

Cortland County

Road Patrol



Sheriff's Department

Division

Cortland, New York 13045

(607) 753-3311 – Main

(607) 753-7895 - Fax

October 27, 2011

Town of Preble
Town Supervisor James Doring
6785 Steger Road
Preble, New York 13141

Re: 2012 Cortland County Budget

Dear Mr. Doring:

I would like to take a moment to thank the Town of Preble for giving me the opportunity to address its members at the October board meeting. At the meeting I expressed my concern regarding the potential impact the 2012 Cortland County budget proposal could have on the Cortland County Sheriff's Department and the public that they serve. The initial proposal intended to cut approximately \$350,000.00 from the Sheriff's budget which would result in a reduction of 4-5 Road Patrol Officers. I would like to remind everyone that I only have 5 officers on my midnight to eight in the morning shift now, so eliminating 4-5 officers would be the equivalent to eliminating a shift. It goes without saying that services we currently provide would also have to be reduced.

I am happy to report that on October 18, 2011, I was advised that Cortland County Administrator Martin Murphy had reported that the \$350,000.00 reduction originally proposed would no longer be suggested for removal from the Sheriff's 2012 budget. Although the 2012 budget has not yet been approved by the Cortland County Legislature, it appears it will be without the aforementioned cut.

I would also like to take this time to remind the residents of Cortland County that although these are tough financial times we live in, there are certain areas within our county that continue to thrive. The noticeable increase in business and traffic in the Town of Cortlandville for example continue to be a growing stress to the minimal numbers of law enforcement professionals we have now, and we cannot afford to go backwards, so please keep this in mind when potential cuts are suggested to any of our local law enforcement agencies.

For anyone that is interested in looking at our local crime statistics, I think they will be surprised to find how much the Cortland County Sheriff's Department does. For an example, I would refer you to the New York State DCJS website for the recently published report of the Index Crime Summary for Counties by Agency. In that report alone you will see that crime in Cortland County has increased over the past 6 months by over 13%. This report will show you how many reports the law enforcement agencies within this county are taking in a select group of crimes. In looking at this report you can see that the Sheriff's department is keeping pace, if not handling more reports than the Cortland City Police, who currently have 11 more officers than the Sheriff's department. And due to cuts in the New York State Police, according to this report the Sheriff's Department is currently handling more than 2 reports to every 1 report that the State Police take.

I remind you that Cortland County consists of many things; a city, 3 villages, and 15 towns totaling approximately 502 square miles. It's the home to approximately 49,000 people, a SUNY Cortland College, an active business and farming community, and Interstate 81. Every day the Cortland County Sheriff's Department is asked to do more with less. We the Sheriff's Department are blessed with a crew of devoted, highly motivated professionals and **in the end, we can only be as good as you the public allow us to be.** Please keep this in mind when the 2012 budget proposal is decided upon and help to make sure the Sheriff's Department's Road Patrol stays in tact.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Helms". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long horizontal line that extends to the right.

Captain Mark E. Helms
Cortland County Sheriff's Department
54 Greenbush Street
Cortland, New York 13045

PRELIMINARY DATA FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES ONLY

Index Crime Summary
January - June 2010 vs. 2011

(includes only agencies with 6 months complete reporting for both years as of 9/07/2011)

