

### About the Police Facility Committee (PFC)

Volunteers from across the community were charged to improve the working conditions and effectiveness of the personnel that protect our safety and security. The PFC consisted of citizens, members from Police Department, Selectboard and Trustees.

Over a two-year period the committee studied a multitude of options with the help of architecture, construction and environmental experts. They considered community requirements for policing, the inadequacy of existing Police Department facilities, new building design concepts, construction methods for designing and building a new facility and energy efficiency elements.

The following details represent the PFC's recommendations.

## The Police Facility Committee Recommends and Supports

- Building a new facility that meets the current and future public safety needs of the community
- Consolidation of multiple locations into a single space
- Suitable working conditions for employees and citizens interacting with the Police Department (PD)
- A site location with access to major routes that traverse Essex
- Designs that include opportunities for energy efficiency and LEED certification

## Goals of the New Police Facility

- To provide a **SECURE ENVIRONMENT** for the public and police officers
- To design A **FACILITY** to better **SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY**
- To enhance **COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH** programs
- To better **INTEGRATE TECHNOLOGY**
- To improve **INTERDEPARTMENTAL WORK FLOW**
- To meet **OPERATIONAL** and **LONG-TERM STORAGE** requirements
- To provide workspace **FLEXIBILITY** and **EXPANDABILITY**

# Essex Community Police Facility

Vermont's 2nd Largest Town's Investment in Public Safety, Its Employees and the Future



**VOTE NOVEMBER 6th**



# A New Home for Your Police Provides:

- An 18,000 square foot, 1 story building will accommodate the PD for the next 40 years
- All Essex PD operations under one roof
- Eliminates today's off site rentals (\$45K/yr)
- More efficient operations
- Energy Efficient (LEED "Silver" capable)
- Occupant and visitor friendly
- Healthier air, better lighting
- Adequate parking
- Visible and accessible to the public



## WHY NOW?

*"The existing police facility... is not sufficient to carry out the mission of the department"*

(David E. Demag, Chief, 2001 Essex Annual Report)

- Need to grow with the future population of Essex
- Current multiple locations add costs and inefficiency, including leased space for detectives and parking
- Proven inadequate in large "safety incidents"
- No citizen privacy for complaints and investigation
- Poor existing working conditions for officers
- Detrimental to employee morale, public interactions, health and safety of building users
- Inefficient operations
- Poor location
- At  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre is inadequate parking and no room for expansion
- Located in floodplain
- Although Essex is the second largest community in VT, the PD had the least amount of space per PD employee in County
- Compared to all the other police organizations in Chittenden County, Essex has  $\frac{1}{3}$ <sup>rd</sup> to  $\frac{1}{8}$ <sup>th</sup> the amount of space per employee