



October 28, 2019

To: Hampton Board of Selectman  
Hampton State Delegation  
Hampton Town Manager

From: Richard E. Sawyer, Chief of Police

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RES" or similar, written over the printed name of the Chief of Police.

Ref: North Shore Neighborhood Meeting

On Tuesday October 22, 2019 a neighborhood meeting was held in response to complaints the Hampton Police Department has been receiving from the residents of the North Shore area. These complaints included speeding vehicles, drag racing, loud motorcycles along Ocean Blvd, and unlawful fireworks displays, loud idling vehicles, loud music coming from vehicles, and rowdy behavior in the State Park along the Seawall area. The meeting was attended by over 40 people including a local media reporter.

Many of the people in attendance gave detailed accounts of the disruption they are experiencing. The disruptions being described are not merely nuisances to the community but also a threat to both life and property. A number of the residents described "car clubs" and "mudder trucks" that seem to be frequently parking numerous vehicles along the Seawall in the State Park that is creating many of the issues in the area. The Hampton Police Department has made over 500 vehicle stops and over 40 arrests for DWI in the North Shore area year to date.

Increased police presence, cameras, and speed bumps were some of the suggestions made to address the issues. Current staffing levels are making it difficult for HPD to address the many quality of life issues we are experiencing throughout the community. The part-time officer staffing levels at HPD have dropped by 11 officers since 2010. Recruitment and retention of police officers is a crisis across the country and not likely to change in the near future. The other suggestions were not fiscally, politically or legally feasible at this time.

We talked about what was occurring in the State Park parking lot and what changes could be made to improve the situation. I recommended that a curfew on parking in the State Lot could be imposed similar to the one utilized on the main beach several years ago to reduce similar behavior that was occurring. Administrative rules in the State Lot prohibiting idling vehicles and loud music could also be enacted to help alleviate some of the complaints. These suggestions were well received and I committed to contact the State Park Administration for a discussion.



On Thursday October 24, 2019 I spoke with Director of State Parks Phil Bryce, Supervisor of Park Operations Mike Houseman, and Seacoast Regional Supervisor Meredith Collins and informed them of the issues raised at the meeting. I am happy to report that Director Bryce was very supportive and prepared to take measures to ensure the State Park is not a source of disruption to its abutters. The Director is already committed to bringing a curfew to parking in spaces along the Seawall and is open to further discussions regarding the loud idling and music emanating from that area. The Director also asked that any other complaints regarding the State Park should be given to Supervisor Collins (meredith.collins@dncr.nh.gov) .

I have also had the opportunity to speak with Colonel Christopher Wagner regarding this issue. The Colonel is committed to working with HPD dealing with the ongoing motor vehicle violations that are occurring on the North Shore. We will coordinate increased directed patrols by HPD and NHSP earlier in the season in effort to curb the issues. I am confident that with the cooperation from our partners in the State Park and NHSP we will be able to affect a positive change for our North Shore residents.

Best regards,