



Seven police departments fight crime in York city and the surrounding suburbs. Now, some of them are considering joining forces.

A recommendation to consolidate the department was unveiled this morning at a gathering of community leaders.

It was one of eight recommendations to improve the area's quality of life.

News 8 York reporter Ed Weinstock has reaction to the plan from the police -- and the people they serve.

Amber Waters spends eight hours a day working in cramped quarters at a Citgo gas station along Route 30 in York.

And like many people in her position, she worries about crime.

AMBER WATERS/Clerk: "Getting robbed. Somebody shooting me in my head for \$100."

The gas station sits along a two-mile stretch of Route 30 that crosses three different police jurisdictions.

Waters thinks she would be safer if the police consolidated into one department. Right now she says, "There's not enough cops."



The specifics for the consolidated department are still in the planning stage but at least two police chiefs say they like the idea.

COMMISSIONER MARK WHITMAN/York City Police: "What we're really looking at is where we can take needed manpower and put it into trouble spots."



CHIEF TOM GROSS/York Area Regional Police: "We work now in a regional way in a lot of cases. And anything that can improve that improves our likelihood of reducing crime."

Some residents think a combined force would not only make the area safer -- but it would save money for taxpayers.

GRACE HIRSCH/Restaurant Worker: "Combining them, you're going to cut costs. You'll have one force working together."

JEFFREY WOODALL/Manchester Twp.: "Perhaps they could re-deploy some of those funds to more guys on the street."

Amber Waters is keeping her fingers crossed. She hopes the new consolidated police force becomes a reality.

WATERS: "If the cops combine, it would make me feel safer. I want one to just park right here."

In York County, Ed Weinstock, News 8.