



### What is the Police Department requesting?

The Department is requesting an override of the provisions of Proposition 2 1/2 to support the hiring of one new police officer.

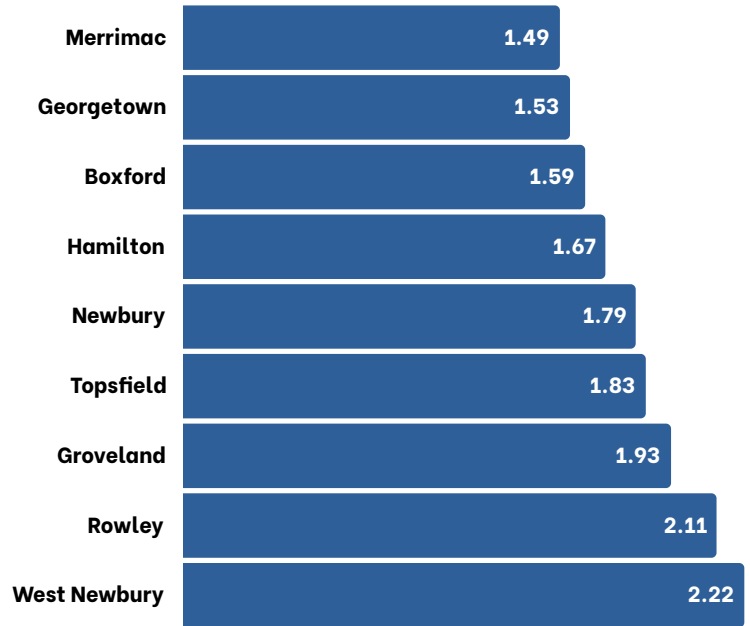
### Why is this needed now?

The Merrimac Police Department is staffed by 10 sworn officers. The town has fewer officers per 1,000 residents than communities of similar size. This creates a number of challenges.

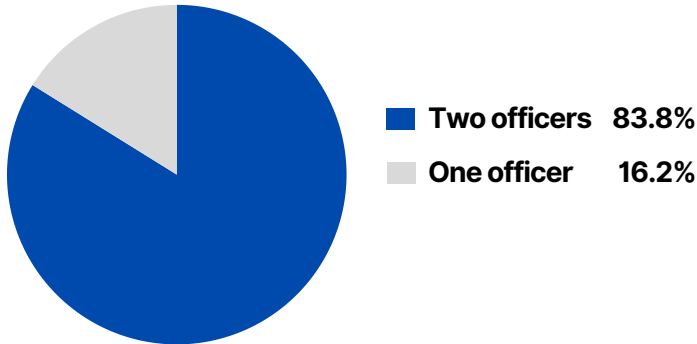
### What are the challenges?

Our residents expect a high-level, professional response from the Department. With current staffing often have one officer on patrol. Many calls for service require a two-person response, both for timeliness and officer safety.

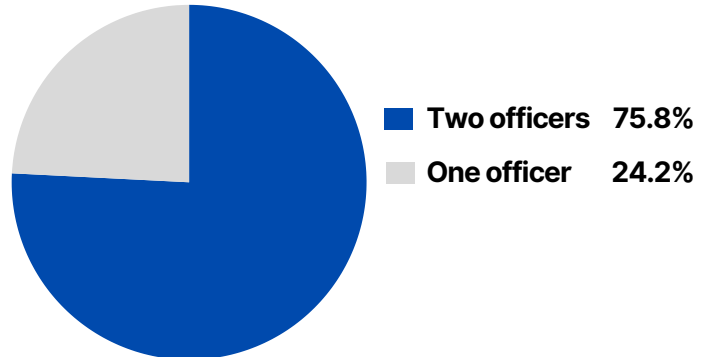
### Officers per 1,000 residents



### Day shift officer response per call



### Night shift officer response per call



### What are the benefits of adding one officer?

- More officers on duty means improved response time and improved public safety.
- Police will be more visible throughout town, meaning we will be able to better enforce motor vehicle laws and prevent crime proactively.
- Increased officer response leads to better outcomes. A two-officer response reduces the possibility of use of force. Officers can handle calls safely and professionally.

### How has police reform changed law enforcement?

New training requirements created an additional burden for part-time reserve officers, many of whom resigned. The Department has one reserve, where it had up to 10 in the past. Reform also created numerous additional administrative responsibilities. With the addition of a daytime shift officer, Collateral duties will be handled more efficiently as officer(s) on duty can complete investigations, reports, attend court, trainings, community and school meetings without affecting department patrol responsibilities.