

Fiscal Year 2017 Proposed Budget Message: Public Safety Taxing District

Dear Mayor, Town Council Members, and Berwyn Heights Residents:

A decade ago, the Town of Berwyn Heights became the first municipality in Maryland to exercise the new authority to create a special taxing district to enhance public safety. The Public Safety Taxing District (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 augments existing policing efforts with increased staffing flexibility and allows for a second on-duty officer during evening and midnight shifts.

The proposed FY 2017 PSTD budget recommends maintaining the existing tax rates in the Public Safety Taxing District of \$0.10 per \$100 of assessed value on real property and \$0.15 per \$100 of assessed value on business personal property.

The Town of Berwyn Heights benefits from one of the lowest crime rates in Prince George's County with crime in Town at a historic low. Continued PSTD funding helps to facilitate the safest possible environment for Berwyn Heights' residents, businesses, and visitors.

Respectfully,

Jessica Cowles
Town Administrator