



THE YORK DISPATCH
York County's Afternoon Paper

YorkCounts: Study needed to explore police merger

WENDY L. GARMAN *For The York Dispatch*

Article Last Updated: 08/01/2008 10:50:36 AM EDT

A study of public safety would be the first step toward a possible merger of police departments in the York area, two public safety activists told the Springettsbury Township board of supervisors.

David Meckley and Carl Anderson, co-chairmen of the public safety task force from YorkCounts, told the board the first step toward a possible police merger is to get municipalities on board for a public safety study.

The study would examine the efficiency of current police protection and evaluate whether that would improve with a consolidation of some of the police departments.

"Obviously, this is a complex issue," said Anderson. "We aren't asking for a decision tonight."

YorkCounts is a countywide coalition focusing on quality-of-life concerns.

The Police Executive Research Forum, known as PERF, would conduct the study, and it is expected to cost around \$50,000-\$60,000. If the municipalities agree to the study, it should qualify for a Shared Municipal Services grant available through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, Meckley said.

Currently, PERF is working with Berks County officials with regard to a possible county-wide police merger there.

Meckley told the board that YorkCounts hopes by

October to reach the five municipalities in the heart of the county that currently have stand-alone police departments, specifically, Spring Garden, Springettsbury and West Manchester townships, West York and York City.

YorkCounts will also approach the eight municipalities of the York Area Regional Police Department and the eight municipalities of the Northern York County Regional Police Department.

Currently, only West York has agreed to participate in the study.

-- Reach Wendy L. Garman at 854-1575 or news@yorkdispatch.com.

Advertisement



A bright idea in online advertising.
PrinterStitial® ads by Format Dynamics.



FormatDynamics®

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™