



## *Village of Wappingers Falls*

INCORPORATED 1871

2582 SOUTH AVENUE, DUTCHESS COUNTY, WAPPINGERS FALLS, N.Y. 12590-2701

### **For Immediate Release**

### **Village Announces Change in Police Department Operating Hours**

**November 13, 2024**

To our Village Residents,

As of **November 15, 2024, at 11:59 p.m.**, the operational hours of the Village Police Department will shift to **8:00 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week**. This means there will no longer be overnight coverage by our Village Police, but alternative support will be in place.

This decision was made after exhaustive consideration, dialogue, and review of the options available to us. The challenges we face in staffing our police department are shared by municipalities across the nation, as communities everywhere contend with a well-known shortage of police personnel. Our Village is further constrained by civil service regulations that limit the hours many of our officers can work. Despite ongoing efforts to secure waivers, adjust shift schedules, and hire new officers for over six months, we are still grappling with these challenges.

The decision to reallocate our available staff to serve during peak times of the day and evening is a carefully considered approach to ensure that our community is supported when it needs it most. This reallocation reflects our commitment to maintaining the best possible level of service to the Village residents.

Our Village will continue to have exemplary police protection during the hours when our department is closed, thanks to strong collaboration with neighboring agencies:

- The **New York State Police**, located less than a quarter of a mile outside the Village, regularly patrol our region.
- The **Dutchess County Sheriff's Office** also holds jurisdiction across the county, ensuring that support is available as needed.

For any emergencies during overnight hours, residents may dial **911**. Calls to our Village Police Department during these hours will be forwarded directly to the **New York State Police** for an immediate response.

The Village Board will continue to monitor and evaluate the situation closely and may make adjustments to police department operating hours as the circumstances warrant.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support as we navigate these challenging times together.