



Dear Warson Woods Resident,

Like many municipalities, the Warson Woods city council is tasked with exploring ways to bring meaningful financial and logistical efficiencies to our city. This is increasingly important as the ever-shifting landscape within both the country and county make it crucial that we position ourselves for future stability, growth and protection of our autonomy.

In light of this, the Warson Woods and Glendale city councils are considering a merger of police forces that will enhance the quality and efficiency of policing both cities.

Please note, when we say considering we mean we want to be fully educated on what this means for Warson Woods and that is why we want your input. No decision has been made OTHER than to seek input and see if this proposal is right for Warson Woods.

Please join us as we discuss this proposed partnership at the town hall meeting on **Wednesday, April 14 at 7:00pm**. No action will be taken at the town hall meeting; rather it is to share information, thoughts and ideas. In the meantime, here is an overview of the proposal which may answer some immediate questions:

What will happen to our police force?

First and foremost in importance, all five of our patrolmen have been offered a position in the new department, and would receive the same or an increase in salary and benefits, enhanced health insurance and an enhanced retirement plan. Contrary to recent rumors, no one would be terminated or lose their job. The same individuals who currently patrol our streets, know our children's names as well as our pets would continue to provide the same level of service and protection we have come to know and appreciate.

Police Chief Robert Stanczak, although he would retire after many years as Warson Woods Chief of Police and even more years as an officer, would stay with the City in the role of Operations Manager. This new position involves a variety of responsibilities, including: Assisting with city administration, code enforcement, parks and public works, city engineer and building commissioner support.

Why a public safety partnership?

The City of Warson Woods has roughly \$1,800,000 of deferred Capital Maintenance and deferred Capital Improvements. So, why not consider a property tax increase? A property tax increase would only serve as a temporary financial band-aid which would need to be revisited every few years to ensure the tax increase has kept up with our ever-increasing expenses. As with existing property taxes, any approved increase would be levied based on assessed property values, meaning some of our residents would pay considerably more than others.

Why Glendale?

For over fifty years, Warson Woods and Glendale have enjoyed a mutually beneficial, cost effective fire/EMS and dispatching/prisoner holding partnership, and have shared court administrative services for

two years. The City of Warson Woods also has a collaborative agreement with the City of Glendale for the purchase of bulk salt and storage of it at the City of Glendale's Public Works facility. Also, we are geographically close, and residents of both communities value the culture of a small town feel within a big city.

How would this partnership impact public safety (neighborhood patrolling and response times)?

We expect both municipalities would see the same amount of police patrol coverage, and response times are anticipated to remain unchanged. Additionally, residents would see the same level of community outreach and involvement they've come to know and appreciate.

How much money would this save Warson Woods?

We will provide a detailed cost breakdown at the town hall meeting, but this partnership would save Warson Woods approximately \$2 million over ten years.

A Special Board Meeting to discuss the PSA will be:

April 14th at the Warson Woods City Hall at 7PM

All in-person attendees will be limited to 85 per St. Louis County guidelines – we will have a sign-up sheet shortly. The City of Warson Woods will also stream the meeting via ZOOM:

Webinar ID: 567 813 707

Any questions or comments, please direct them to kmahany@warsonwoods.com and I will respond.

Thank you,

Larry Howe