



DAVID L. KURZ
Chief of Police

DURHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

86 DOVER ROAD
DURHAM, NH 03824-3333

Bus. (603) 868-2324
Fax (603) 868-8037
Email: police@ci.durham.nh.us

RENE H. KELLEY
Deputy Chief

DAVID HOLMSTOCK
Captain

March 9, 2016

Michael Behrendt, Director
Durham Planning and Community Development
8 Newmarket Road
Durham, New Hampshire 03824

Dear Michael:

Last year the Police Department constructed a Firearms Range at the Public Works Facility located on Stone Quarry Drive and in so doing made a number of statements to the Planning Board at their February 25, 2015 meeting. It is my intention that the firearms range be a temporary arrangement until a more permanent County-wide range could be constructed on land in Dover. That County-wide range has yet to be built and it is appropriate that I report to the Planning Board the status of our situation.

The department in fact used the range last summer during the daylight hours for a period of three or four days for qualification purposes. Later it was used one evening in November for low-light firearms training. Each time the range was utilized, letters to those homes in proximity were sent alerting of the use and providing a telephone number where there were concerns. The summer daylight qualifications occurred with only one call expressing concerns and I personally met with the caller and together we visited the range and witnessed the officers qualifying. Once he saw the safety features and the manner in which the officers were firing, he expressed his satisfaction with the arrangement. However, November was slightly different and even though letters were sent to those in close proximity, several calls were received by the department from locations where letters were not sent. While an officer responded to each of the four caller's homes, it was my conclusion that without leaves on the trees dampening the noise in conjuncture with cold evening, the sound of the firearms discharge carried further than the summer event. It would be my plan to attempt to perform the lowlight training significantly earlier in the season while expanding the area that our letters would be mailed.

To reiterate the nuances of the range, it will be used exclusively by the Durham Police with qualifications occurring at least two times annually, possibly three as one of exercises occurs in "low-light" generally after Daylight Savings time occurs. The actual training with the weapons would take place over a 20-hour combined period throughout the calendar year. The actual discharge of a firearm probably consumes half that time for a total year of 10-hours of actual

A NATIONALLY ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY



noise. The training requirements are based upon requirements from the New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council, supported by Statute, which require the completion of sanctioned firearms and use of force training with qualifications occurring at least once annually. As the Durham Police are a nationally accredited agency, members of the department must qualify twice annually in addition to the low-light familiarization for a total of three times annually while remaining with the 20-hours.

I appreciate the opportunity to present this report to the Durham Planning Board and look forward to their feedback and recommendations. In the interim, if there are any questions or desire to speak with me prior to the scheduled meeting, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



David L. Kurz
Chief of Police