

## Sundack, Peter

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**From:** Sundack, Peter  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 24, 2025 2:23 PM  
**To:** Daniel Rodrick; Jonathan Salonis  
**Subject:** Urgent Police Department Staffing Shortages

Dear Mayor Rodrick and Business Administrator Salonis,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the ongoing and unresolved staffing shortages within the Toms River Police Department. As you are aware, the department is authorized to operate with 161 full-time police officers. As of April 9, 2025, our staffing stood at 156 officers. With confirmed retirements, that number will decrease to 154 by May 1, also necessitating the promotion of one Detective. By June 1, staffing will drop further to 151 officers; by July 1, to 148 also requiring a Sergeant promotion. By September 1, we project a further decline to 146 officers. One full time officer remains on paid suspension pending termination, subject to township action. Additionally, we require the hiring of SLEO 1 Officers to staff the Municipal Jail and SLEO 1 seasonal officers to assist on the barrier island.

Despite these critical vacancies, recent requests to hire replacements have not been approved or were canceled by the administration. This continued attrition, without appropriate action to replace departing personnel, significantly undermines our department's ability to fulfill its mission — to protect and serve the citizens of Toms River with the highest standards of professionalism and efficiency.

Valid eligibility lists for both new hires and promotional appointments are currently active and available. The stated vacancies are already authorized by ordinance and fully funded in the current municipal budget. We are not seeking the creation of new positions; we are simply requesting the timely filling of existing vacancies to ensure operational continuity.

Given the seriousness of this matter and its potential impact on public safety, officer safety, and operational efficiency, I respectfully urge your office to authorize the necessary appointments without further delay. Continued inaction will only deepen the challenges we face.

As Chief of Police, I remain committed to working collaboratively with your administration to resolve these staffing issues. Please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience should you need any further information or wish to discuss this matter in more detail.

Sincerely,

Peter S. Sundack  
Chief of Police



**Toms River**  
**Police Department**

**Peter S. Sundack**  
*Chief of Police*

**# 294**

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