the "municipal police departments providing law enforcement services are of value to all county residents."

Sincerely,


Barbara W. Davidson
Chair, Board of Selectmen