County	Jan-Jun	Total	Violent	Murder	Forcible Rape	Robbery	Agg. Assault	Property	Burglary	Larceny	MV Theft
Non - New York City 95.0% coverage	2010	116,331	12,916	165	819	4,012	7,920	103,415	19,649	79,168	4,598
	2011	107,685	11,566	110	724	3,676	7,056	96,119	18,596	73,384	4,139
	% Change	-7.4%	-10.5%	-33.3%	-11.6%	-8.4%	-10.9%	-7.1%	-5.4%	-7.3%	-10.0%
Albany 97.4% coverage	2010	5,163	534	2	27	162	343	4,629	738	3,731	160
	2011	4,628	522	2	21	177	322	4,106	614	3,371	121
	% Change	-10.4%	-2.2%	0.0%	-22.2%	9.3%	-6.1%	-11.3%	-16.8%	-9.6%	-24.4%
Allegany 99.0% coverage	2010	419	46	0	8	3	35	373	85	279	9
	2011	404	31	0	3	1	27	373	86	280	7
	% Change	-3.6%	-32.6%	NA	-62.5%	-66.7%	-22.9%	0.0%	1.2%	0.4%	-22.2%
Broome 100.0% coverage	2010	2,942	237	3	22	53	159	2,705	443	2,212	50
	2011	3,011	236	2	28	60	146	2,775	467	2,250	58
	% Change	2.3%	-0.4%	-33.3%	27.3%	13.2%	-8.2%	2.6%	5.4%	1.7%	16.0%
Cattaraugus 94.3% coverage	2010	853	89	0	8	5	76	764	176	566	22
	2011	794	71	0	3	8	60	723	155	554	14
	% Change	-6.9%	-20.2%	NA	-62.5%	60.0%	-21.1%	-5.4%	-11.9%	-2.1%	-36.4%
Cayuga 100.0% coverage	2010	857	81	0	8	11	62	776	148	616	12
	2011	762	83	1	13	6	63	679	117	547	15
	% Change	-11.1%	2.5%	NA	62.5%	-45.5%	1.6%	-12.5%	-20.9%	-11.2%	25.0%
Chautauqua 100.0% coverage	2010	1,742	145	1	24	25	95	1,597	333	1,229	35
	2011	1,616	127	1	14	24	88	1,489	345	1,104	40
	% Change	-7.2%	-12.4%	0.0%	-41.7%	-4.0%	-7.4%	-6.8%	3.6%	-10.2%	14.3%
Chemung 100.0% coverage	2010	1,004	99	3	5	19	72	905	179	708	18
	2011	1,038	74	1	8	10	55	964	173	773	18
	% Change	3.4%	-25.3%	-66.7%	60.0%	-47.4%	-23.6%	6.5%	-3.4%	9.2%	0.0%
Chenango 98.4% coverage	2010	446	33	0	10	0	23	413	90	316	7
	2011	446	35	0	7	1	27	411	88	317	6
	% Change	0.0%	6.1%	NA	-30.0%	NA	17.4%	-0.5%	-2.2%	0.3%	-14.3%
Clinton 100.0% coverage	2010	854	50	3	11	6	30	804	154	629	21
	2011	781	34	0	8	1	25	747	152	586	9
	% Change	-8.5%	-32.0%	-100.0%	-27.3%	-83.3%	-16.7%	-7.1%	-1.3%	-6.8%	-57.1%
Columbia 70.4% coverage	2010	509	45	1	5	1	38	464	120	330	14
	2011	488	38	0	2	6	30	450	125	319	6
	% Change	-4.1%	-15.6%	-100.0%	-60.0%	500.0%	-21.1%	-3.0%	4.2%	-3.3%	-57.1%
Cortland 100.0% coverage	2010	475	28	0	4	5	19	447	93	344	10
	2011	537	33	0	7	5	21	504	91	406	7
	% Change	13.1%	17.9%	NA	75.0%	0.0%	10.5%	12.8%	-2.2%	18.0%	-30.0%
Delaware 81.2% coverage	2010	289	18	1	2	1	14	271	80	182	9
	2011	268	30	0	3	6	21	238	68	165	5
	% Change	-7.3%	66.7%	-100.0%	50.0%	500.0%	50.0%	-12.2%	-15.0%	-9.3%	-44.4%
Dutchess 92.5% coverage	2010	2,692	364	7	19	107	231	2,328	455	1,818	55
	2011	2,380	280	5	17	72	186	2,100	378	1,662	60
	% Change	-11.6%	-23.1%	-28.6%	-10.5%	-32.7%	-19.5%	-9.8%	-16.9%	-8.6%	9.1%

Uniform Crime/Incident-Based Reporting

Index Crime Summary for Counties by Agency
January - June 2010 vs. 2011

(includes only agencies with 6 months complete reporting for both years as of 9/07/2011)

County	Agency	Jan-Jun	Total	Violent	Murder	Forcible			Agg. Assault	Property	Burglary	Larceny	Theft	MV
						Rape	Robbery	Agg.						
Columbia	Columbia County Sheriff	2010	137	5	1	0	0	4	132	33	96	3		
Columbia	Columbia County Sheriff	2011	180	12	0	1	1	10	168	57	110	1		
Columbia	Columbia County State Police	2010	165	13	0	2	1	10	152	52	97	3		
Columbia	Columbia County State Police	2011	131	10	0	1	4	5	121	44	73	4		
Columbia	Copake Town PD	2010	10	1	0	0	0	1	9	3	6	0		
Columbia	Copake Town PD	2011	7	0	0	0	0	0	7	5	2	0		
Columbia	Germantown Town PD	2010	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0		
Columbia	Hudson City PD	2010	146	18	0	3	0	15	128	22	102	4		
Columbia	Hudson City PD	2011	113	10	0	0	1	9	103	8	95	0		
Columbia	Stockport Town PD	2010	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	2	1		
Columbia	Stockport Town PD	2011	8	0	0	0	0	0	8	3	5	0		
Columbia	County Total	2010	509	45	1	5	1	38	464	120	330	14		
Columbia	County Total	2011	488	38	0	2	6	30	450	125	319	6		
Cortland	Cortland City PD	2010	161	21	0	3	5	13	140	38	100	2		
Cortland	Cortland City PD	2011	200	19	0	3	3	13	181	41	136	4		
Cortland	Cortland County Sheriff	2010	148	3	0	1	0	2	145	27	113	5		
Cortland	Cortland County Sheriff	2011	188	8	0	2	2	4	180	25	153	2		
Cortland	Cortland County State Police	2010	94	2	0	0	0	2	92	12	77	3		
Cortland	Cortland County State Police	2011	84	4	0	1	0	3	80	14	65	1		
Cortland	Homer Vg PD	2010	28	1	0	0	0	1	27	3	24	0		
Cortland	Homer Vg PD	2011	25	0	0	0	0	0	25	6	19	0		
Cortland	SUNY College At Cortland	2010	44	1	0	0	0	1	43	13	30	0		
Cortland	SUNY College At Cortland	2011	40	2	0	1	0	1	38	5	33	0		
Cortland	County Total	2010	475	28	0	4	5	19	447	93	344	10		
Cortland	County Total	2011	537	33	0	7	5	21	504	91	406	7		
Delaware	Colchester Town PD	2011	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	3	0		
Delaware	Delaware County State Police	2010	138	9	0	1	1	7	129	48	74	7		
Delaware	Delaware County State Police	2011	132	12	0	0	3	9	120	44	72	4		
Delaware	Delhi Vg PD	2010	17	1	0	0	0	1	16	8	8	0		