



Shawn M. Bennett
CHIEF OF POLICE

Police Department

Borough of Mountain Lakes

400 Boulevard
Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046
(973) 334-1413 • Fax (973) 334-4123



Mayor & Council,

5/13/24

You may be aware that the police officer assigned as the School Resource Officer is resuming duty as a supervising patrol officer. I would like to speak briefly about why this is necessary and ways the Borough has been working with the Mountain Lakes School administration to address this issue.

The decision to reassign the senior officer is due to a temporary manpower issue. The MLPD routinely assigns officers as needs dictate and to ensure that we are protecting the community in the best ways possible. Reassigning is sometimes necessary to maintain patrol staffing and supervision requirements.

As soon as the MLPD became aware of the necessity to change the resource officer's assignment, the Mountain Lakes School District administration was advised.

Borough officials and the school administration recently met to discuss suitable options. This meeting was attended by the Mayor, BOE President, other members of Borough Council, the Bd. of Education, the Borough Manager, and the Schools Superintendent. The goal of this meeting was to work together to find the best solution to continue to protect and serve our community, including the possibility of hiring a School Resource Officer in time for the start of the new school year, and to share best practices from other neighboring communities.

While these options are being evaluated, MLPD patrol officers have been directed to perform school walk-throughs daily.

We recognize the benefits to the School Resource Officer position. Manpower issues, not funding issues, dictated the current reassignment by the MLPD, and it is my sincere hope that the School Resource Officer position will be filled in the near future.

Best Regards,

Chief Shawn Bennett