



YorkCounts ready to launch regional police study.

BY TERESA ANN BOECKEL
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This month, YorkCounts will launch a year-long study to determine whether it's feasible to create a regionalized police force in the metro York area.

The organization has hired the Police Executive Research Forum, a nationally recognized consultant on regional police studies, to complete the \$78,000 study.

A state grant and private funds raised by YorkCounts, a group that works to assess, sustain and enhance York County's quality of life, will fund the effort.

A kickoff meeting for the study's participants -- nine municipalities and five police departments -- is scheduled for Oct. 18.

The goal of the study is to generate data that will help municipalities determine how police services can be delivered most efficiently and effectively, said Dan Fink, communications director for YorkCounts.

The Foundation of the York County Chamber of Commerce, a supporter of YorkCounts, gave \$5,000 toward the study, said Tom Donley, president of the York County Chamber of Commerce.

Crime is a concern of businesses, he said.

At times, it makes sense to consolidate to save money, improve services or both, foundation board member Bob Jensenius said. Sometimes it doesn't make sense because neither outcome will be

achieved.

"We think that it makes sense to do the study," he said.

David Naylor, a supervisor in East Manchester Township, said he will not be able to attend the kickoff reception because he has a police advisory board meeting that night.

But he said he's interested in seeing what the study will reveal about a regionalized department.

"I'm all for doing a study to see if it's the right thing to do," he said.

Curtis Kann, a Dover Township supervisor, said he's interested in staying informed about the study. Dover Township contracts with Northern York County Northern Regional Police.

YorkCounts has not received a commitment from Northern Regional to provide information for the study, Fink said.

West York Council President Brian Wilson said his town is one of the few that still has its own police force. The officers do a good job, but getting the tools they need can be difficult.

The police station is stymied by dated technology and some of its equipment, such as its lock-up, he said.

YorkCounts has done an excellent job getting the municipalities and study ready to go, Wilson said.

"I do believe the future is regionalization," he said.

WHO'S PARTICIPATINGNine municipalities and five police departments have been participating in meetings to explore the feasibility of creating a



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Metro-York regional police department.

They are:

- City of York
- West York
- Springettsbury Township
- Spring Garden Township
- Dover Township
- Manchester Township
- East Manchester Township
- Manchester
- Mount Wolf
- Northeastern Regional Police
- York City Police
- West York Police
- Spring Garden Township Police
- Springettsbury Township Police

Also of interest

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