

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 2, 2018
TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Jessica Cowles, Town Administrator
SUBJECT: **FY 2019 Public Safety Taxing District Budget Memo**

The Public Safety Taxing District (PSTD) is a special taxing district to enhance public safety. The PSTD encompasses the commercial and industrial properties along Greenbelt Road, Branchville Road, Ballew Avenue, Berwyn Road, and 55th Avenue. The PSTD provides the Berwyn Heights Police Department additional resources to finance capital and operating costs for a police officer to strengthen police protection in the commercial district and the Town at-large. This additional officer (currently the Det.-Sgt.) augments existing policing efforts with increased staffing flexibility and allows for a second on-duty officer during evening and midnight shifts.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, the PSTD is proposed to fund the salary and expenses of the full-time Detective within the Berwyn Heights Police Department (BHPD). Funding for the PSTD comes from a special tax on commercial and industrial properties of \$0.10 per \$100 of assessed real property valuation and \$0.15 per \$100 of assessed personal property valuation. The FY 2019 proposed budget maintains this same tax rate.

The trend for commercial real estate assessments has been slight increases over the last several fiscal years and commercial properties did not see the declines like the residential real property assessments during the recession. The FY 2019 PSTD revenues are projected to increase 5.26% over FY 2018 revenues, with a commensurate increase in expenditures to fund the 1.5% Cost of Living Adjustment and merit increase. There is a projected end of FY 2019 fund balance for the PSTD Reserve of \$36,562.

The Community Engagement goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan outlined action steps to better involve the business community, and the Economic Development goals and objectives relate to the development of the Town's overall strategy in retaining and attracting businesses. There are current efforts for BHPD to have a substation located within the PSTD, and BHPD has been working to enhance its community engagement efforts since the Town's adoption of the Strategic Plan.