



Town of Chilmark
Office of
Police Department
Chilmark, Massachusetts 02535

Chief of Police
Jonathan P. Klarén

Station (508) 645-3310
Fax 645-3101
Communications 693-1212

November 19, 2021

To: Town of Chilmark Select Board
From: Jonathan P. Klarén, Chief of Police

Re: Proposed restructure of the Chilmark Police Department

One of the enactments of the 2021 Massachusetts Police Reform Act was the elimination of the special police officer program. The Chilmark Police Department has used special officers since the 1980's to augment the full-time staff during the summer months and intermittently in the winter.

I am asking the Select Board to consider adding an additional full-time police officer position in FY23. I feel that this additional employee is crucial for maintaining our staffing needs and would also provide a more professional service.

I have met with representatives of the town's HRB & FinCom about this proposal. We discussed the reasoning, urgency and financial impact of this request. While they support this proposal, we all agree that it needs the Select Board approval in order to proceed.

Additionally, our harbormaster recently approached me with the suggestion that the harbor department take over the duties of traffic enforcement in Menemsha.

I have attached 2 documents that outline and explain the reasoning and benefits of the additional full-time police officer and movement of the traffic duties to harbor dept.

I am asking the Select Board to support of the concept of these two restructures so that we can continue to work with Chilmark's HRB and FinCom to bring back the most beneficial package for your final review and approvals.

Thank you,