



Town of Chelmsford
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Patricia E. Dzuris, CMC, CMMC
Town Clerk

July 14, 2022

Virginia Crocker Timmins, Chair
Chelmsford Select Board

Dear Madam Chair,

On June 22, the election reform law (the "VOTES Act") was signed into law by Governor Baker. The VOTES act makes many of the changes from the pandemic permanent (i.e., Vote by Mail and Early In-Person Voting). In addition, the assignment of police officers at polling places now requires a vote of the Select Board.

The new law specifically states:

Ch 92, Section 72 of the Acts of 2022. The select board, board of selectmen, town council or city council of each city and town, in consultation with its election officers and registrars, shall detail a sufficient number of police officers or constables for each building that contains the polling place for 1 or more precincts at every election therein to preserve order and to protect the election officers and supervisors from any interference with their duties and to aid in enforcing the laws relating to elections.

I request the following action be taken:

Vote to detail (1) One Police Officer to the Town Offices during Early Voting hours
and to detail the following Police Officers inside the polling locations on Election Day:

Three (3) Police Officers at the McCarthy Middle School
One (1) Police Officer at the Senior Center
One (1) Police Officer at the Town Offices

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Patricia Dzuris

cc: Paul Cohen
Board of Registrars
Chief James Spinney
Lt. Jason Poor



Town of Chelmsford Police Department

July 15th, 2022

To: Chelmsford Select Board
From: Police Chief James Spinney
Re: Staffing of Police Officers at Election Polling Places

Dear Select Board Members,

With regards to Chapter 92, Section 72 of the Acts of 2022 I am writing to support the continuation of the current staffing of five police officers to provide security within polling places during election days. My recommendation for staffing relates to our current practice, which has been in place for several years, and has worked extremely well. Past police officer staffing has included three officers in the McCarthy School, one officer in Town Offices, and one officer in the Senior Center.

In addition to providing a safe environment for voters, campaign staff and election workers, officers are tasked with the transporting of ballots, as well as other administrative responsibilities.

If you have any questions, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James M. Spinney". The signature is stylized and fluid.

James M. Spinney
Police Chief