



DETECTIVES' ENDOWMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
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Mr. Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.
Essex County Executive
County of Essex, New Jersey
465 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Room 405
Newark, New Jersey 07102

October 30, 2023

Dear Mr. DiVincenzo:

We can't help but note the irony on your website message on the county directory for Essex, New Jersey. While you are touting all the recreational facilities in Essex, we know what our brothers and sisters in the Essex Police Department are dealing with: high crime, rampant violence, and impossible working conditions. Since many of our retired DEA members live in New Jersey, we are dismayed to learn that those who protect and serve your County have been doing so without raises for the past seven years, without funding for equipment, without funding for training, and without proper riot gear, even in these dangerous and unpredictable times of smash and grab armed robberies, social media flash mobs, terrorism threats, and mass shootings.

While I am sure you imagine pumping funding into golf courses and environmental centers is productive, it's not productive if your environment is the most crime ridden in the State of New Jersey. Essex County is a hotbed of criminal activity and your county jail is the most violent in your State. Your Officers are functioning with minimal training, antiquated equipment, and diminished staffing, and yet you seem to have funding for animal hospitals and putting greens. *Isn't it about time you got your priorities straight?*

Given what recently happened in the rural enclave of Lewiston, Maine, defunding law enforcement is simply the most criminal activity any politician can engage in during these precarious times. We cannot sit by idly watching your police force suffer because of political malfeasance. Please do the right thing for the citizens of New Jersey and start funding what really matters: **public safety.**

Sincerely,

Paul DiGiacomo
President

PDG/sfk

