

October 1, 2008

Gene Torrence, Chief of Police
Thomaston Town Hall
Thomaston, CT 06787

Dear Gene:

I would like to express my appreciation and the appreciation of the Thomaston Board of Education and the staff of the Thomaston School District for all that you and your officers have done for our schools, students and staff. The relationship that we have had with the Thomaston Police Department has provided invaluable guidance in many challenging situations. You, Officer Susan Graham, and the other Police Department members have always been available to answer our concerns and provide timely guidance and support. We are most appreciative of the time you have given us.

As we all work through the very difficult budget challenges in Thomaston, I know that you and your staff are impacted, just as we are in education. Conducting business as we have in the past – doing more with less – is difficult. That being the case, I think it is important for me to qualify the loss of our School Resource Officer in the district. We have come to rely on the communication between that officer and our students who are dealing with their own challenges. We have come to rely on the expertise of a resource officer working closely with our counselors, teachers, administrators, school psychologists and social workers. Above all, we benefit from our close association with the Thomaston Police Department and the common goal that we all share: the positive behavior and continual academic and social development of each and every one of our students.

My hope is that the possibility exists for us to continue our work with you through a resource officer in our schools. The benefits are monumental; the loss irreplaceable.

Sincerely,

Lynda J. Mitchell
Superintendent of Schools
Thomaston District