

SARATOGA SPRINGS POLICE
PROTECTIVE AND BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION INC.



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PBA Press Release – Threatened Layoffs

In response to article published today in the Schenectady Daily Gazette: Kim: City budget deficit may cut 10-12 police jobs

At a time when reported felony crimes, the most serious and violent type of criminal offenses, have increased by approximately eight percent (8%) in the City from 2007 to 2008, the politicians are threatening to reduce the police force by approximately twenty percent (20%).

This threat is nothing less than the politicians playing political Russian roulette with the safety of the citizens of our City.

Threats to compromise the safety of the citizens of this City and those who come to visit and support our economy should never be used as a political tool to gain the upper-hand in an upcoming election.

This does not make sense from a public safety perspective nor from a fiscal perspective. Tourism and special events generate substantial revenue for our City. Saratoga Springs offers a unique blend of small town charm with sophisticated shopping, dining, arts and recreational activities, all in an environment where people feel safe. Yet, as we kick off our busy tourism season, the politicians are jockeying for a political advantage at the expense of all of this by threatening to gut the police force.

This is a disgrace. The Council Members' fiscal irresponsibility and desire to get re-elected should never jeopardize public safety. The taxpayers should not stand for this and should let the politicians know that they expect them to run this City more responsibly.

Edward M. Lewis, Jr., PBA President