



Making It Better, Together.

The Camden County Police Department: FAQs

Q: How will the CCPD make our communities safer?

A: It will efficiently and cost-effectively provide resources, equipment, staffing and professionals by eliminating redundant layers of administrative operations and bureaucracy.

Q: What kind of input will local jurisdictions have?

A: Municipal leaders will participate in the governance, staffing, equipment and resource allocation. They are already studying all these issues in the subcommittees formed by the County.

Q: Who will run the CCPD?

A: There will be a Public Safety professional running the Department.

Q: Who will select the officers and leadership?

A: The Freeholders and the participating municipalities' leadership will select the officers.

Q: If the municipality dissolves its force, can their officers be hired by the CCPD?

A: Participating community leadership will be able to prioritize rehires from their existing staffs.

Q: What uniforms and equipment will the new police department have to buy?

A: Initially, the new police department will use existing local uniforms, vehicles, equipment, etc., with the simple addition of a "tag line" that says Camden County Police Department. CCPD officers will have a local identity and will appear to the community as they do now.

Q: Police officers deserve fair compensation. Will they be paid fairly?

A: Police professionals will be paid fairly and professionally.

Q: What parts of the agency will be regionalized and which parts will remain under local control?

A: Administrative functions such as payroll, benefits, purchasing and IT could be centralized. Special teams will likely be deployed from a central location. Scheduling and administration of local priorities should remain the responsibility of the respective local district or community, through the use of "district commanders" or the like. An important objective is to maintain strong local and community identity.

Q: Where/how will towns realize economies of scale?

A: Centralized administrative and special teams deployment will provide savings whether five or 20 towns join the County Department.

Q: Will the same level of local, municipal coverage exist in my town?

A: Administrative efficiencies and reduced costs are intended to lead to increased patrol officers on the street and in the neighborhoods, increasing the quality of services.

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Q: Will response times suffer?

A: Most towns currently support each other through mutual aid agreements for when major incidents occur.

Q: Will community programs such as DARE and community policing programs suffer under a countywide department?

A: The goal of the County Police Department is to continue and improve those services.

Q: Our current police officers know our community better than anyone. Will this suffer?

A: The CCPD is intended to be a district-based system, which will function with local identity and community presence, as they do now. The CCPD will function as local officers.

Q: No other counties in New Jersey have countywide departments. Why is this proposal a good idea for Camden County?

A: The efficient use of resources, staffing and merging of functions is commonly practiced in the private sector and business community. Several other New Jersey counties are in the process of starting countywide police departments, with the goal of providing quality services at responsible costs.

Q: Is this concept designed as a bailout for the City of Camden?

A: No. Police layoffs in Camden City are a pressing issue, but it will be up to each individual municipality whether to join a county police department. It's also important to remember that crime knows no boundaries and increasingly has become regionalized and travels freely within our county and even neighboring counties. Camden City crime should be a concern to all of us, since a significant amount of the crime committed in Camden is by suburban residents traveling into the City and engaging in criminal activity, specifically to buy or distribute drugs. We all need a strong police presence in Camden City to protect our residents throughout the county from illegal and dangerous activity. If the City were to join the County Department, it would be its own distinct district.

Q: Why should municipalities do this?

A: Many mayors have faced increasingly difficult budget cycles that are forcing police officer layoffs. In Camden County and the rest of New Jersey, there is no better time to counter mass police layoffs and increased police retirements than by working together to provide regional solutions, as Camden County has already done in other areas.

Q: Is the countywide police department concept an attempt to break unions?

A: No, this is not the intent. The intent is to lower the costs to taxpayers while maintaining and even increasing the service in public safety. With further cuts to state aid and declining revenues, local governments have few choices other than to reduce the cost of delivering services. If public safety operations are restructured, local governments will be able to continue to provide high quality, cost-efficient public safety.

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Q: If union contracts are broken, can you hire quality officers at fair pay and fair benefits?

A: The County Police Department will hire the most qualified officers with the necessary skills, good work ethic and knowhow to work well with the public. Pay and benefits will be fairly determined, and consideration will be given to experienced officers who will be working for the new CCPD.

Q: If the County is laying off corrections officers and 911 operators , how can the County afford to run a new police department?

A: This is a fee-for-service, cost-plus proposal, meaning that each municipality that joins the system would pay directly for the service. Reduced, shared costs would lead to lower costs for participating municipalities and, most importantly, to taxpayers.

Q: How will the County deal with legal challenges, if any, to the formation of this County police department?

A: The County would address all costs associated with any legal challenges to the formation of this new entity. **It is equally important to note that Camden County would NOT be responsible for or cover in any way any and all legal challenges and costs associated with prior events attributable to the municipality that wishes to join a County police department.** These prior costs and expenses would remain the responsibility of the joining municipality.

Q: How do we all ensure that each district area is responsible for itself and not for other areas in the CCPD?

A: Each district/metro area/command area will be separate from each other as it relates to liability, litigation and accountability.